

# The British Proof Authority



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## Memorandum on Bore diameter Proof marks – As amended

### General

A decision has recently been made by the Permanent International Commission for Firearms Testing (C.I.P) that the marking of bore diameters on smoothbore Arms be made voluntary and as a result some Proof Houses of C.I.P member countries are no longer marking bore sizes on barrels but recording this information on their data bases.

This decision runs contrary to the British Rules of Proof 2006 (Rules of Proof) where the British Proof Authorities require barrels to be marked with the bore dimension. As stated in the Rules of Proof, where C.I.P decisions conflict with the Rules of Proof, the Rules of Proof take precedence.

The requirement to mark the bore dimension enables guns to be continuously checked to ensure that they remain in Proof. This is viewed by the British Proof Authority as vital to ensure public safety and also recognizes the commercial benefits of being able to demonstrate that a gun is in Proof. If bore dimensions increase by more than 0.2mm above the size marked, the Arm will require Re-Proof prior to being offered for or subsequently sold, pawned, pledged, exchanged or exported from the UK.

The British Proof Authority is aware that a number of smoothbore Arms have already been imported from C.I.P member Countries bearing C.I.P Proof Marks but which have not been marked with the appropriate bore dimension.

**Importers of smoothbore arms from C.I.P member countries must demand from the manufacturers of these arms that they are required to be bore size marked before export to the UK, either by the proof house of the C.I.P country concerned or by the manufacturer of the arms. Even if arms are currently being bore size marked importers must advise manufacturers of the continuing requirement for imports into UK to be bore size marked, in what may be a transitional period.**

### Tapered and Over-bored Barrels

It has become apparent that smoothbore Arms are being manufactured with tapered or over-bored barrels which when measured would indicate that they fall outside of the tolerances detailed in Appendix I, Table 1B of the Rules of Proof. If at the time of manufacture the Arm is properly chambered in accordance with Appendix I, Table 1A of the Rules of Proof, and if the bore diameter is greater than that detailed in Appendix 1, Table 1B, it will be measured and marked, if over-bored, in accordance with the Rules of Proof, that is to say it will be measured at the point 23 centimetres from its breech face for its bore diameter. If taper-bored, bores will be measured at the point where the bore is a true parallel, forward of the taper and before any choke. The C.I.P recognises the over-bore anomaly in decision XXI-12.2.

Manufacturers of taper-bored barrels will adopt the practice of marking barrels as 'Tapered' to avoid confusion. Manufacturers' data for the dimensions of the taper have been made available to The British Proof Authority and will be used to determine if a barrel is still in Proof. Barrels already in circulation are recorded on The British Proof Authorities database and are not required to be marked retrospectively.

**Importers of Tapered and Over-Bored smoothbore arms from C.I.P member countries must demand from the manufacturers of these arms that they are required to be bore size marked, as set out above, before export to the UK, either by the proof house of the C.I.P country concerned or by the manufacturer of the arms.**