

**SPORTING SHOOTERS
ASSOCIATION OF
AUSTRALIA (A.C.T.) INC.**

Safe Use of Category A and B Firearms

Module Code 02

This module provides opportunities for the participant to demonstrate the safe use of Category A and B Firearms

Sections in the Firearm Safety Manual to be covered

- **Basic principles of firearms operation**
- **Differing types of firearm actions**
- **Determining the general condition of a firearm**
- **General safety**
- **Rules for the handling and use of firearms**
- **Strategies for enhancing personal safety when using firearms**

- **Firearms Safety Course**
- **Lock Stock and Barrel**
- **Types of Firearms and Actions**
 - **Air rifles**
 - **Break open single or double**
 - **Bolt action firearms**
 - **Level action firearms**
 - **Muzzleloading firearms**

- **Safety Rules**
 1. **Treat every firearm as loaded**
 2. **Always point the muzzle in a safe direction**
 3. **Identify your target**
 4. **Never fire at hard surfaces or water**
 5. **Do not climb fences or obstacles with loaded firearms**
 6. **Never have loaded firearms in the car, home or camp**
 7. **Never mix alcohol or drugs with firearms**
 8. **Store firearms and ammunition separately**
 9. **Always ensure that the barrel is not obstructed**
 10. **Use only the correct ammunition**
 11. **Never engage in horseplay with firearms**
 12. **In the field**

- **Air rifle shooting**
- **Transport of firearms**
- **Storage of firearms**
- **Ammunition**
- **Old calibres and their meanings**
- **Sighting in**
- **Is your firearm safe**
- **Glossary of terms**

BASIC PRINCIPLES OF FIREARMS OPERATION

THERE ARE SEVEN BASIC PRINCIPLE FUNCTIONS OF A FIREARM

Let's look at an explanation of the words used to describe the seven basic principle functions of a firearm. This is a generalisation of the basic principles which can be applied, more or less, to every type of firearm.

Basic Principles

1. FEEDS Inserts a live round or cartridge into the chamber
2. COCKS Compresses the firing pin main spring and engages the firing pin to the trigger mechanism
3. LOCKS Locks the bolt tight to the breech ready to fire when the trigger is pulled
4. FIRES Discharges (or shoots) one round
5. UNLOCKS Unlocks the bolt from the breech face
6. EXTRACTS Removes the case (fired or unfired) from the chamber
7. EJECTS Throws the case clear of the firearm

Summary

As you can see, each of the seven steps is employed each and every time a firearm is used, no matter what type of firearm. In some firearms, the seven steps may not be obvious, but rest assured they all need to take place for the firearm to operate correctly.

DETERMINING THE GENERAL CONDITION OF A FIREARM

1. Determining the general condition of a firearm is something that a person learns over many years involvement with the many different types of firearms available

2. Some of the more noticeable things in relation to the general condition of a firearm and could be checked personally would be –
 - 2.1 The general appearance of the firearm
 - 2.2 The condition of the bore and /or rifling
 - 2.3 Any wear that may be evident in relation to any moving parts

3. Some of the more intricate things in relation to the general condition of a firearm, and possibly require the assistance of a licensed dealer or a licensed armourer would be-
 - 3.1 The firearm head spacing
 - 3.2 Wear in relation to the trigger mechanism and / or safety catch
 - 3.3 Any defects in the actual materials e.g. metal fatigue

**GENERAL SAFETY RULES FOR THE HANDLING AND USE OF
FIREARMS**

FIREARM SAFETY CODE

1. TREAT EVERY FIREARM AS BEING LOADED
 - 1.1. Check every firearm yourself. Ensure that the firearm is unloaded and that the action is open when carrying, accepting, passing or when removing it from storage. Remember it is the “*empty*” firearms that kills
 - 1.2 Always check it yourself, do not accept the other persons word

2. ALWAYS POINT FIREARMS IN A SAFE DIRECTION
 - 2.1 Whether loaded or unloaded, make sure that the muzzle is always pointed in a safe direction
 - 2.2 A safe direction is different in relation to where ever you are and you must always be aware of what or who may be on the other side of a wall or hill

3. NEVER HAVE LOADED FIREARMS IN THE CAR, HOME OR CAMP
 - 3.1 Ensure that when entering a car, house or camp that all ammunition has been removed from all firearms

4. IDENTIFY YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT
 - 4.1. Make certain of your target before shooting. Also be aware of what is behind your target

5. NEVER FIRE AT HARD SURFACES OR WATER
 - 5.1 Consider the area your target is in: could a ricochet occur?
A ricochet will almost certainly result from shooting at smooth flat surfaces such as water or rocks

6. STORE AMMUNITION AND FIREARMS SEPARATELY
 - 6.1. When not in use, your ammunition and your firearm is to be stored separately under lock and key. Not only is this a safety requirement but it may be a legal requirement

7. NO ALCOHOL OR DRUGS WHEN HANDLING FIREARMS
 - 7.1. Alcohol, drugs and some medicines impair judgement. Good judgement is the key to the safe handling of firearms

8. DO NOT CLIMB FENCES OR OBSTACLES WITH LOADED FIREARMS
 - 8.1. Make sure before attempting to climb through a fence or negotiate any obstacles that your firearm is unloaded. Do not rely on safety catches

OBSERVE THIS CODE : INSIST OTHERS DO THE SAME

STRATEGIES FOR ENHANCING PERSONAL SAFETY WHEN USING FIREARMS

PERSONAL SAFETY STRATEGIES

1. LEARN, PRACTISE, TEACH AND PROMOTE THE GENERAL FIREARMS SAFETY RULES

2. ENSURE THAT ALL FIREARMS ARE KEPT IN GOOD WORKING ORDER

3. USE ONLY THE CORRECT AMMUNITION AS SPECIFIED FOR YOUR FIREARMS

4. NEVER SKYLARK OR ENGAGE IN HORSEPLAY WITH FIREARMS

5. REFUSE TO SHOOT WITH OTHERS WHO –
 - 5.1 Have been drinking alcohol or taking drugs
 - 5.2 Do not obey the general safety rules
 - 5.3 Do not comply with their moral, legal and environmental obligations

HUNTING ETHICS

IN THE FIELD

- DEVELOP SAFE PRACTICES
- MAINTAIN CONCENTRATION
- BE A RESPONSIBLE FIREARMS OWNER / USER
- INSIST THAT ANY SHOOTING COMPANIONS COMPLY WITH THEIR SAFETY, MORAL, LEGAL AND ENVIRONMENTAL OBLIGATIONS
- DO NOT CHAMBER A CARTRIDGE UNTIL READY TO SHOOT
- ALWAYS KEEP SHOOTING COMPANIONS IN SIGHT
- NEVER SHOOT FROM A MOVING VEHICLE OR BOAT
- ALWAYS SEEK PERMISSION OF LAND OWNERS
- WHEN SHOOTING AT GAME, ENSURE THAT THE ANIMAL IS KILLED AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE
- NEVER SHOOT DURING THE HOURS OF DARKNESS UNLESS THE TERRAIN AND MAXIMUM DANGER ZONE IS KNOWN

SAFE USE OF CATEGORY A & B FIREARMS

PURPOSE:

This module provides opportunities for the participants to demonstrate the safe carriage and use of Category A & B Firearms

PRE-REQUISITES

Successful completion of **Module 01 (Core Module)** *Legislative and Safety Requirements in Relation to the Use of Firearms*

WORKPLACE HEALTH AND SAFETY

Participants must be aware of relevant workplace health and safety issues in all situations and are required to demonstrate safe-working practices at all times

RESOURCE REQUIREMENT

Physical Resources

The participant will be provided with:

- Course handout materials
- Access to:
 - approved range facilities
 - Schedule 2 category A & B training firearms
 - suitable training (classroom) facilities
 - suitable ammunition
 - suitable range safety equipment
 - suitable targets

The participant will provide:

- Personal stationery
- Suitable clothing

TEXT / REFERENCES

Australian Capital Territory Firearms Act 1996
Australian Capital Territory Firearms (Amendment) Act 1996
Australian Capital Territory Firearms Regulations 1997-
Australian Capital Territory Prohibited Weapons Act 1996
Other legislative requirements re Firearms
Course handout materials

RELATIONSHIP TO COMPETENCY STANDARDS

This module addresses the following competencies:

Units of Competence	Elements	Achievements of Elements
Unit 1: Handle firearms safely	1.1 Comply with standard firearms safety rules	Partial
	1.2 Adopt procedures which ensure the safety of self and others	Partial
	1.3 Identify and comply with firearms safety principles / standards	Partial
Unit 2: Use firearms responsibly, competently and lawfully	2.1 Comply with legislative provisions governing the possession and use of firearms in the Australian Capital Territory	Partial
	2.2 Perform basic care of firearms	Total
	2.3 Adopt standard firearms safety principles of firearms use	Total
	2.4 Maintain and develop own skills, knowledge and expertise	Partial

CONTENT

- Firearm safety techniques for on the range and in the field
- Principles of holding, loading, aiming and firing firearms
- Maintenance procedures for Category A & B Firearms
- Range procedures and safety rules
- Practical firearms standards

DELIVERY - TEACHING STRATEGIES

- lectures
- practical range live firing and safety exercises

LEARNING OUTCOMES

On completion of this module the participant will be able to demonstrate competence in the following learning outcomes:

OUTCOME 1

Handle Category A & B Firearms safely

Assessment Criteria

- demonstrate how to render a firearm safe
- demonstrate safe firearm handling procedures in the following situations
- passing a firearm from one person to another
- placing in and removing a firearm from a vehicle
- negotiating fences and other obstacles
- placing a firearm to be out of your physical possession
- explain what is a *safe direction*

Assessment Conditions

The participant will be provided with:

- Access to
 - An approved range
 - Category A & B training firearms
 - Suitable range safety equipment

The participant will provide:

- Suitable personal clothing

Assessment Methods

The learning outcome may be assessed through:

- Practical demonstrations
- Oral questions

OUTCOME 2

Hold, load, aim and fire a Category A & B Firearm in a supervised approved range setting

Assessment Criteria

- demonstrate how to load and unload a firearm correctly and safely
- explain the stages of firearms readiness
- demonstrate the correct ways for holding a firearm whilst standing (supported and unsupported), sitting, kneeling and lying (may be modified for participants with physical disabilities)
- demonstrate the correct aiming procedure for a particular firearm
- demonstrate appropriate breath control whilst aiming
- demonstrate correct trigger control for discharging the particular firearm
- achieve a standard acceptable to the approved instructor

Assessment Conditions

The participant will be provided with:

- Access to
 - An approved range
 - Category A & B training firearms
 - Suitable range safety equipment
 - Suitable ammunition
 - Suitable targets

The participant will provide:

- Suitable personal clothing

Assessment Methods

The learning outcome may be assessed through:

- Practical demonstrations
- Oral questions

OUTCOME 3

Comply with range rules and procedures

Assessment Criteria

- Explain the responsibilities of a person attending an approved range
- Describe the correct range procedure for the particular range
- Describe the role and authority of the *Range Officer*
- Demonstrate the correct generic procedure to follow in the event of equipment malfunction

Assessment Conditions

The participant will be provided with:

- Access to
 - An approved range
 - Category A & B training firearms
 - Suitable range safety equipment
 - Suitable ammunition
 - Suitable targets

The participant will provide:

- Suitable personal clothing

Assessment Methods

The learning outcome may be assessed through:

- Practical demonstrations
- Written examination
- Oral questions

OUTCOME 4

Maintain a Category A or B firearm in safe working condition

Assessment Criteria

- Demonstrate correct inspection process for fault finding

Assessment Conditions

The participant will be provided with:

- Access to
 - An approved range
 - Category A & B training firearms
 - Suitable range safety equipment
 - Suitable ammunition

The participant will provide:

- Suitable personal clothing

Assessment Methods

The learning outcome may be assessed through:

- Practical demonstrations
- Written examination
- Oral questions

ASSESSMENT CODING

The following assessment shall apply:

Competent
Not Yet Competent

EVALUATION

Indicators of effectiveness of module:

- Participants' level of satisfaction re:
 - Relevance of content and procedures
 - Effectiveness of delivery
- Instructors' comments re:
 - Relevance of content and procedures
 - Effectiveness of delivery