



# NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION

NATIONAL SHOOTING CENTRE, BISLEY

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Dear member,

## Use of MoD Ranges by Civilians

You will no doubt be aware by now that the NRA has reached an agreement with the MoD which allows continued use of MoD ranges by civilians. Whilst many of the provisions of the agreement formalise practices that are already in place, there are some new requirements that will affect you as a shooter on MoD ranges (including Bisley).

These requirements broadly fall into two areas: use of High Muzzle Energy (HME) firearms / ammunition and Certification of shooters. **These affect ALL shooters**, so please read the following carefully

### Use of High Muzzle Energy (HME) Firearms / Ammunition

Special requirements have been introduced (with immediate effect) for shooters using firearms with ammunition that generates muzzle energy in excess of 4500J. **It is your responsibility to know what ME your ammunition and firearm produces.**

The new requirement involves zeroing your firearm using a special target at 200 yards under the control and supervision of an RCO who has passed the RCO (HME) course. Once zeroed, you will be able to move back to further distances: All shooting (other than zeroing) may then be conducted by an RCO who need not hold the RCO (HME) qualification. You must zero in this way every time you wish to shoot on the range unless you are shooting on consecutive days as part of a competition or training course, in which case you only need to zero at the start of that competition / course or on the preceding day.

At Bisley, special procedures will be put in place to allow you to carry out HME zeroing on the Zero Range.

## **Certification**

From 1<sup>st</sup> January 2009 you will be required to carry a card showing that you have been certified by a club Chairman as being safe and competent in the relevant firearm type. If you are a member of more than one club, you may be certified by any of those clubs. The NRA will certify its individual members as required

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 of you shoot different firearms with different clubs. It is therefore entirely possible that you will have to carry more than one card in order to demonstrate certification for all the types of firearm you wish to shoot – one card for each certifying club.

The NRA will provide the certification cards to clubs. It is up to the clubs how they issue the cards to their members – we have written to club Chairmen to explain the requirements they need to meet and to provide advice on how they might meet those requirements.

If you want to be certified by the NRA please complete the attached application form. Additional forms may be downloaded from the website or requested from the membership department. The NRA expects to have to certify a very large number of shooters and this will inevitably take time. We therefore encourage you either to get your application to the NRA soon (don't wait until December!) or to obtain certification from your local club if possible.

Full details of the agreement and our advice to club Chairmen, including all procedures, are available on the NRA website.

We appreciate that this is an added burden on shooters, but it is necessary in order to allow shooting to continue on the vast majority of UK ranges and we have worked hard to minimise the burden so we hope you don't find it too onerous.

On behalf of us all, I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Glynn and the working party under James Watson's stewardship for the enormous amount of time they have put in to successfully resolving what looked last autumn like being a potentially devastating problem for our shooting community.

Good Shooting!

**Bill Richards**

**NRA Chairman**