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SAAMI TECHNICAL COMMITTEE MANUAL
VOLUME VII, CENTERFIRE RIFLE

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CARTRIDGE CASE EXPANSION

Tolerances are necessary in the manufacture of ammunition and firearms. Both cartridges and chambers are made within maximum and minimum dimensions. The possible combination of extremes in ammunition and firearms manufactured to SAAMI recommendations are safe.

Firing a minimum SAAMI diameter cartridge in a maximum SAAMI diameter chamber will usually result in a noticeably expanded cartridge case. The walls of the cartridge case forward of the base will expand to fit the chamber. This does not constitute an unsafe condition. This expansion may be concentric or eccentric to the head of the cartridge case.