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For fully assembled firearms, one definitive proof cartridge should be fired in each firearm. Definitive proof ammunition is to be used in accordance with the "Handling of Ammunition" procedure defined in the SAAMI Technical Committee Manual, Volume III, Section II. Page 2410 as follows.

- a. "Cartridges to be tested should be placed in a vertical position with primer end down in a recessed holding block."
- b. "... a cartridge should be lifted vertically from the block." It should be rotated slowly, end over end, in a vertical plane through 360° pausing momentarily when the powder is at the bullet end and again when the powder is at the primer end."
- c. "The cartridge is then rotated slowly, a minimum amount to enter chamber, keeping primer end in lowest possible position until inserted gently and carefully into the chamber."
- d. "The cartridge should be seated in the chamber as far as practicable with the fingers. The bolt or breech mechanism should be closed gently in order not to disturb the position of the powder in the cartridge case. The object of this method of handling cartridges is to position the propellant powder at the primer end of the cartridge case by permitting it to fall gently against the primer and while rotating the case."

Note that these procedures for proof testing were developed to consistently position the propellant thereby providing greater consistency of proof pressures. Failure to follow this procedure during the definitive proof testing of each chamber of the firearm could result in pressure levels significantly below the minimum proof pressure specification as determined for the cartridge.

Any firearms components, such as bolts, bolt heads, receivers including chambers, etc. which were previously subjected to proof testing and, which subsequently, have any proof sensitive components changed, altered, or substituted, should be re-proofed.

J.R.Snedeker

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Revision #3