



# SAGA SNIPPETS

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## Firearms Amnesty Media Release



26th January 2021

By Damian Enslin  
SAGA Chairperson

**FIREARM AMNESTY:  
1 AUGUST 2020 TO  
31 JANUARY 2021**

The current amnesty has been in place since 1 August 2020 and terminates on the 31 January 2021 – thus there is five days left, should a member wish to take advantage of the amnesty.

The amnesty is however, in SAGA's opinion, not a solution for the "green license" issue. These firearms are possessed legally, and the licenses are deemed valid, and this is where a member only possesses a green or old licence in terms of the Arms and Ammunition Act, and not where a member has transitioned to the white cards or the Firearms Control Act (FCA).

SAGA wrote to the Minister of Police requesting a further Firearm Amnesty on the 6th January 2021. We still await a formal

response. The reasons for requesting a further amnesty were similar to SAGA's previous request, with COVID 19 still being one of the main reasons, amongst others. The letter will be posted to our Facebook page and Website in due course.

SAGA has advised members in possession of firearms of which there are no licenses, or where the licenses have expired, to timeously surrender the affected firearms to their SAPS' dedicated amnesty official and, should they so desire, apply for the relevant licenses within 14 days.

Senior Counsel has also advised that if an applicant is turned away/ refused assistance or the staff are not available or for whatever other reason unable to assist, that an occurrence book entry should be made at the station in question. Should this be denied then such a person should obtain the service number, name and rank of the

official concerned, noting the day, date and time and also (if possible) have a witness on hand.

SAGA has been made aware by many members, and the general public, of various issues, such as stations being affected by COVID, or no amnesty official or DFO being available.

Should any of our members experience any issues with their attempts at utilising the amnesty, please immediately contact the SAGA office on email [saga@saga.org.za](mailto:saga@saga.org.za), furnishing the details of the station concerned as well as dates and times of attempts to utilise the amnesty.



## 10 Advanced Handgun-Training Terms You Should Know



by W.H. "Chip" Gross  
15 December 2020

During the past year I attended three one-day advanced-handgun training courses, and not only learned many new and valuable tips and techniques, but also heard a few handgun-related terms I was unfamiliar with. For instance, at the start of one of the sessions, the instructor told those of us standing on the firing line to "Draw your weapon and index the target."

I had no idea what "indexing" the target meant, but not wanting to interrupt the instructor I did what the shooters on either side of me were doing; I pulled my handgun from its holster and pointed it at the target. As it turned out, I guessed correctly.

I mentioned the incident to the instructor during a break later in the day, and he encouraged me to ask questions whenever I didn't understand a command. He said he wanted his instructions to be clear, adding that clarity on the firing range enhances safety. Makes sense.

That said, the following advanced-handgun training terms may be of help to you if you decide to seek additional handgun training this year. Some of the terms may already be familiar, but I doubt you'll know them all.

### 1. Load and make ready (a.k.a. Lock and load)

Whether you shoot a semiautomatic handgun or revolver, this command simply means to prepare the gun to fire by loading a cartridge into the firing chamber. In a semiauto, that involves inserting a loaded magazine into the gun and racking the action. In a revolver, it involves loading the cylinder. One instructor confided in me that by simply watching how a shooter loads his/her firearm, he has a pretty good idea how competent and confident that student is with a handgun.

### 2. Sight alignment

Sight alignment means lining up the front sight of the handgun with the rear sight. The tops of the two sights should be even and there should be equal space or light on either side of the front sight. And since your eye can only focus on one object at a time, focus on the front sight when aiming. As a result, the rear sight and the target will both be a tad blurry.

### 3. Sight picture

Sight picture is simply adding the target to your properly aligned sights. Think of sight picture as a "pumpkin on a post." The "post" is the front sight of your gun and the "pumpkin" is the target. Align the front sight with the middle of the target.

### 4. Out of battery

No, we're not talking about your cell phone. This term has to do with the slide or bolt of a gun not being fully engaged in its forward position; as a result the gun will not function.

### 5. Stovepipe

Another malfunction, this occurs in a semiautomatic handgun when a spent shell casing becomes lodged in an upright position in the gun's ejection port, in essence making the gun temporarily inoperable. Usually the result of not gripping the gun firmly enough, a "stovepipe" can be cleared by using the following tap-and-rack technique.

### 6. Tap and rack

To clear a "stovepipe" or other malfunction in a semiautomatic handgun, with your finger off the trigger, firmly tap the base of the gun's magazine with the open palm of your other hand, then firmly rack the slide.

### 7. Reloading (emergency, tactical and administrative reloads)

When your handgun runs out of ammunition and there are still threats remaining to shoot, that's an emergency reload situation. Reload as quickly as possible and get back in the fight. But if there is no immediate threat, and you still have ammo in your gun, you can have a buddy cover you while you do a tactical reload, replacing the current magazine in your gun with a full one. An administrative reload happens when there is no threat. And depending upon your firearm and holster configuration, an administrative reload can be accomplished without removing the handgun from the holster. Simply press the magazine release button, slide out the partially filled magazine and replace it with a full one.

## Continued... 10 Advanced Handgun-Training Terms

### 8. Press check

If you don't have a semiautomatic handgun equipped with a small port that allows you to see if a cartridge is in the firing chamber, pulling back the slide slightly—a quarter-inch or so—will reveal whether or not the gun is loaded.

### 9. Run the gun

If a shooter is able to operate a certain firearm—load, shoot and unload—without having to consciously think about what he/she is doing, they are said to be able to “run the gun.” In other words, they are so familiar with a firearm that operating it becomes second nature, a subconscious thought. And that should be one of your goals of advanced-handgun training; strive for this level of competency with your firearm.

### 10. Unload and show clear

Finally, at the end of a range training session, you will be instructed to “Unload and show clear.” To do so, remove the magazine from your semiautomatic handgun, lock the slide back, and use the tip of your little finger to actually feel into the firing chamber a short distance to make absolutely sure there is no cartridge remaining in the gun. If shooting a revolver, open the cylinder and remove all cartridges and spent shell casings. Then, keeping the muzzle of the handgun pointed downrange, make the gun available for inspection by the instructor.

And one last tip. Even if you have been issued a concealed-carry handgun permit, never show up at a training session with a loaded firearm or take live ammunition into the classroom. Don't be “That Guy...”

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2020/12/15/10-advanced-handgun-training-terms-you-should-know>

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

## The Great Ammo Shortage of 2020: When Will It End?

<https://www.americanrifleman.org/articles/2020/12/17/the-great-ammo-shortage-of-2020-when-will-it-end/>

by John Zent  
17 December 2020

Ammunition purchasers across America—or make that would-be purchasers in record numbers—are finding shelves bare, and unfortunately that’s hardly breaking news. If this was simply a Christmas-season run, we could insert a Grinch joke here and assume things would return to normal after the holidays. But, in fact, this shortage, as many readers can attest, traces back at least to spring when COVID mania shocked the country and has since intensified under an unprecedented chain of cultural phenomena. Many gun owners feel that the only way to ensure they have ammo when they need it is to buy in bigger-than-normal quantities, and the result is hoarding.

As detailed in a recent “Keefe Report,” nearly any caliber that’ll go bang in whatever quantity is up for grabs is snapped up almost immediately. Consumer frustration is rampant, and there’s a real concern about personal- and home-defense shooters not being able to get ammo they need to be prepared.

Anyone who’s been a gun owner and at least a semi-active shooter going back a decade can remember earlier shortages, and while those were truly galling and nationwide, this one’s different. It’s even more widespread and more pervasive in terms of unattainable calibers—nearly all of them, from what we’re hearing. Like that other lingering current event on everyone’s mind, we’re left wondering: When it will end?

That question is landing in record numbers, too, in the inboxes, customer-help lines and direct attention of nearly everyone working for America’s ammunition manufacturers. We talked to a few key executives who spoke about the their way—so much of it that, at times, it threatens to impede normal operations—and who shared anecdotal requests that would be comical if the shortage weren’t so serious. They were also frank in answering the question about when relief will come, and while there are bits of good news, the outlook for returning to normal supply-and-demand in 2021 remains murky.

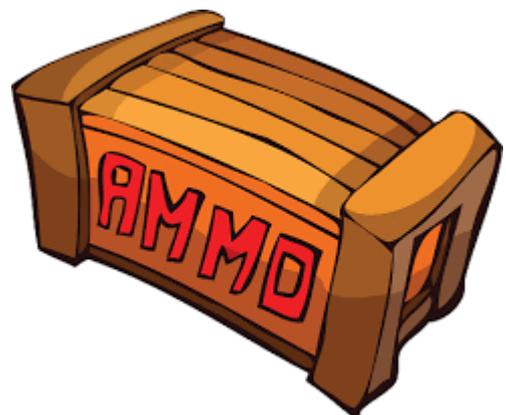
Let’s start with Jason Hornady, vice president of Hornady Manufacturing, who flatly stated that when it comes to hoarding-induced shortages, “Ammunition is the new toilet paper. Last week I met a guy on a deer hunt who was shooting Hornady .33-378 loads. He said he’d managed to buy 20 boxes of it—expensive stuff, by the way—and in fact had bought 20 boxes for each of his guns. I asked ‘how many guns?’ and he said, ‘I have 12, so 2,400 rounds. It cost me over \$3,000.’ The big problem here—we’ve seen it before, but not like this—is folks panic thinking they won’t be able to get any more and so buy more than normal. Like they did with .22 rimfire a few years ago. And primers before that. And that’s the cause of this shortage.

Hornady continued, “In fact we saw [demand indicators] in the fall of 2019. First when Walmart stopped selling high-consumable ammo, and later when protests to Virginia’s incoming anti-gun legislature made the news. We saw a pretty

good lift [in sales] in December 2019, were up 18 percent in January, and 18 percent in February. That came a few months after the ‘bearded one’ [Jason’s dad, company president Steve Hornady] had been yelling at me about having too much inventory on hand.

“In March, we were up 86 percent and that did it—the inventory was gone. We literally emptied our building. Since then, the sales increase is back to 15 percent a month because that’s all we can manage. Literally, we make it one day and ship it the next.”

Vista Outdoor CEO Chris Metz also weighed in on the scope of the shortage. “After seeing big sales spikes as a result of COVID, civil unrest and then so many more people getting out this year going hunting—license sales are up like crazy—with all that, we never did see the customary general-election increase. “But ever since Joe Biden was named the presumed presidential -election winner, we have seen a reaction in the marketplace, and it hasn’t subsided at all. So, through all that, we’ve been producing ammunition flat-out, and yet our retailers are not able to maintain any inventory to speak of.



## Continued...The Great Ammo Shortage of 2020

“Demand has been strong across the board—any type or caliber of handgun ammo; small rifle, big rifle, hunting rifle; even rimfire—all of it really picked up.

“And we’re not seeing an end,” said Metz. “We talk to a big database of users on a monthly basis, and one thing we’re noting is that what we call ‘heavy shooters,’ those who shoot 10,000 rounds or more per year, a lot of them haven’t been purchasing. They’ve seen the frenzied activity and are holding back in hopes it’ll subside. Well, we all know what’s going to happen when they work through their stockpiles and at some point, come back to the market. So, no, we don’t foresee any slowdown in the demand in 2021.”

Jason Hornady vowed his company is doing everything it can to meet that demand but not without concerns. “Our workforce has pushed hard through this but is fatigued. We have an issue finding people to keep the machines running, and trust me, everyone is working a lot of hours,” he said.

“I was in a camp back in September where someone commented that such-and-such gun company was ‘shipping only 20 percent more than last year’ and that ‘they just don’t care about making more.’ Please. There’s no factory of any kind that doesn’t want to make as much as they possibly can. That’s us. We’re doing as much, making as much as we can,” said Hornady. “For 2020, we’ve shipped 30 percent more than we did a year ago. We are adding capacity, but according to an existing plan.

“I’ve seen shortages six times in my career,” said Hornady, “but the difference this time is the string of events—Walmart, Virginia [anti-gun legislature], coronavirus, riots, an influx of [6-7 mil-

lion] new gun owners, a bad election. It all adds up. Right then, hunting season comes along, and you know what consumer is the maddest? The ones who normally buy two boxes of deer ammo a year. They go into their local gun shops and can’t believe [the shelves are bare]. Our local gunstore owner called to tell me about two guys who came into his place looking for hunting ammunition, and then they told him that Hornady has been shut down since June. Crazy!

“At the same time, COVID is a reality for us, too,” said Hornady. “If an employee has to quarantine, even if they’re not sick, we can’t just send a loading press home with them. We’ve had to spread out and guard against super-spreader events so that it won’t shut down a big part of the factory.”

Both industry leaders cited shortage of raw materials as a concern, too. Hornady said his firm laid in a “... six-month supply at the first signs of how serious COVID might be. We’re grateful that we did, but when you have a six months’ worth of material, you also have a space problem. And not just copper and lead, it’s also packaging, staples and other supplies. Did you know there’s a shortage on the DOT-approved cardboard required for shipping our loaded ammunition? We’re now having to ship in white boxes instead of brown ones because we can get more of that.”

Chris Metz echoed that, saying it’s been challenging for his ammunition brands—Federal, Speer and CCI to keep enough brass and primers on hand, despite the fact that Federal and CCI are two of the

world’s biggest primer manufacturers.

The same has been true for Vista’s newest brand, Remington Ammunition, which the outdoor conglomerate acquired in September. “Both the workers at Remington and those of us from Vista see this as a marriage made in heaven,” said Metz. “And it couldn’t have come at a better time from a capacity standpoint. That factory wasn’t working, which contributed to the shortages.” The high-production facility in Lonoke, Ark., which for decades has produced the familiar green-and-yellow-boxed ammunition, is ramping up this month, offering one glimmer of hope that the supply side will be buoyed.

“We’ve been working to rehire 400 to 600 furloughed workers, have been retraining them and getting the manufacturing processes back in place,” reported Metz. “Supplies of Remington ammunition should be coming back on the market in early January...”

It will also be interesting to see if some of the other names in U.S. ammunition manufacturing are able to step up production on the heels of developments in this pivotal industry segment. SIG Sauer, for one, is operating an ultra-modern plant in Jacksonville,



## Continued...The Great Ammo Shortage of 2020

Ark., and its loads have gained traction with several gun-owner segments.

Sierra Bullets began selling its own branded cartridge a few years back, primarily hunting rifle cartridges, but the company made a strong growth statement when it acquired Barnes Bullets during the Remington Outdoor Corp asset sell-off in late September. The Barnes installation in Mona, Utah, while not as large as the legacy brands' plants, has a history of producing a full range of highly regarded rifle and pistol ammo, and now that it's out from under the Remington corporate umbrella, is expected to again contribute more to the national supply chain.

A third maker that bears watching is Fiochi USA, which announced in July that it will be expanding its stateside manufacturing by adding a facility in Little Rock, Ark., to supplement an existing plant in Missouri. Expect to see an expansion in domestic-made Fiochi product lines, which produces top-quality rifle, pistol and shotshell products. Furthermore, Fiochi announced it has acquired Baschieri & Pellagri, whose high-end shotshells are the gold standard for many European clays competitors and hunters, and they too will be produced in the United States.

When contacted, a spokesman for the Winchester and Browning ammunition brands simply commented: "Like many manufacturers in the shooting-sports industry, we are experiencing extremely high demand for our products. We are continuing to manufacture and ship our high-quality products on a daily basis."

Those final words really tell the tale. All hands in the ammunition industry are waging a daily battle to meet the unprecedented demand. Though there are a few reasons to expect supply to increase, those who know this market best are forecasting continued shortfalls. [AmericanRifleman.org](http://AmericanRifleman.org) will keep you posted as developments occur.



## World Forum Update



Extracted from the WFSA December 2020 Newsletter

### Canada defers marking of firearms until 2023

On December 1st, 2020, Public Safety Canada announced it will defer until Dec. 1, 2023, the enactment of gun marking regulations, in compliance with the requirements of the United Nations' Firearms Protocol.

The decision was taken following a consultation with law enforcement agencies and industry groups which concluded that the existing Regulations, as conceived in 2004, are ineffective in facilitating the successful tracing of crime guns in the absence of record-keeping requirements for non-restricted firearms.

The regulations would have required domestically manufactured firearms to bear the name of the manufacturer, the serial number, and "Canada" or "CA," while imported guns would have to carry the "Canada" or "CA" designation along with the last two digits of the year of import.

This is the third time these regulations, aimed at helping police investigators trace suspects connected to gun crimes, but never fully implemented, are being delayed.

### Update on UN activities

In light of the situation concerning the Coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, many of the UN meetings addressing firearms/ammunition related topics have either been cancelled and postponed to a date to be defined or held by written procedure.

With reference to the Seventh Biennial Meeting of State on the Programme of Action (BMS7), the General Assembly decided to postpone the meeting, due to take place from 15-19 June 2020 in New York, to a period in 2021 to be decided by the General Assembly at its seventy-fifth session.

BMS7 will be a very important meeting for our sector, as it will be the first being held since the Third Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the PoA (REVCON3) of 2018, during which the PoA broke with consensus and included ammunition in the final report over the objection of both the United States and Israel. It is expected that there will be a coordinated effort to both include international ammunition restrictions into the PoA and increase the current firearms marking standards included in the ITI.

Regarding the Arms Trade Treaty, the sixth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP6) was held on 17-21 August 2020 through a written procedure. For this reason, several decisions were postponed to the next ATT cycle.

One of the resolutions adopted, which is worthy of attention, is the one establishing a Diversion Information Exchange Forum in to discuss suspected or actual cases of diversion, consider possible solutions and have the possibility of outlining good practices.

Finally, the tenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime scheduled took place in a hybrid format on October 12-16, 2020. During the panel on the Firearms Protocol, held on 14 October, several interventions were made by the State Parties on their efforts and initiatives at the national level to counter the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and ammunition to prevent diversion into criminal channels, and on the need for more coordination and exchange of information among States. Additionally, a series of online side events were held during the week, mainly related to firearms, components, and ammunition diversion, but also on wildlife crime. One of these events, "Tackling Illicit Flows And Use Of Ammunition" organized by the Small Arms Survey and UNIDIR was particularly interesting, as it addressed the need to regulate ammunition and prevent its illicit trafficking (currently "understudied") by marking and tracing ammunition and establishing national databases on ammunition seizures.