

Frequently Asked Questions (Version 4.0 – 24th September 2008)

This document will be maintained and updated as time goes on – the latest version will always be available on the NRA Website.

Q. *Surely Bisley isn't an MoD range – so why does all this apply at Bisley?*

A. Some of the ranges at Bisley are on land leased from the MoD. Even more importantly, the range danger area used by almost all of the ranges belongs to MoD. The NRA must therefore apply the new Safe Shooting System to all Bisley ranges – the SSS should be regarded as best practice on all ranges.

Q. *Our club doesn't have a Chairman – what do we do?*

A. Even if you don't have a club officer you call a Chairman, you should be able to identify a "chief officer" for the club who chairs your meetings. This individual will function as the Chairman for the purposes of the Safe Shooting System and will be responsible for certification of club members.

Q. *Who certifies the Chairman?*

A. The Club Chairman is ultimately responsible for all members of the club. He would certify himself. He could if he (or she) desired, also / alternatively be certified by a club chairman of another club.

Q. *Ours is a large club and it's unreasonable to expect our Chairman to certify every member himself. Can we share the job around the club committee?*

A. No, The Chairman must sign each Certificate of Competence and this is printed on the card. However he can appoint others eg training officer / coach etc to assist with the assessment process if there is a large number of club members or he doesn't know them because he shoots a different discipline etc. Those appointed could therefore assess, sort and prepare the documentation for the Chairman to sign.

We strongly recommend that such appointments be recorded in writing. ***In any event, the Chairman retains overall responsibility for the certification system within the club.***

Q. *You say the insurance will cover a club Chairman even if there is negligence involved – surely that can't be right?*

A. As with most forms of indemnity insurance, it is possible to provide cover against negligence – negligence is often unintentional. Insurance cover would only be void if the person covered (in this case the Chairman) actually committed a criminal act.

Q. *I am an MLAGB qualified RCO for muzzle-loading firearms. Is this sufficient for me to be certified for muzzle-loading rifles and pistols?*

A. Yes - provided of course that your qualification is current.

Q. *Where did these requirements come from?*

A. To meet general safety conditions on their ranges the MoD have stipulated these to put similar safeguards in place for civilians using MoD ranges as those the military have to meet themselves. In the words of the senior military negotiator, "If shooters don't want to comply they don't shoot on an MoD range".

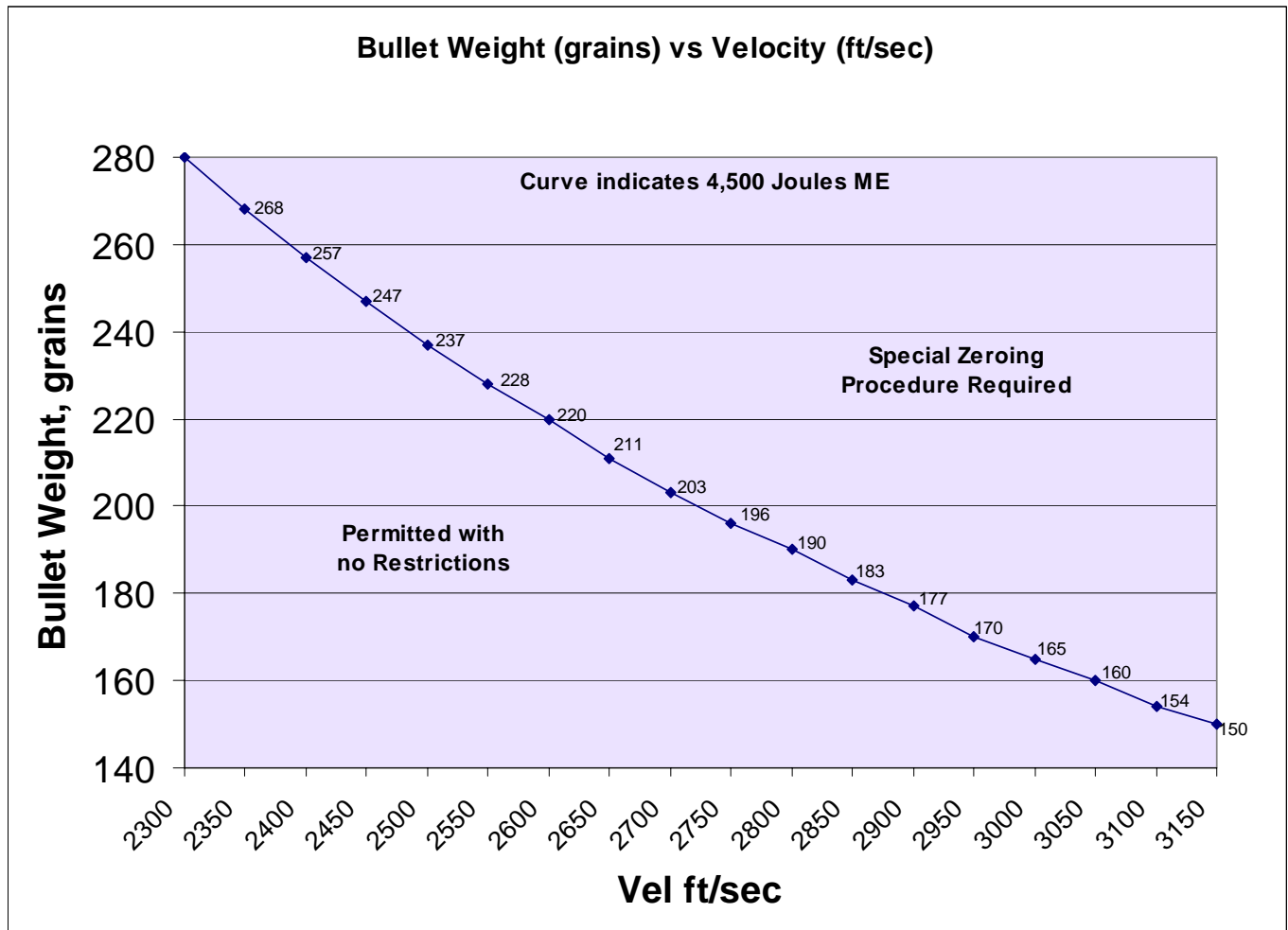
Q. *Who do the zeroing procedures apply to?*

A. The zeroing procedures are only applicable to people using High Muzzle Energy (HME) firearms / ammunition. If you are using 155 grain bullets (RG and most target rifle ammunition), it is highly unlikely that you will exceed the 4500J limit. The zeroing procedures mainly affect F class and Match rifle shooters.

Q. How do I know what my Muzzle Energy is?

A. A typical 155 grain bullet (RG 7.62mm ammunition) with a muzzle velocity of around 2900 feet per second has a muzzle energy in the region of 3900 to 4000 J. You can calculate your ME using the following website link: <http://www.on-targetrange.com:80/energy.shtml>

A graph showing approximate ME values is included below:



Q. Do I have to certify my probationary members?

A. Probationary members cannot be certified as being safe and competent. Anyone passing a probationary course must be considered safe and competent in order to pass. Probationary members should be instructed on a one to one basis.

If doing the NRA probationary course within their club, then Probationary members must complete the standard written and practical assessment tests, and once the appropriate time period has elapsed they can be considered for full membership by the club. Then they will require certificates of competence. It is up to individual clubs to decide if they want to use the probationary assessment test as one of their criteria for competence

If the club is doing its own probationary course, which has been accredited by the NRA, this must include a formal assessment of the safe handling of firearms and of range awareness skills. Once the probationer has been accepted for full membership of the club he/she will then require a certificate of competence signed by the club chairman. It is up to club chairman to decide if the formal assessment test will be used as one of the criteria for competency within their own club.

Q. You have shotgun listed. How is the NRA going to assess clay shot gunners and those who shoot solid shot?

A. The criteria for certification by the NRA include shooting and recording a score in a competition run by the NRA / NSC at Bisley - this will cover shooters who take part in the Action Weekends and the Phoenix. Shooters do not need certification for the National Clays Shooting Centre (clays). Others will need to be individually assessed.

Q. *I am a member of the NRA. None of criteria listed applies to me. How do I get assessed?*

A. The NRA will be running a series of assessment courses that members will be able to sign up for. These will be available later in 2008 at a nominal cost.

Q. *We are a .22 club affiliated to the NRA and shoot on our own range. Some of our members are members of the NRA the rest are not. Which of our members have to be certificated?*

A. We have succeeded in getting a dispensation for single shot .22 shooting. Please see the separate statement on small-bore.

Q. *I am an NSRA RCO, who can I certify, if any?*

A. .22 shooting does not normally require certification. Please see the separate statement on small-bore.

Q. *When will the blank certificates be sent to my club?*

A. The certificates are being printed, they will be out as soon as possible. Club chairmen can put in place their processes and carry out assessments where necessary during this time. The physical card can then be completed and issued when dispatched to clubs.

Q. *My club chairman doesn't want anything to do with with this certification business. I am the club secretary, where do I go from here?*

A. The Club Chairman as the principal officer of a club has been designated by the MOD as the person responsible for certification. If the Chairman does not want to certify anyone, then club members will need to be certified by another club they are a member of (or the NRA if they are a member).

Q. *I'm a muzzle loader and annual member of the NRA, who will assess me?*

A. All assessments carried out by the NRA will be conducted by an assessor with suitable qualifications for the type of firearm use they are assessing.

Q. *I do not shoot ammunition with an ME above 4500 Joules so will this new certification procedure still affect me?*

A. A certificate of competence is required from 1st Jan 2009 for everyone who shoots on an MoD range (including Bisley) for both small bore and full bore calibres. This requirement is quite separate from the procedures for high muzzle energy.

Q. *We have our own private range for smallbore shooting so will this certification process affect us?*

A. If your members only shoot on a private range then they will not require a certificate of competence.

Q. *What will be the arrangements for High Muzzle Energy (HME) at this year's Imperial Meeting?*

A. All MR and F class competitors will receive a letter with their receipt explaining how the new HME zeroing arrangements will operate this year. Those firing HME will be required to prove that they have successfully completed the zeroing procedure before they can draw their squadding cards for the meeting. TR competitors are not affected by these procedures and may draw their squadding cards as normal.

Q. *Once I have zeroed my HME firearm does my ordinary shooting on the range need to be supervised by an RCO (HME)?*

A. No, only the zeroing procedures must be supervised by the RCO(HME), a standard RCO can conduct the normal range practices.

Q. *Do my club training officers require an NRA qualification in order to teach the new NRA probationary course?*

A. There is no requirement at the moment for your trainers to hold an NRA or GBTSF qualification; a club can simply appoint one of their experienced members to do the training. However in the long term it would be best practice for clubs to have qualified instructors and coaches who undertake the training of their new members. The NRA will be running club instructor and club coach courses at Bisley during the autumn.

Q. *Does my club have to use the same criteria that the NRA will be using for certification?*

A. There is no compulsory list of criteria, each club must decide on the particular criteria it will use for certifying its own members since it is the club chairman who will be signing the certificates. The NRA criteria are only shown as an example which clubs may choose to use if they wish.

Q. *I am a RCO(HME), do I have to sign the Form 906 Land Range Log, when I supervise HME zeroing on Bisley Ranges?*

A. The F906 at Bisley is for military users only. Civilian RCO's are not required to use this form.

Q. *Can I now zero my .338 on military ranges under the new HME rules?*

A. Probably not. You should contact the Range Administering Unit for that range, for advice. This calibre is not allowed on Bisley Ranges as we do not have the required Air Danger Height.

Q. *Do Sect 7(3) firearms owners need a certificate of competency?*

A. Yes, details will be published later in the year.

Q. *I am an RFD and at various times work for the MoD conducting R & D on all different types and calibres of weapons. Do I have to have a competency certificate to conduct business on MoD ranges?*

A. Yes, you are only being assessed on firearms handling and range protocol on the firearms that are being used. E.G. bolt action, self-loading etc.