

SUMMARY OF HANDLOADING OF AMMUNITION REGULATIONS

1. The Explosives Regulatory Division of Natural Resources Canada is responsible for enforcement of the Explosives Act and Regulations.
2. Any person may load “safety cartridges” without a licence at a place other than a licensed factory if the loaded cartridges are not for sale or commercial, industrial or business use. “Safety Cartridges” are cartridges designed for shotgun, pistol, revolver, rifle and industrial guns.
3. Under the regulations gunpowder is classified as a Class 1 explosive and ammunition as a Class 6 explosive. Note: Black Powder is known as gunpowder. Smokeless powder and black powder substitutes such as pyrodex are Class 3 explosives.
4. Each person may import for personal use without an explosives importation permit;
 - 5000 cartridges (except for hollow point handgun ammunition), of which 200 cartridges are duty free
 - 5000 percussion caps/primers
 - 8 kgs. (17.6 lbs.) of black powder in containers of 500g or less
 - 8 kgs. (17.6 lbs.) of smokeless powder in containers of 4000g or less
 - Note: Powder is in the aggregate and not permitted 8 kgs of black powder and 8 kgs of smokeless
5. In spite of the quantities identified in item 4 (above) U.S. Regulations prevent “aliens” from exporting powder, ammunition and components out of the U.S.
6. 10 kgs. (22 lbs) of smokeless powder and the same amount of black powder may be stored in a dwelling (either single-dwelling unit or multi-dwelling unit) in approved canisters, caddies or kegs.
7. This powder must be stored in a substantial magazine that is kept clean and is locked while being used exclusively for propellants.
8. This magazine or storage must be identified by the word “Explosives”. The warning signs are there to protect firefighters in the event of a fire.
9. No flammable or highly combustible material may be stored near the magazine.
10. Magazines or powder storage may be filing cabinets or built in compartments of wood although cabinets built of at least ¾ inch plywood are recommended.
11. Primers must be stored separately from powder as well as ammunition. If storing primers, ammunition and powder one must use three separate storages.
12. 75 kgs. (165 lbs) of powder may be stored in a separate store (building) that is a safe distance from living quarters and dwellings, streets and alleys if stored in their original containers and separation distances are maintained. This store must also be identified by the word “Explosives”.
13. There are currently no existing limitations on ammunition storage in relation to amount that is permitted to be stored.
14. Reloading of ammunition cartridges may take place on residential premises for non – commercial use but the place where reloading occurs must be separate from the place where powder is stored; when reloading no more than 2 kg (4.4 lbs) of powder may be kept at the ready on the loading bench; no other work may be going on while reloading; no smoking is permitted while reloading and no fire,

- heater, etc. shall be allowed where the actual reloading takes place; when reloading is completed the place shall be cleaned so that no powder residue, primers, etc. are left on the reloading bench.
15. Powder storage can be in the same room as the reloading takes place provided that the door/lid of the storage cabinet is closed during reloading.
 16. Wood stoves are permitted in the same room where reloading takes place if there is a safe distance between the reloading area and the stove or there are intervening partitions.
 17. When using multiple loaders to load shotgun cartridges and/or rifle/handgun cartridges often hoppers/powder bottles are left with powder in them after the reloading has been completed. This is acceptable if there are no children in the residence or the reloading area is locked or secured since the restrictions are aimed at keeping children under the age of 18 years from approaching the reloading equipment.

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