

Civilian Use of MoD Ranges

The NRA has successfully reached a formal agreement with the MoD for the use of MoD ranges by civilians who are members of the NRA or clubs affiliated to the NRA. The agreement is attached as Annex A to this document, which has been produced to provide advice and guidance for Clubs.

Whilst adherence to the requirements of the agreement is mandatory for clubs using MoD ranges, the NRA as the National Governing Body recommends that the advice and guidance in this document be taken as best practice for all clubs whether or not they use MoD ranges.

All clubs wishing to use MoD ranges or who wish to issue certification cards to their members must return the enclosed form (Annex B) agreeing to the MoD requirements.

Advice and guidance on the individual elements of the agreement can be found below:

Safe Shooting System

In conjunction with the MoD requirements, the NRA has published a formal system based on the practices already in place. The MoD expects all clubs to follow this system when shooting. The details of this system are documented in Appendix 1 of the agreement.

Certification

From 1st January 2009, anyone shooting on an MoD range (including Bisley) has been required to produce, on request, a certification card for the type of firearm they are using.

The NRA will distribute these cards to clubs once they have returned the enclosed form (Annex B). Clubs will be sent enough cards for the number of club members they have declared as active non-NRA members. Clubs may request cards for their members who are also NRA members on submission of a list of those people along with their NRA membership number. There will be no charge from the NRA for these cards, however replacement cards will incur a charge unless the original is returned.

The format of the card is enclosed as Annex C to this document.

The NRA criteria for certification of its members are included as Annex D to this document. We would recommend that club Chairmen consider similar criteria when determining whether one of their club members is safe and competent in each of the firearm types for which they wish to be certified. The certification of a member is at the discretion of the club Chairman.

Note that club Chairmen can reasonably be expected to certify a shooter as competent and safe only for the categories of firearms the shooter uses as a member of that club. Many shooters shoot different firearms with different clubs. It is therefore entirely possible that a shooter will have to carry more than one card in order to demonstrate certification for all the types of firearm he or she wishes to shoot - one card for each certifying club.

The NRA insurers have confirmed that clubs and Chairmen are covered against claims arising through negligence in the certification process.

The NRA can provide assessors to assess a club's members if desired; there will be a charge for this service.

New Shooters

As from 1st July 2008 all new shooters will need to complete either an NRA probationary course or the club's scheme which must have been accredited by the NRA. Training manuals can be ordered from the NRA by contacting the Training Department on training@nra.org.uk or ext 01483 797777 x158.

If a club wishes to use its own course, it must apply in writing to the NRA Director of Training for accreditation of that course by the NRA.

Auditing

Clubs may be required to submit their records for an audit / inspection by the NRA or the MoD. Clubs should keep sufficient records to show that they have followed the MoD requirements. Records should include, as a minimum, all the information on all certification cards issued by the club. Records may be kept in paper or electronic form. Although there is no prescribed format, clubs wishing to keep paper records may use the NRA form enclosed as Annex D Appendix 2.

The MoD will be confirming in due course their requirements for auditing this system. The current proposed system is included as Annex E.

Investigations

The MoD requires clubs to sign an agreement (as set out in Annex B) that they will take part in any investigation following an incident and will require their club members to assist fully in such investigation.

High Muzzle Energy Procedures (HME)

Full details on the procedures to address the requirements for HME shooting are included as Annex F.

Letter to members

The NRA has produced a letter for its individual members explaining the new requirements and how they will be affected. A copy of this letter is attached as Annex G and may be used by clubs to inform their members of the changes.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have and will be maintaining a list of questions that may arise from these requirements. Please check the website first to see if your question has already been answered. If not, there will be instructions on how best to send us your question.

Further Updates

Any additional information will be posted on the NRA's Website.

List of attachments

Annex A - The MoD Requirements for Civilian use of MoD ranges

Appendix 1 - The NRA Safe Shooting System

Appendix 2 - The High Muzzle Energy Procedures

Appendix 3 - Exceptions to Requirements

Annex B - Club Agreement to MoD requirements and order form for certificates and training materials

Annex C - Certification Card format

Appendix 1 – Certification Card example

Annex D - NRA Criteria for certification of individual members and application for certification

Appendix 1 - Range Safety awareness and competency course

Appendix 2 - NRA Application for certification

Annex E - Proposed Auditing System

Annex F - Detailed procedures for HME requirements

Annex G - Letter to individual Members

Annex H - Frequently Asked Questions

Annex J – Muzzle Energy Value Graph