

From: J. P. H. e

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Evaluation of the Bolt Action Rifle Safety Mechanisms - M/580, 788, 600 & 700

Test Program - M/600

The current M/600 being manufactured with the swaged safety levers are being tested. They are shot with live ammunition at the start of the test to check their function. The amount of sear lift from the safety operation is measured before the start of the test as well as the force to put safe on and off. The guns are being dry cycled safe on-safe off and cock and dry fire to 50,000 cycles each. The sear lift is being measured every 5,000 cycles to determine how wear affects the sear lift over the life of the gun. The wear on the detent system, trigger connector and sear surfaces also will be checked. The test is being duplicated in a dry and oiled (WD40) condition on the trigger mechanism.

The testing will be duplicated for the redesigned fire control. From this and the original testing it is being determined the minimum safe sear lift for new guns. This report will be followed by the test report.

Status of Design Change

The design has been determined and all drawings have been completed. Design test confirmation is under way. The new drawings have been submitted to P.E. & C. for estimating purposes and the appropriate vendors contacted. As soon as the design test is satisfactorily completed the drawings will be transmitted.

Proposed Future Plans - M/600 & 700

A design investigation will be started to determine the feasibility of changing the safety design from a blocked sear system to a blocked firing pin system. The benefits of a three position safety also are being investigated.

The spring force on the detent system on the M/600 & 700 varies due to the leaf spring design, which can vary the safety operating force. The design will be reviewed to see if the system can be altered to give a more constant operating force.

Model 788 and 580 Series

The problem came to light in February when the design was changed from a blocked trigger system to a blocked sear system similar to the 600 and 700 design. This design change was instituted to standardize parts in these guns with the 540 Series, to eliminate a high scrap operation, and to obtain a more positive safety.