

Civilian Use of MoD Ranges

The NRA has successfully reached a formal agreement with the MoD for the use of MoD ranges by civilians who are members of the NRA or clubs affiliated to the NRA. The agreement is attached as Annex A to this document, which has been produced to provide advice and guidance for Clubs.

Whilst adherence to the requirements of the agreement is mandatory for clubs using MoD ranges, the NRA as the National Governing Body recommends that the advice and guidance in this document be taken as best practice for all clubs whether or not they use MoD ranges.

All clubs wishing to use MoD ranges or who wish to issue certification cards to their members must return the enclosed form (Annex B) agreeing to the MoD requirements.

Advice and guidance on the individual elements of the agreement can be found below:

Safe Shooting System

In conjunction with the MoD requirements, the NRA has published a formal system based on the practices already in place. The MoD expects all clubs to follow this system when shooting. The details of this system are documented in Appendix 1 of the agreement (Annex B).

Certification

From 1st January 2009, anyone shooting on an MoD range (including Bisley) will be required to produce, on request, a certification card for the type of firearm they are using.

The NRA will distribute these cards to clubs once they have returned the enclosed form (Annex B). Clubs will be sent enough cards for the number of club members they have declared as active non-NRA members. Clubs may request cards for their members who are also NRA members on submission of a list of those people along with their NRA membership number. There will be no charge from the NRA for these cards, however replacement cards will incur a charge unless the original is returned.

The format of the card is enclosed as Annex C to this document.

The NRA criteria for certification of its members are included as Annex D to this document. We would recommend that club Chairmen consider similar criteria when determining whether one of their club members is safe and competent in each of the firearm types for which they wish to be certified. The certification of a member is at the discretion of the club Chairman.

Note that 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 shooters shoot different firearms with different clubs. It is therefore entirely possible that a shooter will have to carry more than one card in order to demonstrate certification for all the types of firearm he or she wishes to shoot – one card for each certifying club.

The NRA insurers have confirmed that clubs and Chairmen are covered against claims arising through negligence in the certification process.

The NRA can provide assessors to assess a club's members if desired; there will be a charge for this service.

New Shooters

As from 1st July 2008 all new shooters will need to complete either an NRA probationary course or the club's scheme which must have been accredited by the NRA. Training manuals can be ordered from the NRA using the form included as Annex B.

If a club wishes to use its own course, it must apply in writing to the NRA Director of Training for accreditation of that course by the NRA.

Auditing

Clubs may be required to submit their records for an audit / inspection by the NRA or the MoD. Clubs should keep sufficient records to show that they have followed the MoD requirements. Records should include, as a minimum, all the information on all certification cards issued by the club. Records may be kept in paper or electronic form. Although there is no prescribed format, clubs wishing to keep paper records may use the NRA form enclosed as Annex D Appendix 2.

The MoD will be confirming in due course their requirements for auditing this system. The current proposed system is included as Annex E.

Investigations

The MoD requires clubs to sign an agreement (as set out in Annex B) that they will take part in any investigation following an incident and will require their club members to assist fully in such investigation.

High Muzzle Energy Procedures (HME)

Full details on the procedures to address the requirements for HME shooting are included as Annex E.

Letter to members

The NRA has produced a letter for its individual members explaining the new requirements and how they will be affected. A copy of this letter is attached as Annex F and may be used by clubs to inform their members of the changes.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

We have and will be maintaining a list of questions that may arise from these requirements. Please check the website first to see if your question has already been answered. If not, there will be instructions on how best to send us your question.

Further Updates

Any additional information will be posted on the NRA's Website.

List of attachments

Annex A – The MoD Requirements for Civilian use of MoD ranges

Appendix 1 – The NRA Safe Shooting System

Appendix 2 – The High Muzzle Energy Procedures

Appendix 3 – Exceptions to Requirements

Annex B – Club Agreement to MoD requirements and order form for certificates and training materials

Annex C – Certification Card format

Annex D – NRA Criteria for certification of individual members and application for certification

Appendix 1 - Range Safety awareness and competency course

Appendix 2 – NRA Application for certification

Annex E – Proposed Auditing System

Annex F – Detailed procedures for HME requirements

Annex G – Letter to individual Members

Annex H – Frequently Asked Questions

Annex A

MoD / NRA AGREEMENT FOR CIVILIAN USE OF MoD RANGES BY CLUBS AFFILIATED TO THE NRA

The MoD Requirements

1. Safe Shooting System (SSS)

The NRA is to introduce and maintain a system for the safe civilian use of MoD Ranges to be called "the NRA Safe Shooting System" based upon the Army Safe System of Training (SST). The Army SST is based upon; Safe Person; Safe Equipment; Safe Practice; and Safe Place. The NRA SSS is included as Appendix 1; it must be implemented by 1st July 2008.

2. Certification

- a. From 1st January 2009, each civilian shooting on an MoD range is to carry a certificate of safety and competence signed by the chairman of a club of which he is a member and which is affiliated to the NRA, stating that he is safe and competent to use the type(s) of firearm concerned.
- b. The NRA is to require the chairman of each club affiliated to the NRA to certify annually all those members who request to be certified, and who they judge to be so, as safe and competent.
- c. The NRA is to specify the format of the certification to be used by club chairmen.
- d. The Chairman of the NRA may appoint a suitable officer for the certification of NRA members.

3. New Shooters

- a. The NRA is to require that any shooter who is neither a full member of a club affiliated to the NRA nor a full member of a Home Office Approved club by 1st July 2008 must complete one of the training schemes listed below before they can be certified as safe and competent to shoot on MoD ranges.
 - i. The NRA Probationary course.
 - ii. A Club Probationary Course accredited by the NRA.
- b. Exceptions to 3a above include serving military or police personnel who have been certified as safe and competent for that type of firearm(s) by their Commanding Officer / senior officer or former military or police personnel whose competence can be tested by an assessment and certified by their club chairman.

4. Auditing

- a. The NRA is to maintain sufficient records for, and cooperate fully with, MoD audits of the SSS.
- b. The NRA is to instruct club chairmen to maintain sufficient records for, and cooperate fully with, MoD audits of their training and member certification systems.

5. Investigations and Inspections

- a. Investigations of incidents will be led by the MoD. The NRA is to require the chairmen of clubs affiliating to the NRA, and whose clubs use MoD ranges, to sign an agreement with the NRA undertaking that their club will take part in any discipline / accident investigation conducted jointly by the NRA and the MoD following an incident on an MoD range and to require their members to assist fully in such investigation.
- b. The NRA is to instruct the chairmen of affiliated clubs to require their members to allow an official of the NRA or the MoD to select at random rounds being used on an MoD range so that such rounds can be inspected and/or tested.

6. High Muzzle Energy Ammunition (4500J – 7000J)

The NRA is to introduce, by 1st July 2008, special procedures for anyone using ammunition which generates muzzle energy in excess of 4500J. (Note: no firearm with a muzzle energy exceeding 7000 J may be used on an MoD range). These procedures are included as Appendix 2.

7. Exceptions

Known exceptions to the above requirements will be catered for by special procedures included as Appendix 3. Any others must be specifically agreed between the MoD and the NRA.

Appendix 1: The NRA Safe Shooting System (SSS)

1. The MoD requires all civilian organisations using military ranges to have an auditable system of training based on a specific risk assessment. In response the NRA has developed a Safe Shooting System (SSS), which has been approved by the MoD. All clubs affiliated to the NRA who use military ranges must adopt the NRA Safe Shooting System, to be introduced by 1st July 2008. By 1st January 2009, civilian shooters must also have an annual certificate of competence signed by their Club Chairman.
2. Organisations with existing MoD-approved Codes of Practice (e.g. BDS and MLAGB) are not required to follow the NRA SSS. Other groups, however, will need to adopt the NRA system or have their training approved by the NRA. The NRA SSS is based on four elements: safe person, safe equipment, safe practice and safe place.

A. Safe Person

The safe shooter is someone who has received the information, training and supervision to enable them to acquire knowledge and develop the skills necessary to demonstrate that they can handle firearms and ammunition safely. The NRA probationary course provides this training.

B. Safe Equipment

The NRA Rules of Shooting, published annually, define the types of firearms and ammunition that may be used for target shooting. The individual shooter is responsible to his Club Chairman for ensuring that his firearm is properly maintained and that the ammunition used is in every way safe and within the range parameters for muzzle velocity (MV) and muzzle energy (ME). Only copper or steel jacketed lead core or solid lead rounds may be fired by civilians on MoD ranges.

C. Safe Practice

The NRA Rules of Shooting contain detailed regulations concerning the conduct of shooting for all its shooting disciplines. Qualified NRA RCOs are responsible for the safe running of MoD ranges for civilian shooters. Additional RCO qualifications are required if Sporting Rifles, Muzzle loading firearms or ammunition developing an ME > 4500J are being used on MoD ranges. A specific zeroing practice will also be required for those using ammunition with an ME > 4500J. In the event of an incident on military ranges involving a civilian shooter a joint MoD /NRA inquiry will take place and the club will be required to assist with the investigation.

D. Safe Place

A safe place is one in which the controls which are necessary to enable shooting to be conducted safely have been identified by a site-specific risk assessment and directed through the Range Standing Orders. All MoD ranges have site specific range standing orders which must be complied with at all times. MoD ranges are maintained by the range administering unit and are subject to regular inspections. The NRA RCO running the range for a civilian club must sign for the range on the MoD Form 906, thus certifying that he is qualified to conduct the shooting practice and that he has read and will comply with the range standing orders. An RCO (HME) must annotate the MoD 906 if ammunition with an ME > 4500J is used.

The NRA and NSRA have produced guidance material on the Construction of Ranges and the Safe Management of Ranges for clubs which own their own ranges.

Appendix 2: High Muzzle Energy Procedures

From 1st July 2008, National Rifle Association and MoD approved procedures must be used on MoD ranges when civilians are shooting with firearms where muzzle energy is greater than 4500 joules. These are:

1. The shooter is to be authorised in writing by the Chairman of the appropriate club to fire the specific type of firearm using ammunition generating over 4500J muzzle energy. This will be satisfied by the Certification process that is being implemented from 1st January 2009,
2. For the Zeroing procedure outlined below, the RCO is to be qualified under the NRA RCO (HME) course to conduct civilian shooting on ranges involving firearms and ammunition which generate muzzle energy in excess of 4500J. (Note: no firearm using ammunition with a muzzle energy exceeding 7000J may be used on an MoD range).
 - a) The RCO (HME) is to record in the MoD Form 906, Land Range Log, when a firearm is being used which generates a muzzle energy of more than 4500J.
 - b) Only the issued NRA / MoD approved target is to be used at 200 yds / m or the Bisley Zero Range as appropriate.
 - c) The target is to be attached such that the target centre line is set on the target screen centre line.
 - d) The shooter is to clarify to the RCO (HME) the rifle type and technique he is using.
 - e) A spotter must be appointed to observe the initial fall of shot until the initial strike on the target screen is identified:
 - i. If the strike off the target screen is clearly identified the shooter may adjust and re-fire.
 - ii. If no strike is identified the shooter is to cease fire and report to the RCO (HME) who will not allow the shooter to continue until the weapon has been re-collimated or bore sighted to the RCO (HME)'s satisfaction.
 - f) Rounds on target may be adjusted but only the 5 final rounds are to be counted for the group, one of which may include the final adjusting round.
 - g) All 5 rounds of the final group must be within the box before the shooter may move to a different distance.
 - h) The butt marker is to identify clearly and mark those rounds which were used as sighting rounds and not to be included in the qualifying group.
 - i) Guidance is provided on the NRA/ MoD approved target for sight adjustment for different distances subject to achieving a successful group.
 - j) The zeroing procedure is to be carried out on each day the shooter wishes to shoot unless the zeroing is part of an official competition or training where firing is carried out on consecutive days.
 - k) After qualification the target is to be completed and signed by the shooter and the RCO (HME) and retained by the Club for 12 months.
3. Once zeroed using the procedure in 2, the shooter can shoot under the direction of a qualified NRA RCO who may or may not have the HME qualification.

Appendix 3: Exceptions to Certification and Training Requirements

The following defined exceptions apply to the requirements for certification and training:

1. **Club Guest Days.** All Home Office Approved Clubs are entitled to hold a maximum of 12 Guest Days per year (The NRA as a National Governing Body is entitled to 40 per year). At these events, all guests will use firearms which have been zeroed by National Governing Body qualified coaches or competent Club members and will be supervised one-to-one by competent Club members. Ammunition and firearms that generate a muzzle energy in excess of 4500J will not be used. All loading and unloading of the firearm will be done by the competent coach or club member.
2. **NRA Open Days.** By arrangement with the Home Office, the NRA holds up to 3 Open Days per year. At these events, all guests will use firearms which have been zeroed by National Governing Body qualified coaches or competent Club members and will be supervised one-to-one by competent Club members. Ammunition and firearms that generate a muzzle energy in excess of 4500J will not be used. All loading and unloading of the firearm will be done by the competent coach or club member.
3. **Foreign Shooters.** All foreign shooters wishing to shoot on MoD ranges will be required to produce evidence that they have been certified as safe and competent by the relevant National Governing Body for shooting in their home country and sponsored by the NRA or a club affiliated to the NRA.

Format of the Certification card

Front:

Reverse:



**Shooter Certification Card
Valid until 31 December 2009**

Name:

NRA Membership Number:

Certifying club:

Club affiliation number:

Chairman to initial each firearm type certified, others must be deleted

	Telescope sighted rifle
	Iron sighted rifle
	Long range pistol
	Short range pistol
	Gallery rifle / carbine
	Muzzle loaded rifle
	Muzzle loaded pistol
	Shotgun
	HME firearms / ammunition

I certify that the shooter named on this certificate is safe and competent to use the firearms initialled above.

.....(Signed)

.....(Name).....(Date)

Notes:

NRA membership number to be provided when the individual is an NRA member
 When assessing the competence and safety of a shooter, you should do so against the following categories of firearm.
 If a shooter wants to use **HME firearms / ammunition**, he must be certified for this by the club Chairman as well as being certified for the firearm type.

Telescope sighted rifle: Cartridge rifles chambered for “full-bore” rounds (e.g. .303, 7.26, .223), fitted with telescope sights and typically shot at ranges beyond 100 yards.

Iron sighted rifle: Cartridge rifles chambered for “full-bore” rounds (e.g. .303, 7.26, .223), fitted with iron sights and typically shot at ranges beyond 100 yards.

Long range pistol: Cartridge pistols chambered for rounds more usually associated with rifles (e.g. 7.62) and typically shot at ranges beyond 100 yards.

Short range pistol: Cartridge pistols and revolvers chambered for relatively low-power cartridges usually associated with such firearms (e.g. .22, .38/.357, .44) and typically shot at short ranges (100 yards or less). Includes long-barrelled revolvers and pistols.

Gallery rifle / carbine: Cartridge rifles chambered for rounds usually associated with pistols (e.g. .22, .38/.357, .44). Includes bolt action, lever action and semi-automatic rimfire guns.

Muzzle loaded rifle: Any non-cartridge rifle, regardless of the propellant used. Includes smooth-bore firearms such as muskets and flintlocks.

Muzzle loaded pistol: Any non-cartridge pistol or revolver, regardless of the propellant used. Includes smooth-bore firearms such as flintlocks.

Shotgun: Any cartridge smooth-bore firearm. Includes single-barrel, double-barrel, semi-automatic and pump-action guns. Covers both clay pigeon and target shooting, including with solid slug ammunition.

Criteria for certification of NRA members by the NRA


Members of the NRA will be able to apply for certification using the attached form. The NRA will consider the following in determining whether or not to certify an individual:

1. The individual must be a Member of the National Rifle Association.
2. The individual must not have any outstanding safety offences recorded against them (any individual suspended for a safety offence must be retrained before being deemed safe).
3. The individual will be deemed as safe and competent if they satisfy one or more of the following:
 - a. They are a current qualified NRA Range Conducting Officer in that type of firearm
 - b. They are a current club coach or club instructor (having successfully completed the relevant NRA course)
 - c. They have successfully completed an NRA or CCRS (Council for Cadet Rifle Shooting) appropriate assessed range course within the past year
 - d. They have shot and recorded a score in a competition run by the NRA / NSC at Bisley within the past year
 - e. They have shot with the NRA Shooting Club within the past year
 - f. They are a shooter with the F-Class league
 - g. They successfully complete the NRA Range Safety Assessment and Competency Test (as Appendix 1 to this annex)

Special requests, submitted in writing to the NRA, for any individual falling outside these criteria to be certified may be granted in exceptional circumstances.

The application form for certification by the NRA is attached as Appendix 2 to this annex. This form will be available for download from the NRA website; it will also be possible to apply for NRA certification on-line.

Annex D, Appendix 1

	<p style="text-align: center;">NATIONAL RIFLE ASSOCIATION</p> <p style="text-align: center;">RANGE SAFETY AWARENESS & COMPETENCY</p> <p style="text-align: center;">ASSESSMENT</p>
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Name of Club Member:	Own Club Membership No	
Club:	NRA Club Affiliation No.	

	Pass	Fail*	Date of test	Coach /Assessor signature
Knowledge & Understanding of Range Safety Protocols				
Proving that the Firearm is Clear Loading, Firing & Unloading Procedures				
Misfire Procedure				
Emergency Stop Procedure				
Zeroing Procedures				
Handling and Accuracy				

If muzzle energy exceeds 4500 J the group size should be noted in the comments.
 *A failure in any category will necessitate re-training.

Comments from Coach /Assessor to include safety awareness and competence in the handling of the type of firearm listed below:

Firearm Type(s): _____.

Coach /Assessor signature: _____ Name: _____.

Annex D, Appendix 2



National Rifle Association of the UK

Annual Shooter Safety Certification 2009

Application for certification by NRA.

Office use only Certification number

First name	Surname	NRA membership no.

Required criteria (please give details of any that apply / cross out those that don't)	
I am a current NRA RCO (please provide number)	
I am a current NRA Club Coach or current NRA Club Instructor (please provide details of course taken)	
I have successfully completed an NRA or CCRS appropriate assessed range course in the last 12 months (please provide details)	
I have shot with the NRA Shooting Club in the last 12 months (please provide dates)	
I shoot with the F Class league	
I have shot in an NRA / NSC competition at Bisley (please give details, index # etc)	
I have taken an NRA assessment (please give date)	

Classes of firearms shooter is applying for (tick / cross out the appropriate boxes)					
<input type="checkbox"/>	Telescope sighted rifle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Iron sighted rifle	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muzzle loaded rifle
<input type="checkbox"/>	Short range pistol	<input type="checkbox"/>	Long range pistol	<input type="checkbox"/>	Muzzle loaded pistol
<input type="checkbox"/>	Shotgun	<input type="checkbox"/>	Gallery rifle / carbine	<input type="checkbox"/>	HME firearms / ammunition

* please read the notes for description of firearms categories

Shooter's declaration	
I declare that the information I have provided above is true and accurate.	Notes: Form should be completed in BLOCK CAPITALS, signed by the shooter and submitted to the NRA Membership dept.
Signature:	
Name:	Date:

DRAFT (Awaiting confirmation from MoD)

Auditing System for Civilian Use of Ranges

The MoD will require the following records to be held for at least 12 months and available for inspection with reasonable notice.

National Rifle Association

The NRA will keep a record (paper or electronic) of:

1. all shooters who undertake training on NRA courses
2. current certified RCOs / Club Coaches / Club Instructors
3. club agreements. (The proposed 2008 agreement is attached as Annex A)
4. NRA members who have been certified by the NRA (the applications for certification)
5. all HME Zeroing targets for a period of 12 months

Clubs affiliated to the NRA

Club Chairman will be responsible for keeping records of:

1. the training of all new members
2. all shooters who have been certified by the Club Chairman
3. the qualified RCO(s) running the range on each shoot (a log with dates)
4. a list of current qualified RCOs, Club Coaches and Club Instructors
5. all HME Zeroing targets for a period of 12 months

The records should show that the club is conforming to the requirements in particular checking that any shooter who shoots with them is certified by an affiliated club

Auditing

The NRA should conduct an audit of a number of clubs per year throughout the country.

The MoD will randomly check shooters shooting on MoD ranges.

The NRA will conduct random checks throughout the year at Bisley.

The NRA will ensure that all competitors entering NRA competitions at Bisley have to produce their certification card before being issued with their squadding cards and being allowed to shoot.

The Secretary General of the NRA will be responsible for ensuring the NRA audit procedures take place.

Annex F

PROCEDURE FOR ZEROING .308 (NRA MATCH RIFLES), F CLASS OR ANY OTHER RIFLES DEVELOPING MUZZLE ENERGIES IN EXCESS OF 4500J (3319 FT LBS) ON MOD GALLERY RANGES

Note: *Safety of Butt Markers. Back splash from high energy rounds may create a hazard for unprotected Butt Markers, particularly from poorly maintained stop butts. It is the RCO's responsibility to ensure that the stop butt has been maintained to a sufficient standard such that no backsplash will occur, failing which a protective screen must be provided and used by the marker when ammunition with ME in excess of 4,500 J (3,319 ft lbs) is in use.*

1. Each firer is to be authorized in writing to fire the specific type of firearm by the Chairman of his club.
2. The RCO (HME) is to be qualified to conduct zeroing practices with rifles firing ammunition with an ME in excess of 4500 joules. The RCO is to record the use of any HME firearms in the MOD Form 906, the Land Ranges Log.
3. Initial zeroing is to be conducted on the NRA/MoD approved target at 200 yds / m before firing at any other distance, the only exception being when zeroing is taking place on the Bisley Zero range when a 1/8th scale target may be used.
4. The 200 yds / m HME zeroing target, which may be issued in e-mail or hard copy format to RCOs (HME) and Club Secretaries, consists of three A4 sheets labelled Sheet 1, Sheet 2 and Sheet 3. Sheet 1 (bottom) contains the aiming mark, elevation tables for Match Rifle and F Class rifle and a vertical black line, Sheet 2 (middle) contains instructions, a vertical black line and the 'Target Centre Height' line, and Sheet 3 (top) contains the 'grouping rectangle' and signature boxes.
5. Sheets 1 and 2 are to be stuck together as indicated with adhesive tape. They are then to be attached to the blank target face with the 'Target Centre Height' line aligned with the horizontal line through the centre of the blank target, which should have already been drawn by the range warden (as requested in advance). Sheet 3 should then be attached with adhesive tape or self adhesive patches to the appropriate dotted line for Match Rifles or F Class rifles. For subsequent firers only Sheet 3 needs to be replaced and attached in the correct position for the type of rifle to be used. Note that this will mean that the aiming mark will be near the bottom of the target
6. The firer must then set his sights at his 600 yards elevation, even though he will be firing at only 200 yards. This will ensure that all shots will strike near the centre of the target and be contained by the stop butt.
7. A spotter, who may be a butt marker, must observe the fall of shot until the initial strike on the target screen is identified:
 - a. If strike off the target screen is clearly identified, the firer may adjust and re-fire.
 - b. If no strike is identified the firer is to cease fire and may not continue until the rifle has been re-collimated or bore sighted to the RCO's satisfaction.
8. All sighting shots should be shown with a normal spotting disk and previous shots patched out in the normal way. The firer may adjust his sights to bring his shots into the centre of the grouping rectangle.
9. When the firer is satisfied with his sighting shots he must instruct the marker that he intends to complete his group of five shots. His final sighting shot may be used as his first grouping shot. The marker must not indicate the remaining shots in the group.
10. All 5 rounds of the final group must be within the rectangle before the firer may move to a farther distance.
11. The zeroing procedure is to be carried out each time before shooting unless part of an official competition or training package carried out on consecutive days, in which case the zeroing procedure need only be carried out on the first day of the competition/training package, or the previous day.

Letter to NRA Individual Members

Dear Member,

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 1st 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.

Good Shooting!

Bill Richards, NRA Chairman

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Frequently Asked Questions (Version 1.1)

This document will be maintained and updated as time goes on – the latest version will always be available on the NRA Website.

Q. Surely Bisley isn't an MoD range – so why does all this apply at Bisley?

A. Some of the ranges at Bisley are on land leased from the MoD. Even more importantly, the range danger area used by almost all of the ranges belongs to MoD. The NRA must therefore apply the new Safe Shooting System to all Bisley ranges – the SSS should be regarded as best practice on all ranges.

Q. Our club doesn't have a Chairman – what do we do?

A. Even if you don't have a club officer you call a Chairman, you should be able to identify a "chief officer" for the club who chairs your meetings. This individual will function as the Chairman for the purposes of the Safe Shooting System and will be responsible for certification of club members.

Q. Who certifies the Chairman?

A. The Club Chairman is ultimately responsible for all members of the club. He would certify himself. He could if he (or she) desired, also / alternatively be certified by a club chairman of another club.

Q. Ours is a large club and it's unreasonable to expect our Chairman to certify every member himself. Can we share the job around the club committee?

A. No, The Chairman must sign each Certificate of Competence and this is printed on the card. However he can appoint others eg training officer / coach etc to assist with the assessment process if there is a large number of club members or he doesn't know them because he shoots a different discipline etc. Those appointed could therefore assess, sort and prepare the documentation for the Chairman to sign.

We strongly recommend that such appointments be recorded in writing. ***In any event, the Chairman retains overall responsibility for the certification system within the club.***

Q. You say the insurance will cover a club Chairman even if there is negligence involved – surely that can't be right?

A. As with most forms of indemnity insurance, it is possible to provide cover against negligence – negligence is often unintentional. Insurance cover would only be void if the person covered (in this case the Chairman) actually committed a criminal act.

Q. How do I know what my Muzzle Energy is?

A. A typical 155 grain bullet (RG 7.62mm ammunition) with a muzzle velocity of around 2900 feet per second has a muzzle energy in the region of 3900 to 4000 J. You can calculate your ME using the following website link: <http://www.on-targetrange.com:80/energy.shtml>

A graph showing approximate ME values is included below:

