



THE WORSHIPFUL COMPANY
OF GUNMAKERS



THE GUARDIANS OF THE
BIRMINGHAM PROOF HOUSE

The 1868, 1950 & 1978 Proof Acts

Conversion of Barrels and the Fitting of Muzzle Attachments.

The British Proof Authority wish to clarify the proof status of small arms converted to accept muzzle attachments and the proof requirements of the attachment.

The following advice applies to cartridge operated small arms of all calibres, not including air weapons and their accessories.

The gun trade and the public are advised that the barrel of any small arm previously proved but subsequently converted by screw cutting, or by any process of manufacture, or any other means whatsoever, to accept the fitting of attachments such as sound moderators, screw in choke tubes, muzzle brakes, etc., will require reproof prior to attempting to export, sell, exchange, pawn or pledge them whether or not the sound moderator or other attachment is attached to the barrel at the time. This is because the barrel is deemed to be unproved from the time when its conversion is begun, which occurs when it is converted from one sort of barrel to another sort of barrel (under s.115 of the Gun Barrel Proof Act 1868 as amended). Failure to submit a barrel for reproof in these circumstances is a criminal offence under s.122 (3) of the Act as amended.

Under current Proof Legislation, the proof status of any muzzle attachment changes as soon as it is fitted onto the barrel of a small arm. Thereafter it becomes part of the barrel of a small arm and requires to be proof tested and marked accordingly prior to attempting to export, sell, exchange, pawn or pledge the attachment together with the small arm to which it has been fitted (see Section 4 of the 1868 Act and the 2006 Rules of Proof).

** Note, the Permanent International Commission for Proof (CIP) advises that, under the Decisions of the CIP, the proof marks of a proven barrel subsequently threaded are invalid and the barrel is required to be reproofed.*

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