

REMINGTON ARMS COMPANY, INC.

INTER-DEPARTMENTAL CORRESPONDENCE



*Jack, For your information
good letter by Ed*

"CONFINE YOUR LETTER TO ONE SUBJECT ONLY" _____

February 22, 1979

*2/23/79
[Signature]*

Copy
Bob,
For your info.

TO: E.G. LARSON
FROM: E.F. SIENKIEWICZ

Jack
2-26-79

SUBJECT: RIFLES RETURNED FOR FIRE ON SAFE RELEASE

Since the Model 600 recall, hundreds of people owning Model 700 and other model firearms have contacted Remington alleging that their guns have fired when pushing the safety from on safe to off safe position without touching the trigger.

To date, all such inquiries have been handled by requesting the rifle be returned to Ilion for examination and repair at no charge.

Examinations of the returned guns received at Ilion have revealed no factory defects. All problems that have been found are due to customers tampering with the trigger adjusting screws, over oiling, (I.E. motor oil, salad oil, etc.) and other unauthorized alterations.

Several models returned are old obsolete Models 721, 722 rifles, some being 30 years old, that are worn from hard use, including the trigger assemblies. We do not have any replacement assemblies for these models; therefore, requiring extensive alterations to present Model 700 trigger assemblies for installation at no charge.

Each firearm returned requires 20 minutes examination time for each of three (3) engineers and \$25.00 to \$30.00 Arms Service charges for time and parts to make the repairs, totaling approximately \$50.00 to \$55.00 per gun on a no charge basis.

I believe that we should review this problem with our Legal Department and, if possible, reword our letters to customers on these alleged incidences to read: "Return your rifle for our examination and, if the rifle is found to be factory defective, the repairs will be made at no charge." If these guns have been tampered with, neglected, or parts are worn because of long usage, the customer should be responsible for the repairs.

In order to put this problem into proper perspective, 500 guns returned, examined and repaired on a no charge basis, is costing our Company between \$25,000 and \$27,000.

E.F. Sienkiewicz

EFS:tpp

LIMITED DISTRIBUTION

PRODUCT SAFETY SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 1979

PRESENT:

SUBCOMMITTEE

J. G. WILLIAMS, ACTING CHAIRMAN
E. HOOTON, JR.
R. A. PARTNOY

OTHER

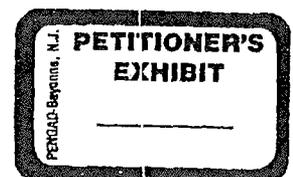
P. H. BURDETT
J. P. McANDREWS
E. S. McCAWLEY
R. B. SPERLING, ACTING SECRETARY

SAFE GUN HANDLING

The submitted suggestions of Hill and Knowlton for the promotion of safe gun handling were reviewed and discussed by the Subcommittee.

The proposed warning concerning the "trick" condition in bolt action rifles was approved with some language modification to make it technically more accurate (copy of approved version attached). It was decided that the Marketing and Public Relations Departments would consult with Hill and Knowlton with respect to means for disseminating the warning.

Other suggestions submitted by Hill and Knowlton concerning the promotion of safe gun handling were reviewed and discussed. It was decided that Remington should draft a general outline utilizing these suggestions and submit this proposed safe gun handling program to the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufac-



FEBRUARY 23, 1979

turers' Institute (SAAMI) for consideration and possible
industry action.

R. B. Sperling
Acting Secretary

RBS:hss

Attachment

D R A F T

H A L F

S A F E

I S U N S A F E

The safeties and triggers on bolt-action rifles can, in some cases, be manipulated in a way that will cause the gun to fire when the safety is released. For example, an accidental discharge can sometimes be caused by placing the safety somewhere between the "fire" and "safe" positions, pulling the trigger, and then moving the safety to the "fire" position.

Clearly, placing and leaving the safety mechanism in a position between "fire" and "safe" violates good safety procedures. This sequence also points up the critical factor in any potentially dangerous activity; the human factor. No mechanical device, be it a rifle safety, an automobile brake, or the guard around a power-saw blade, is of any value unless the person operating it uses it properly.

No mechanical device can guarantee safety if it is improperly used; and no individual is completely safe if he or she does not follow all necessary safety procedures. The mechanical device used as a gun safety should never be relied upon as foolproof, but should be used as a part of a complete system of safe gun handling, including the following:

- Always have the gun pointed in a safe direction.
- Always operate the safety by placing it in the "safe" or "fire" locations - never in between them.
- Never pull the trigger when the safety is on "safe" or in between "safe" and "fire."
- Always make sure the gun is pointed in a safe direction when you move the safety to the "fire" position for firing or unloading.
- Always unload the gun before entering a vehicle or a building.
- Never have a finger near the trigger when the safety is being moved to the "fire" position.
- Remember that a safety cannot prevent all accidental firings, and act accordingly.

After all, the gun operator is the primary "safety"; to rely entirely upon mechanical devices is to be, at best, only half safe.