

The British Proof Authority



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Memorandum to Registered Firearms Dealers

Maintaining a Registered Firearms dealership requires not only knowledge of the product sold but also a sound knowledge of Legislation.

All dealers will be fully aware of the Firearms Act and will be working within its constraints, but it is apparent that dealers are at times either unaware of or unsure of the implications of the Gun Barrel Proof Acts and their associated regulations.

It is not only a criminal offence not to comply with the Proof Acts but may also affect your insurance.

In brief the Law dictates that all Small Arms, which encompass all Arms up to 2" (50mm) diameter bore or those firing a projectile of less than 1 3/4lbs (800 gram) including muzzle attachments, be in Proof prior to exposure for Sale, Exchange, Export, Pawn or Pledge.

The requirement for Proof testing was implemented for the benefit of the safety of the shooter ensuring that minimum standards of quality and safety are met for each and every gun.

The British Proof Authority comprising of The Worshipful Company of Gunmakers and The Birmingham Gun Barrel Proof House conduct their testing under both the British Gun Barrel Proof Acts and under the decisions of the C.I.P (Commission Internationale permanente Pour l'Epreuve des Armes à Feu portatives).

As well as carrying out the Proof testing of Small Arms The British Proof Authority undertake Cartridge Control, Certification of Deactivated and Magazine Restricted Arms and conduct investigations following safety related firearms incidents.

All dealers should therefore be aware of and have a basic understanding of the following documents, all of which are available at minimal cost on CD or free download from either the London or Birmingham Proof Houses.

The Gun Barrel Proof Act 1868

Rules, Regulations and Scales applicable to the Proof of Small Arms 2006

Specifications for the adaptation of Shotgun Magazines and the Deactivation of Firearms, Revised 2010

C.I.P Decisions, Texts and Tables. 2011 edition on CD, future updates will be web based and available for view at <http://www.cip-bobp.org/>

The Proof Authority is happy to answer any questions regarding matters of Proof and these can be directed to the Proof Masters of either Proof House:

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or

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