



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Lead in Ammunition: Latest Developments

2015 has brought a series of positive developments in relation to lead in ammunition:

1) In January 2015 the study "Lead in Game Meat and Bio-accessibility of Lead Fragment" was published on the Social Science Research Network (SSRN). The study was conducted using the most advanced technology and techniques (e.g. computer-tomography and X-rays) in Sweden on free-range wild boars shot during normal hunting conditions, with the aim to experimentally examine what percentage of any lead metal fragments present in game meat is converted to water soluble, bio-accessible lead salts

in the human gastrointestinal process.

The study demonstrates that less than 1% of the lead metal fragments possibly ingested by people eating game meat is converted to bio-accessible ionic form and absorbed by the human tissues. Therefore, the risk of absorbing lead when eating game meat is lower than the risk taken when drinking tap water! This finding was also highlighted by the European Food Safety Agency (EFSA) in several recent scientific reports showing that food sources through which the European population is most ex-

posed to lead intake are those consumed more frequently, like cereals, dairy products, vegetables and drinking water, where lead is directly present in bio-accessible ionic form. To download the study, please go to: http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2540062

2) On 3rd February 2015, with 79 votes in favour and 16 against, the Norwegian Parliament reintroduced lead shot for hunting outside wetlands. Lead shot had been banned in 2005.

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SAAACA Arms Fair: 1 & 2 August 2015

This year's SAAACA Arms Fair will be an auspicious occasion as SAAACA Gauteng celebrates its 21st birthday.

A special commemorative Glock 21 specifically commissioned for SAAACA's 21st will be on sale as a separate lot on the Saturday at the Classic Arms auction. The Glock will come in a wooden presentation case with a plaque on the case. This pistol will be No 1 of 5. There will be four others, numbers 2 to 5 that are available for direct purchase, which will be facilitated through the SAAACA office (excluding commemorative case). Thank you to Bernhard Agencies for assisting in making this project possible.

Secondly, a draw for a Smith

&Wesson SD9VE will take place on Sunday at 12h00. The draw will be open to attendees of the Arms Fair, that are present when the draw takes place. The firearm, has kindly been donated by Nicholas Yale cc.

The Arms Fair will be held at the War Museum, Saxonwold, Johannesburg.

9:00-16:00 Saturday 1st Aug
9:00-14:00 Sunday 2nd Aug

Entry Fees:
R30.00 Adults
R15.00 Pensioners
R25.00 Children/Students

For more information please contact SAAACA on 011-646-1311.



Continued.....Lead in Ammunition: Latest Developments

The Norwegian Hunting Association and Norway's Weapons Council worked hard together to demonstrate that lead remains the most suitable material for hunting ammunition since non-lead ammunition causes unnecessary suffering to animals and risks to hunters. Moreover, they highlighted the fact that the potential adverse effects on health and the environment of these alternative materials have not yet been studied in any detail.

The Norwegian Government will now include the decision taken by Parliament in a regulation that allows hunters to return to using lead shot ammunition over non-wetland areas from the beginning of the hunting season this year.

3) At the end of a meeting of the Risk Assessment Working Group held on 5th February, Member States and the European Commission decided to suspend the process aimed at classifying lead as a repro-toxic substance. No further decision will be taken until scientific evidence based on new hazard assessment methods is available, which means most probably towards the end of this year or the beginning of 2016.

This result was achieved thanks to the considerable joint work undertaken to counter the proposed classification by all the European metallic lead industries and associations, including AFEMS, under the coordination of the Lead Reach Consortium and Eurometaux.

The work to counter the proposed classification of lead as a repro-toxic substance was essentially based on two arguments:

- it is not appropriate to classify all forms of lead as toxic because the bioavailability of the massive metal is not the same as that of other forms, in particular powder;
- the Specific Concentration Limit (SCL) of 0.03% requested for the classification is unrealistic and inconsistent with the existing EU legislation on risk management.

4) Recently the Austrian Ministry of the Environment decided to halt its phase out of lead ammunition. The reasons for this decision were that:

- there is a lack of ammunition with similar or better performance than lead;
- the change would have a massive economic impact on industry which would require 15 years to dispose of current stocks of lead ammunition;
- there are no alternative loads for a whole range of calibres which means that 30% of privately owned firearms in Austria can only be used with lead ammunition; and
- this would have the damaging effect of reducing the value of private property.

Other arguments included estimates of a threefold increase in the price of ammunition and the fact that lead dispersed in the environment through ammunition represents only two per cent, the rest being caused by the illegal disposal of car batteries.

Finally, on 20th October 2015, at the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC) in Brussels, the WFSA and AFEMS are organising a symposium on "The Sustainable Use of Lead Ammunition in Hunting and Sports Shooting: Facts and Emotions". The symposium will focus on the sustainable use of lead in ammunition and its impact on both the envi-



ronment and human health. Additionally, the symposium will analyse ballistic features of both lead and non-lead ammunition. The symposium will also provide an overview of the current legislation on lead in ammunition both at the European and International level.

Taken from WFSA Newsletter, July 2015

SAPS Media Statement 24/7/2015



Pretoria: Following reports and allegations of corruption and maladministration in the Central Firearm Registry (CFR) of the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Commissioner, General Riah Phiyega, has acted decisively in appointing a dynamic leader at the level of a Major General with vast operational experience to revamp the CFR.

The new team, led by Major General Maropeng Mamotheti, has a new turnaround strategy in place, which sets new standards in the way firearm licences are issued, thus improving efficiency and preventing any opportunity for corruption. In the recent past, the unit found itself under the spotlight for all the wrong reasons. It was out of this and the genuine desire on the part of the SAPS to provide an efficient and a user friendly service to the public that the strategy was mooted and finally implemented.

After many engagements between the SAPS and the affected stakeholders, the unit has a new action plan which, within a period of three months, has shown improvements in the processing of firearm licenses. The unit handles about 12 000 application per month and is striving to process and finalise applications for firearm licenses within a period of 90 working days. It must however be stated that even as we strive to achieve this 90 working days target, we are still investigating whether it is realistically achievable or not, but we are striving to meet it.

Information on how to apply for firearm licenses will now be easily obtainable from the SAPS's website. A checklist of required documents will be listed in order to save time for the applicants and the officers involved. The SAPS will embark on an education campaign for its members about the firearm licenses and the related processes. Furthermore the public and the potential applicants will be educated about the application process, the renewal of licences and the responsibility associated with owning a firearm.

To prevent any opportunity for corruption, SAPS is screening and vetting personnel performing

functions in the unit. Furthermore these personnel will be rotated. There is now clear segregation of functions, limited access on certain user functions and the encryption and password control measures.

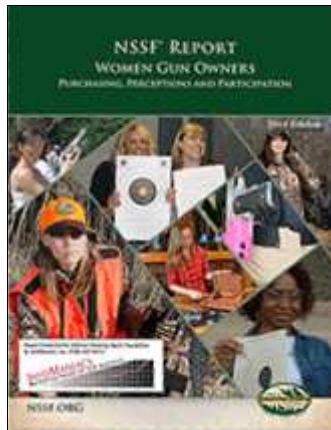
During its many visits to the provinces the team has noted the challenges experienced and has taken steps to address them. These steps include the training of extra designated firearm officers and the support staff and to attend to the shortage of physical resources. These systems and processes will certainly close the corruption tap from leaking.

"The proliferation of illegal firearms, past acts of malfeasance at the Central Firearm Registry and the need to encourage responsible ownership of firearms in our country are some of the reasons we worked so hard to clean the mess in that unit and assemble a team of police officers whose integrity is unquestionable," said General Phiyega.

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Media Statement from National Media Centre
Corporate Communication
South African Police Service

Women Gun Owners: Purchasing, Perceptions and Participation



During the Shooting, Hunting and Outdoor Trade Show (SHOT Show) held in January in Las Vegas, the new NSSF report "Women Gun Owners: Purchasing, Perceptions and Participation" was presented.

The study, conducted in 2014, focused on women aged 18 to 65 who owned at least one firearm. Over a third of women in the study were new gun owners, having purchased their first firearm within the last three years. This group of new gun owners, who are primarily between the ages of 18 and 34, reflects the changing demographics among women choosing to own firearms - a change captured visually in NSSF's new infographic, "Girl Power," which complements the new report.

Among the report's findings:

- The most commonly owned firearm by women in the study is a semi-automatic pistol, with 56 percent of women reporting they owned at least one. Shotguns ranked second, with 50 percent of women owning at least one.
- Women say their purchases are mainly influenced by fit, quality and practicality.
- Women purchasing a gun in the last 12 months spent on average \$870 on firearms and more than \$400 on accessories.
- The majority of women report they are not driven to buy a gun on impulse but rather considered their purchase for months before deciding.
- Nearly all women (95 percent) have tried target shooting, and more than half (58 percent) have hunted.
- More than 42 percent of women have a concealed carry permit for their state of residence.
- Nearly three-quarters (73 percent) of women reported having taken at least one training class.

Placing a premium on safety, women say the single most important reason why they decided to purchase or own a firearm is protection - both personal and

home protection. Learning to hunt and going shooting with friends and family were also cited.

The report shows women are attracted to shooting activities such as practical pistol, clay target shooting, long-range shooting and plinking; they were not as active, however, in gun collecting or 3-gun and cowboy action shooting.

Growth of the women's market is quite visible to firearms retailers. In NSSF's Annual Retailer Survey, more than 74 percent of retailers reported an increase in women customers in their stores in 2013 compared to 2012.

According to the NSSF report, female engagement in target shooting grew 60 percent to 5.4 million participants between 2001 and 2013, and was up 85 percent for hunting to 3.3 million participants during that same period.

Taken from WFSA Newsletter, July 2015

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

Safekeeping of Firearms

We have received a number of reports about house breakings where perpetrators had allegedly gained access to safes without breaking them open. The only logical inference is that they must have used keys they had found on the scene. In many of these cases no firearms were stolen since the criminals were apparently after cash and jewellery. However, in other instances firearms, especially handguns, had been stolen.

Members are reminded that if your firearm is stolen or lost due to your negligence, you are guilty of an offence. But, as the adver-

tisement goes, this is not all: you are statutorily obliged to keep the safe's keys in a safe place.

Section 120(8) (b) (iii) of the Firearms Control Act provides that *"A person is guilty of an offence if he or she – (b) loses a firearm, or is otherwise dispossessed of a firearm owing to that person's failure to – (iii) keep the keys to such safe, strong-room or device in safe custody. (SAGA's underlining)"*.

What "safe custody" is, is dependent on the facts and an accused will have to convince a court that s/he had in fact kept the keys safe in order to prevent the theft or

dispossession of her or his firearm.

Remember, the right to keep and bear firearms has a concomitant responsibility to keep and bear them safely.

SAA lifts embargo on the transportation of hunting trophies

The embargo placed by South African Airways on transporting selected hunting trophies, namely elephant, rhino, lion and tiger, has been lifted with immediate effect. Here is an extract from an SAA security directive issued on Monday this week.

Since the placement of the embargo on the transportation of rhino, elephant, lion and tiger hunting trophies, SAA cargo has been engaging with the Department of Environmental Affairs (DEA) on the issue. We have decided to review the embargo after the DEA have given us assurance that additional measures will be put in place to ensure compliance with all the required permits and documentation. Further note that all such trophies shall be liable for physical and documentary inspection by the relevant nature conservation authorities as they deem fit.

The airline shall accept no liability for any damage or delay occasioned by such inspections, verification of documentation or any other action deemed necessary by the relevant authorities in South Africa or anywhere where such trophies are transhipped or destined.

Please be informed that the embargo that was placed on selected hunting trophies namely elephant, rhino, lion and tiger has been lifted with immediate effect and the DEA will be implementing their additional measures.

Yours sincerely,
Lerato Mophete
Manager Compliance & Foreign Operations

See more at:

<http://africageographic.com/blog/saa-lifts-embargo-transportation-hunting-trophies/#sthash.3DZGUPvF.dpuf>



Uber Firearms Policy



<https://www.nraila.org/articles/20150626/uber-threatens-to-revoke-access-for-drivers-and-passengers-who-carry>

Uber Threatens to Revoke Access for Drivers and Passengers Who Carry, Friday, June 26, 2015

On June 10, San Francisco-based Uber Technologies Inc., operators of the popular Uber ride-sharing cell phone application, altered company policy to prohibit its drivers and passengers from possessing firearms while using the service. Under the "Legal" portion of Uber's website, the company posted the following:

UBER FIREARMS PROHIBITION POLICY

We seek to ensure that everyone using the Uber digital platform—both driver-partners and riders—feels safe and comfortable using the service. During a ride arranged through the Uber platform, Uber and its affiliates therefore prohibit possessing firearms of any kind in a vehicle. Any rider or driver found to have violated this prohibition may lose access to the Uber platform.

While the primary intention of the policy may be to restrict the concealed or open carry of firearms by Uber's drivers and passengers for self-defense, if strictly construed, the policy would not even allow for the transportation of locked and unloaded, or disassembled, firearms.

Uber operates on a decentralized business model where individual drivers and passengers register with the service and use the company's cell-phone application to coordinate for rides and subsequent payment. With such a decentralized workforce and diverse customer base, Uber's blanket firearm ban to "ensure people are safe," rejects the notion that individuals are best suited to determine how to provide for their own safety, arrogantly asserting that a uniform rule against firearms is appropriate for all circumstances.

It's unclear how Uber intends to police this policy, if at all. If a driver or passenger were to violate the policy and carry a concealed handgun, it is likely that the only time this would come to the attention of Uber's corporate office would be after an instance of armed self-defense.

Further complicating the matter, unlike a restaurant or retail chain that might bar firearms from property they lease or own, Uber does not own the vehicles operating under the service. In many instances Uber drivers are using their personal vehicles; which they are, of course, allowed to carry in as long as they are in compliance with state law. Similarly, a driver who lets a passenger carry in their vehicle would not be complicit in any violation of Uber's property, but simply violating a policy of the service.

It's unfortunate that Uber feels the need to restrict the lawful behavior of its drivers and passengers, particularly when the company so relishes its decentralized business model. In fact, Uber has actively fought the notion that it is responsible to its drivers, contending that their providers are not employees, but rather, independent

contractors. This attempt to exert control over how drivers may provide for their own safety, while at the same time claiming that the company should not be held to the traditional standards of an employer-employee relationship is especially hypocritical.

The change in policy comes two months after an Uber driver, and Right-to-Carry permit holder, successfully halted a violent attack by shooting a man that was firing into a crowd in the Logan Square neighborhood of Chicago. No charges were filed against the Uber driver. Following the incident, the Chicago Tribune reported, "The driver had a concealed-carry permit and acted in the defense of himself and others, Assistant State's Attorney Barry Quinn said in court."

Further, recent events have revealed the significant danger Uber's no-gun policy poses to its drivers. A mere two weeks after Uber announced the policy change, one of its New York City drivers was robbed at gunpoint by a man armed with a rifle. The armed robber was apparently unconcerned with the company's new mandate.

There's an old saying in the gun rights community that goes, "I'd rather be judged by twelve than carried by six." Meaning that a person would rather risk the legal ramifications of illegal carry than sacrifice their personal safety. We're not encouraging anyone to violate Uber's policy, but some drivers or passengers might come to their own conclusion that they'd rather risk losing access to a cell phone application than control over their own security.