

# The British Proof Authority



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## CAUTIONARY ADVICE – KEY POINTS

The following information should be considered carefully to determine if your business is affected by the provisions of the Proof Acts.

- It is a criminal offence to sell or offer for sale in Britain a Small Arm which is not marked with a valid Proof Mark. Auction Houses are reminded that catalogue entries indicating a Small Arm is 'Out of Proof' in no way mitigates the offence.
- Small Arms imported into this country which have not been proved in a C.I.P.(the International Proof Governing body) Proof House must be notified in writing to the British Proof Authority within 7 days of their arrival in Britain by the company or person arranging that importation or be submitted for proof within 28 days of their entry into UK. It is an offence not to do so.
- It is a criminal offence to export from Britain a Small Arm which is not marked with a valid Proof Mark.
- The presence of genuine Proof Marks on a Small Arm does not guarantee that the item in question is still in proof since these Proof Marks are rendered invalid if a Small Arm has in some way been weakened following its last proof. Any manufacturing process that causes the enlargement of its bore dimensions beyond proof tolerances, the extension of chamber length since it was last proved, the fitting of muzzle attachments such as choke tubes, sound moderators/muzzle brakes, etc. or by any other alteration deemed to require re-proof under the Proof Acts and the relevant Rules of Proof. The advice of either Proof House should be sought if any doubt exists.
- It is an offence to forge a Proof Mark on a small arm or to possess counterfeit proof marks.
- Small arms used on approved ranges should be in proof; otherwise any insurance policy cover linked to their usage is likely to be invalidated.
- Small Arms which have been proved for use with 'Black Powder' often fail to stand reproof with modern nitro based propellant proof cartridges. Dealers should point this out to potential customers when they are selling old Black Powder proved small arms to prevent their potential misuse and injury to both customers and bystanders if fired with modern nitro cartridges.
- Small Arms should only be fired with cartridges for which they were proved; all commercially produced cartridge boxes should carry the Approval Mark of one of the Proof Houses of the fourteen C.I.P. member countries. Proper identification of the correct ammunition suited to the Proof of a Small Arm as represented by its Proof Marks is essential to minimize the risk of injury and/or damage.
- Ex-military Small Arms and certain current overseas Small Arms manufactured in military arsenals bearing military proof marks are deemed unproved since such Proof Marks do not conform to C.I.P. standards. Likewise ex-military ammunition may not conform to the standards set by C.I.P.

Please contact either Proof House for further advice or clarification on any matter covered by this memorandum.

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