

Inexpensive Import Shotguns - Background

Imported firearms from Turkey and Russia are made up of shotguns in the following three categories: Autoloader, Pump-Action and Break-Action¹. These inexpensively made firearms are rapidly becoming a significant portion of domestic sales in the United States and are threatening Remington's market share. According to the US International Trade Commission, *over \$20.5 million worth of shotgun product was brought into the United States in 2002 alone.*

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers Institute, or SAAMI, is an association of leading firearm, ammunition and component manufacturers that has been actively involved since 1926 in setting industry standards for product quality, technical specification and the safe, responsible use of firearms². SAAMI members voluntarily submit themselves to this regulation both as a matter of industry-wide common sense and as a matter of public interest. None of the gun manufacturers in Turkey or Russia are members of SAAMI or even the European CIP, and without compliance to rigid specifications these shotguns are automatically suspect in terms of adherence to quality or safety standards.

The National Shooting Sports Foundation, or NSSF, is the leading trade association of the firearms and ammunition industry. Founded in 1961, the NSSF is a non-profit organization whose mission is to promote a better understanding of, and a more active participation in the shooting sports. The NSSF manages a variety of public-service programs whose goals include education, safety, and ethical, responsible firearms ownership³. None of the gun manufacturers in Turkey or Russia are members of the NSSF and do nothing in the US regarding public service.

Manufacturers of Turkish Shotguns

The most well-known manufacturers of Turkish shotguns are clustered in the Istanbul and Konya/Uzunlu areas. The number of U.S. representatives of these three major manufacturers is growing. Unfortunately this is creating a cloudy picture in the marketplace of multiple brand names on virtually identical firearms.

Huglu Shotguns, Inc. is named for the town where the factory resides in central Turkey. According to their own FAQ page, Huglu makes over 65,000 shotguns annually. Huglu shotguns are imported by H²Legacy (formerly Huglu USA) based in Rigby, Idaho. Nearly identical guns are also made for other buyers and are marketed in the United States under the **Traditions** brand out of Old Saybrook, CT and under the **Diamond** brand distributed by Adco Sales, Inc out of Woburn, MA.

1. U.S. Imports for Consumption Data, Foreign Trade Division, U.S. Census Bureau 2003

2. www.saami.org 3/03

3. www.nssf.org 3/03