



SAGA SNIPPETS

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Amnesty Extension Possible

SAGA has communicated a number of times with the Minister of Police about a possible extension to the firearm amnesty which is due to end on 31 May. The Corona virus lockdown has affected those wishing to take part in the amnesty.

So far the firearm amnesty has not been extended, although the Minister of Police in his media briefing last week on Thursday advised that he had approached Parliament to extend the amnesty.

SAGA is in the process of following up on the extension with Parliament. We are waiting on feedback and as soon as we have any news we will immediately advise.

Should you wish to apply in terms of the amnesty you will require the SAPS 522(a) and SAPS 522(b) forms and a copy of the main page of your identity book or identity card as well as the front and back of the licence card for the firearm. The firearm must be surrendered at the same time as the application in terms of the amnesty.

Note that should you wish to apply for a licence for the firearm for which you apply for amnesty, then you must do so within 14 days of applying in terms of the amnesty. In many cases the competency may have to be renewed as well.

Should you submit an application in terms of the amnesty within the next few days and by the 31st May 2020, but because of a lack of time, you are unable to submit the licence and/ or competency application at the same time as the amnesty application, in SAGA's view it would be permissible to submit such licence and/ or competency application within 14 days of submission of the amnesty application, thus after the 31st May 2020.

We will continue to keep all members updated as to any possible extension of the amnesty.



SAGA OFFICE IS OPEN

The SAGA office is open for business again.

Membership renewal emails are going out and membership cards and insignia ordered will be posted as soon as lockdown restrictions ease and the Post Office is working with normal mail again.

We encourage all members to keep their memberships up to date.



Denel Group Ventilator Project



Media Release: 27 May 2020

Local Ventilator Projects are Reaching Critical Stages

Two projects to design and manufacture local ventilators to be used for the treatment of Covid-19 patients have reached critical stages. The design and layout phases have been completed and simulation exercises to test the efficacy of the projects will start soon.

Project Sabela is coordinated by the defence and technology group, Denel, in partnership with other state-owned entities, research bodies and specialist companies in the private sector. Denel Dynamics, a global leader in the design and manufacturing of advanced missile and precision-guided weapon systems, has switched its focus to the production of medical ventilators to support patients who will be treated for the pandemic in public and private hospitals.

In a parallel initiative Denel Land Systems, has joined forces with a leading university, engineering companies and a manufacturer of world-class domestic appliances to produce a full-function ventilator made from easy to source materials.

Danie du Toit the Group CEO of Denel says considerable progress has been made in the design

stage since Project Sabela was launched in early April. The aim of the project lead by Denel Dynamics is to design, develop and manufacture a low-cost, fit-for-purpose ventilator by utilising the skills and expertise of South African engineers, scientists, researchers, and technicians.

"We are optimistic about the potential to produce a low-cost, entry-level ventilator that can be used by the medical profession as the number of patients increase and the response levels are ramped up in the coming weeks," says Du Toit.

The research team has evaluated a number of solutions proposed by companies across the world and eventually came up with its own design, a Bi-level Positive Airway Pressure (BiPAP) device.

The team has built a prototype BiPAP ventilator from available, off-the-shelf hardware following an extensive period of consultation with experts and reviews against applicable standards. This prototype is now undergoing further testing and evaluation from which the second design will be made that will meet the requisite criteria for medical ventilators and can be manufactured at scale within South Africa.

Du Toit says Denel is proud to be associated with this local initiative and is committed to utilise the resources and expertise used to manufacture defence products towards a medical crisis which is spreading across the world.

Denel Land Systems is part of a team led by Cambridge Universi-

ty's Whittle Laboratory, Cambridge Aerothermal, Beko PLC, Prodrive UK and Defy Appliances to develop a low-cost ventilator – the OVSI – that can be used by patients requiring ventilation at field hospitals, during transport, in normal hospitals and intensive care units.

Other companies in the Denel group are also contributing towards the national response to the pandemic during the lockdown stages. Denel Aeronautics is providing valuable technical support to the helicopter fleet of the South African Air Force which has been deployed in all nine provinces.

The Oryx transport helicopters carry critical medical and humanitarian supplies to communities on a daily basis and also conduct surveillance operations. Denel Aeronautics has already carried out critical repair work on the main gearboxes of two Oryx helicopters and the technical support teams are on standby around-the-clock to do maintenance, repairs and testing of equipment.

Similar technical support has been provided to the C-130 transport aircraft that are undergoing regular inspections, repairs and testing at Denel's maintenance, repair, and overhaul (MRO) facility at the Air Force Base Waterkloof.

How Gun Manufacturers Joined the Coronavirus Fight

by Susanne Edward
13 May 2020

The deadly spread of the coronavirus might be a war without weapons, but that has not stopped leading gun manufacturers across the country from aiding those on the firing line.

As the pandemic, officially referred to as COVID-19, loomed in March and fears escalated over a drastic national shortage of personal protection equipment (PPE) U.S. weapons plants quickly shifted their production plants to assist in filling the void and potentially saving thousands of vulnerable lives.

The likes of SIG Sauer, for one, have donated nearly 15,000 KN95 masks to over 80 different local law enforcement, EMS, fire departments and medical facilities in New Hampshire, Oregon and Arkansas.

"As the events surrounding COVID-19 began to progress, it was clear to us very early on, that we were going to need to procure a significant amount of PPE to ensure the health and safety of our employees," said Tom Taylor, chief marketing officer and executive vice president at SIG Sauer. "In the process of preparing our workforce, we were also able to secure enough masks so that we could contribute PPE within the communities where our facilities operate and our employees live, which allowed us to have the greatest possible impact."

This was a dramatic shift for the company, given that the protective equipment they generally used was for hearing and eye protection for product test-firing in their factories.

Furthermore, SIG Sauer's Oregon-based Electro-Optics division began 3D printing plastic face shields to donate to Medical Teams International, a non-governmental organization that

outfits medical professionals operating in mobile coronavirus testing vans in the greater metro area of Portland. SIG also underscored that they would be giving away these face shields to local healthcare workers across Oregon, Arkansas and New Hampshire.

And in early April, KelTec began 3D-printing N99 capable masks to supply local hospitals. Leading engineer, Toby Obermeit, worked with the Medical University of South Carolina to make improvements to their S.A.F.E. Mask design. The original design required cutting and gluing a HEPA filter; however, the new designs utilize various Roomba Filters, making them much easier to assemble, according to marketing materials.

Moreover, Smith & Wesson has done its part by donating more than 5,000 face shields and 12,000 pairs of eye protection to frontline works across America. As the outbreak swept across the U.S. in March, it took the engineering team at the company just a few days to design a face shield utilizing 3D printers and readily available materials.

"Ordinarily, our PPE is primarily focused on hearing and eye protection for use in our manufacturing facilities. Because we have an inventory of eye protection—safety glasses—we were able to send 12,000 pairs to front line professionals across the nation," said Elizabeth Sharp, VP of investor relations at American Outdoor Brands Corporation, the parent company for Smith & Wesson. "In addition, our unique manufacturing capability and expertise in the form of innovative engineers, 3D printers and special materials, provided us the opportunity to repurpose a portion of those resources to design and build face shields."

In addition, Smith & Wesson is pumping out at least 1,000 of

these shields on a daily basis for the medical community across several states.

In its quest to assist communities beleaguered with the novel contagion, Ruger donated 6,500 surgical masks, 700 Tyvek suits, over 200 N95 masks, almost 5,000 safety glasses and 200 shoe coverings to hospitals, nursing homes, police, fire and other first responder departments.

"Additionally, Ruger has redeployed some of its manufacturing resources and pivoted production to assist with the shortage of certain medical supplies," said Vice President of Marketing, Rob Werkmeister. "Specifically, Ruger has built and delivered over 3,000 face shields to over 60 local hospitals and first responders in five states,"

Furthermore, as the infection rate soared in the country's hardest-hit state of New York in early April, and as state leaders were desperately requesting medical supplies and resources, Remington Arms offered almost one million square feet of vacant space in its upstate plant to Gov. Andrew Cuomo (D).

"The Remington plant in Ilion now has approximately one million square feet of unused and available manufacturing space," CEO Ken D'Arcy wrote in a March 23 letter to Cuomo and President Donald Trump. "We would be honored to donate our facility to the production of ventilators, surgical masks, hospital beds or any other products mission-critical to the war on coronavirus."

With the war still waging, but restricting across some states easing, American arms leaders are still very much readying for combatting this virus.

<https://www.american1stfreedom.org/articles/2020/5/13/how-gun-manufacturers-joined-the-coronavirus-fight/>

Canada Bans 1,500 Rifles and Shotguns

Extracted from:

<https://www.nrahlf.org/articles/2020/5/22/canada-bans-1-500-rifles-and-shotguns/>

by Brian McCombie
Friday, May 22, 2020



Any rifle or shotgun hunters planning to travel to Canada to hunt this fall must be aware that Canada's Prime Minister Justin Trudeau and Bill Blair, its Minister of Public Safety, recently banned 1,500 types of firearms. As we hunters have witnessed in the past, this is once again a case of government officials essentially blaming law-abiding citizens for the actions of a murderer, this time in Nova Scotia, Canada.

A closer look at the details of the ban uncovers that it is worse than feared. When Trudeau announced the move on May 1, he claimed he'd only targeted arbitrarily named so-called "assault weapons" and that hunting firearms were excluded. However, while a long list of semi-automatic rifles—including the Ruger Mini-14, one of the most popular ranch and truck guns after the lever-action—are indeed included, a portion of the new law also covers 10- and 12-gauge shotguns.

One particular section of text of the ban reads, and makes illegal "any firearm with a bore diameter of 20mm [millimeters] or greater" Various mortars and missile launchers are listed under this bore-diameter restriction.

To begin, let us examine the case of the 12-gauge shotgun. While it has a bore diameter of 18.52mm or .798-inches, if the shotgun has a removable choke and the choke is removed, then a portion of the shotgun barrel has a diameter of 20.68mm or .814-inches. A legal opinion prepared by Canadian lawyer Edward Burlew for the

Canadian Sporting Arms and Ammunition Association (CSAAA) concluded that this makes 12-gauge shotguns with Beretta Optima and Optima Plus, Browning Invector and Winchoke removable choke systems illegal. No wonder the CSAAA is launching a constitutional challenge to the government's ban.

Once Burlew's legal opinion circulated, Blair got on Facebook and Twitter on May 6 to post a "clarification," explaining that 10- and 12-gauge shotguns with removable chokes were not illegal. Blair said they would be measuring shotgun bores immediately after the chamber and, therefore, well before the choke tube.

After reading Blair's Twitter post, in an interview with CBC News out of Ottawa, Canada, CSAAA Managing Director Alison de Groot said, "We are not satisfied with a tweet from the minister that everything is okay as the basis for our whole industry's future. There is lots of precedent in [Canadian] law and technical language in legal government documents our industry uses every day that conflicts with this tweeted response."

In moving forward, hunters must keep in mind that we are talking about Canada so it is impossible to speculate how officials there will interpret and enforce the new firearms restrictions or how they will be applied to U.S. hunters and other foreigners. While the NRA Institute for Legislative Action will monitor developments and pro-

vide updates as they become available, hunters in the United States who plan to venture into Canada anytime soon should be cautious and do their own research.

Adding to the previously mentioned concerns, hunters must note that another portion of the new ban also made illegal any "firearm capable of discharging a projectile with a muzzle energy greater than 10,000 joules," which translates to approximately 7,500 foot-pounds (ft.-lbs.) of energy. Such wording makes the .460 Weatherby Magnum bolt-action rifle illegal too.

As noted by Phil Massaro, president of the custom ammunition shop Massaro Ballistic Laboratories, LLC, and a freelance gun writer and author of "The Big Book of Ballistics," the .500 Jeffery, when loaded with 600-grain bullets, also surpasses the 7,500 ft.-lbs. threshold. In addition, GunData.org notes that the .600 Nitro Express also has more than 7,500 ft.-lbs. of muzzle energy.

As hunters know, confusing scenarios like this one in Canada occur on a regular basis when those against responsible, legal firearms use come up with laws covering things they know nothing about or seek to understand. While Trudeau and Blair claim they are not seeking to ban hunting firearms, they clearly do not realize or even care what firearms we hunters take afield.

Editor's Note: The information in this article originally appeared on the NRA's America's First Freedom website, americas1stfreedom.org, on May 18.

7 Pistol-Shooting Tips For People With Arthritis

by Dr. Joseph Logar, PT, DPT -
Tuesday, April 28, 2020

When you have arthritis, gripping a pistol can be like holding the handle of a jackhammer wrapped in barbed wire. Merely assuming your grip or trying to mitigate the gun's recoil can cause "Uncle Arthur" to flare up.

But why? The pain originates from the fact that a shooter must exert considerable force to support the weight of the pistol, and to provide the stability needed for accuracy. Such forceful contractions of muscles can increase pressure on the inflamed joints of the fingers and hands. There's also the fact that the range of motion required to grasp a roughly tubular object of a relatively small diameter is actually quite large. The effect is strongly dependent on an individual's personal characteristics such as hand size, finger length and strength, but in general, the smaller the diameter of the object to be grasped, the greater the demand on the joints to generate motion... which leads to greater pain. Here are some tips to help make that more manageable.

1. Increase the diameter of the grip.

Increasing the diameter of the gun's grip will decrease the range of motion your hands need to grasp it firmly. This is one of the more intuitive interventions, and one of the easiest. There are too many high-quality aftermarket grips to list here, but knowing how they work should help you select the best option for your needs.

2. Increase the friction between your hand and the gun.

Another intuitive option is wearing shooting gloves. They help grip and recoil management through padding, roughly textured palm areas, shock-absorbing materials and wrist supporting wraps. This means you don't have to use as much force to maintain a firm grip on your pistol.

3. Try a smaller caliber, if you can.

Additionally, recoil management can be addressed by selecting a different caliber gun. There is no doubt that every .45 ACP packs more recoil than every .22 LR, and that should translate to less pain while shooting. Unfortunately not everyone's needs are met by this solution.

4. Try a "cooler" load, if you can.

There are ammunition options that can dampen perceived recoil. Shooting a lower-grain projectile or avoiding "hot" defensive loads may help.

5. Reload.

An alternative that many already practice is reloading their own ammunition to improve comfort when shooting. Reloading is clearly a large undertaking with a great depth of knowledge and skill required to perform safely, but like learning a foreign language, it can enhance the enjoyment of an already rewarding experience.

6. Change your recoil springs.

In semi-automatics, through the compression of the recoil spring, the kinetic energy released by the ignited powder in a round is translated to stored or potential energy. That energy is then used to return the slide to the forward position, and to hold the chamber closed during the next ignition. Less recoil felt by the user is the side effect of all that work being performed by that spring. There are numerous aftermarket springs available, so finding one to fit your pistol should not be difficult. If you have any doubt, contact your gunsmith for his or her opinion before parting with your hard-earned cash.

7. Port your barrel.

A ported barrel also relies on physics to tame the recoil of a firearm. There is no attempt at capturing and converting the energy in this case, however. The science behind cutting holes in a gun barrel is to provide more opportunities for the pressure to exit and spread its influence over a larger, less confined space. Of all the modifications covered in this article, barrel porting is likely one of the more expensive and less effective methods of reducing recoil – and reducing arthritis-related pain – but it is provided here as a measure of completeness.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/4/28/7-pistol-shooting-tips-for-people-with-arthritis/>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets