

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.