



SAGA SNIPPETS

THE SAGA TRUST
PO BOX 35203, NORTHWAY, 4065

TEL 031-562-9951 FAX 086-553-9615
EMAIL: SAGA@SAGA.ORG.ZA WEB: WWW.SAGA.ORG.ZA

Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill

As you already know, the Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill has now been published and public comments can be submitted.

SAGA representatives are busy analysing the Draft Bill and working on our submission.

We will also be providing members with some guidelines for making their own personal submissions.

We reprint here the Invitation for Public Comments for those who have not seen it. The same document is available in Pdf format on our website home page.

A link to a Pdf of the Draft Bill is also available on our website home page.

INVITATION FOR PUBLIC COMMENTS:

1. Notice is hereby given that the draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill, 2021 ("the draft Bill") is made available for public comments. The draft Bill, the Object Memorandum thereto, as well as the Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System (SEIAS) Report are posted on the website of the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service at: <http://www.poficesecretanat.gov.za>

2. The draft Bill seeks to amend the Firearms Control Act, 2000 (Act No. 60 of 2000), in order to-

- provide for the insertion of a definition for "Authority", "ballistic sampling", "valid reason", "Automated Ballistic Identification System", "percussion/cap and ball firearm", "prohibited firearm" and "Service"; the substitution of the definitions for "dedicated hunter", "dedicated sportsperson", "firearm", "Minister", "muzzle loading firearm", "occasional hunter", "occasional sports person", "professional hunter", and "restricted firearm"; to delete the definition of "private collector".
- to provide for the amendment of the Preamble;
- to provide for the amendment of the Purpose of the Act and the insertion of Principles and the Objects of the Act; to provide for a muzzle loading firearm to be included in the definition of "firearm", dele-

tion of other references to muzzle loading firearms and consequential amendments relating thereto;

- to provide for the amendment of the provision relating to prohibited firearms; to provide for the issue of competency certificates to persons between the age of 18 and 21 years based on compelling reasons; to provide for the verification by accredited associations of applications to possess a firearm; to provide for the validity of all competency certificates to be five years; to provide for the Registrar to provisionally suspend the processing of an application for a competency certificate where the applicant has been issued with an interim protection order in terms of the Domestic Violence Act or the Protection from Harassment Act;
- to provide for the time period for the renewal of a competency certificate; to provide for matters relating to additional licences;
- to provide for the applicant for a firearm to provide a valid reason for possessing a firearm; to provide that no firearm licences may be issued for self-defence purposes;
- to provide for conditions under which a firearm licence for occasional hunting or sports-shooting may be issued; to provide for the



Continued...Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill

limitation on the number of firearm licences that an occasional hunter or sports-shooter may hold;

- to provide for the types of firearms, other than a prohibited firearm, for which a firearm licence may be issued to a dedicated hunter or dedicated sports-person; to provide for the limitation of firearm licences that may be issued to a dedicated hunter, dedicated sports-person or professional hunter;

- to provide for the deletion of provisions that permit a private collector to collect and possess firearms and ammunition in a private collection;

- to provide for the deletion of the provision that permits a public collector to possess projectiles, rifle grenades and cartridges manufactured to be discharged by prohibited firearms; to provide for the reduction in the rounds of ammunition that a public collector may possess;

- to provide for the deletion of the provision that requires that a prohibited or restricted firearm that is displayed in an accredited museum must have undergone a prescribed reversible non-damaging procedure before it is displayed;

- to provide that a restricted or prohibited firearm or device in a public collection may only be possessed if permanently deactivated; to provide that a restricted firearm may be issued by the Registrar upon certain factors, including a valid need;

- to provide for certain obligations of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority and accrediting associations towards the Registrar; to provide for the Registrar's obligations towards the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority;

- to provide for the establishment of a Consultative Forum and matters related thereto;

- to provide for the marking of muzzle loading firearms in dealer's stock in a prescribed, non-damaging manner;

- to provide for the ballistic sampling of firearms in possession of the private security industry and in official institutions;

- to provide for the period within which a renewal of a firearm must be made and consequences for a failure to do so;

- to provide for the periods of validity of firearm licence or permit; to provide for the deletion of the provision relating to the sale or donation of a firearm without the intervention of a dealer;

- to provide for renewal of firearm licences and that a firearm licence remains valid until the application for renewal is decided;

- to provide that the Registrar may restrict the number and types of firearms and ammunition that may be imported or exported;

- to provide for the reduction of the number of ammunition that a licensed firearm holder may possess;

- to provide for the head of an Official Institution to submit quarterly reports to the Registrar on losses or theft of firearms and matters related thereto;

- to provide for ballistic sampling of firearms in possession of Official Institutions;

- to provide for the Registrar to suspend firearm licences of licence holders charged with an offence under the Domestic Violence Act and the Protection of Harassment Act; to provide for the Registrar to issue a warrant for the search and seizure of competency

certificates, permits, firearms and ammunition in possession of firearm licence holders declared unfit;

- to provide for the establishment of the Central Firearm Register as a Division in the South African Police Service; to provide for the Registrar to submit quarterly reports to the Minister and Parliament on losses and theft of firearms issued to members of the police and other Official Institutions; to provide for the designation of a Designated Firearms Officer at each police station with a clear description of functions, in order to strengthen the control over firearms in possession of the police, other Official Institutions and private security service providers and to improve the processing of applications for competency certificates and firearm licences;

- to provide for obligations of commanders, including station commanders in respect of the control over firearms;

- to provide for the Minister of Police to appoint additional members to the Appeal Board, to provide for the strengthening of the independence of the Appeal Board and the functions of the Appeal Board;

- to provide for the Central Firearms Database to contain a dedicated database of firearm licences issued to security service providers linked to the database of the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority;

- to provide for the Registrar to appoint the head of the Office of the Central Firearms Register on at least the level of a Divisional Commissioner and who must report to and be directly accountable to the Registrar;

- to provide for the deletion of the provision that allows for a person

Continued...Draft Firearms Control Amendment Bill

who surrenders a firearm during an amnesty to apply for a licence in respect of that firearm;

- to provide for powers of the Minister to prescribe matters pertaining to the processing of applications for firearm licences and competency certificates, the functioning of the Appeal Board and the carrying of firearms by security officers in the execution of their duties and functions;
- to provide for the executor or administrator of a deceased estate to notify the Registrar of the death of the licence holder and of the place where the firearm of the deceased will be kept; to provide for the Registrar to issue a temporary authorisation to possess a firearm or ammunition in the deceased estate until the executor or administrator of the deceased estate is appointed;
- to provide for the inclusion of ammunition in the provision of the Act that deals with inherited firearms;
- to provide for the executor or administrator of a deceased estate to remain in possession of the estate firearm until the application of a firearm licence is decided;
- to provide for regulations to be made as a result of the amendments; to provide for transitional provisions in respect of percussion/cap-and-ball revolvers, including provision for an additional licence in the category of occasional hunting and sports shooting, in order to accommodate the licensing of percussion/cap-and-ball revolvers;
- to provide for the licensing of muzzle loading firearms within twelve months from the date of commencement of the Amendment Act; to provide that a licence or permit issued in respect of a prohibited firearm, device, ammunition, projectile, rifle grenade

and cartridges to a private collector shall remain valid until the date of expiry of that licence; to provide for an additional licence issued in respect of a valid licence to possess a firearm or restricted firearm for self-defence to remain valid until the expiry of that licence;

- to provide for a valid firearm licence issued for dedicated hunting, dedicated sports-shooting, professional hunting and for private collection to remain valid until the expiry of that licence;
- to provide for a valid firearm licence issued for private and public collection to remain valid until the expiry of that licence; to provide that a valid licence, competency certificate, permit or authorisation shall remain valid until the date of expiry of that licence, competency certificate, permit or authorisation;
- to provide for the compliance by Official Institutions to Chapter 11 of the Act;
- to provide for transitional provisions in respect of the registration of frames and receivers; to provide for transitional provisions in respect of licences issued under the repealed Arms and Ammunition Act, 1969;
- and to provide for matters connected therewith.

3. All interested persons and organisations are invited to submit written comments on the draft Bill and Socio-Economic Impact Assessment System Report no later than 45 days from date of publication of this notice by -

- (i) e-mail to: comments.fcabill@csp.gov.za
- (ii) posting comments to:

Secretary for Police Service, for attention of Mr M Ntwana at:

Civilian Secretariat for Police Service
Private Bag X922,
PRETORIA
0001

(iii) hand delivery at the Civilian Secretariat for Police Service at Van Erkom Building, Van Erkom Arcade, 7th Floor, 217 Pretorius Street PRETORIA.

4. Kindly provide the name, postal and e-mail address, telephone and fax number of the person or organisation submitting the comments.

5. Enquiries regarding access to a copy of the draft Bill may be made to Ms Lornah Legomo at telephone no. (012) 393 4658 or by email lornah.legomo@csp.gov.za

5 Biggest Mistakes Concealed Carriers Make

by Sheriff Jim Wilson
26 May 2021

Personal defense and concealed carry are definitely hot topics today. More and more citizens are realizing that they are responsible for their own safety and they are taking steps to protect themselves and their families. All of this is good, but in many cases folks are getting bad information (“Well, Uncle Charlie says...”), or they are not thinking the process through in a rational manner.

In no particular order, here are five of the biggest mistakes that concealed carriers can make.

#1...CARRYING TOO SMALL A HANDGUN:

Many people are attracted to small defensive handguns simply because they can be more easily concealed. What they fail to realize is that the smaller the handgun, the more difficult it is to shoot accurately.

Small handguns increase the felt recoil from a particular cartridge. Simply put, that little 9mm that fits so nicely in the pocket is going to kick more than a larger service pistol in the same caliber. Recoil may be so sharp that it causes the shooter to start flinching, that is, anticipating the gun firing and the resultant recoil. When we flinch, we have trouble hitting the target in an accurate manner.

Taking the 9mm as an example, it is possible to find defensive handguns in small, medium and large. The shooter is well advised to select the handgun that is most comfortable to shoot. Comfort leads to accuracy, and accuracy leads to confidence in the gun and one's ability to deliver shots that will stop a criminal attack.



#2...FAILURE TO DRESS AROUND THE HANDGUN:

One of the main reasons that people end up with a gun that is so small they can't use it effectively is because it is easier to conceal with the clothes that they are used to wearing. In short, they haven't learned to dress around the gun.

Dressing around the gun is not as difficult as it may sound at first. It may just entail buying pants that are one size larger in the waist. It may involve wearing shirts or blouses without tucking them into the pants. It may involve wearing a lightweight fleece vest, although one should stay away from the khaki photographer's vests that were once so popular for concealed carry that they should have a sign across the back that says, “I have a gun!”.

An excellent idea is to get concealment advice from people who have been carrying for a while. Find out how they manage to conceal during the various seasons of the year, what holsters they use and what other holsters might be available. In most cases, changes to the wardrobe are not all that severe. Use your imagination and learn to dress around the gun.

#3...OFF-BODY CARRY:

Many women solve the concealment problem by carrying in a purse. And, nowadays, it is not uncommon to see men using shoulder bags as well. Although it is certainly better to have a firearm in a bag than no firearm at all, there are two problems with this type of concealed carry.

The first is that it takes much longer to get the gun into action from a bag than it does a holster on the body. And it takes two hands to get the gun into action, one to draw the gun and the other to hold the bag still. Considering that the crook has to make his move before you can draw on him, time is the one thing you can't afford to waste.

The second problem with off-body carry is that people tend to lay their off-body devices down while they go about other tasks. The minute that bag is off your shoulder, you have lost control over it. It becomes more accessible to crooks, unauthorized people and children.

The defensive handgun is more quickly brought into action when it is holstered on the person. It is also easier to control who sees it and who touches it. Learning to dress around the gun makes carrying in a purse or bag unnecessary.

#4...LACK OF TRAINING:

We often hear people say that they have been shooting guns all their lives. While this may be true, in most cases, they have never learned to fight with a gun. And folks, there is a big difference between those two.

Continued...5 Biggest Mistakes Concealed Carriers Make

Whether they want to admit it or not, what most people know about gunfighting is what they have gotten from movies or television. I don't think I need to go into any great detail about how faulty that sort of information is to real-world criminal attacks. If you wanted to learn to scuba dive or fly an airplane, a smart person would realize the importance of getting training. It is no different with personal defense: It only makes sense to get good professional training.

We are fortunate to have numerous, well-qualified defensive instructors working today. Some of these instructors will even travel to your home shooting range to put on classes. Get the training...and then get more training. And, after you have absorbed that, book another school. When your life depends on it, there is not much chance of getting too much training.

#5...NOT TAKING GUN SAFETY SERIOUSLY ENOUGH:

When you carry a gun you have the obligation to not place your fellow citizens in danger. Gun safety is a 24/7 proposition. It must be in effect whenever you handle a firearm. It must become second nature. It must be something that you are rabidly serious about any time, every time, and all the time. And you must demand it from your friends and

family. When guns go off unintentionally it is rarely due to an accident; most often it is due to negligence. Here are four easy-to-understand safety rules that will help avoid all sorts of grief:

- **ALL GUNS ARE ALWAYS LOADED**
- **NEVER LET THE MUZZLE COVER ANYTHING THAT YOU AREN'T WILLING TO DESTROY**
- **KEEP YOUR FINGER OFF THE TRIGGER UNTIL YOUR SIGHTS ARE ON THE TARGET**
- **BE SURE OF YOUR TARGET AND WHAT IS BEHIND IT**

Carrying a concealed handgun is a way of life. In many ways, it changes the way we dress, the way we act and the way we think. It changes our priorities to the point that we pass on a vacation in order to spend time and money on training. Taking it seriously will help a person avoid these five pitfalls to concealed carry.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/5/26/5-biggest-mistakes-concealed-carriers-make>

*** Note from SAGA**

How you carry your firearm depends on a number of factors. This article offers some of the basic considerations but is not an exhaustive list.

Watch this space ...for more interesting firearm snippets

One-Handed Defense

by Jeff Johnston

10 May 2021

A two-handed shooting grip is always superior for defensive handgun use. But in real-world defensive encounters, you just might have to shoot with one hand.

John Correia is a gun trainer who analyzes real-world defensive shootings that were caught on video for his YouTube channel, Active Self Protection. From Correia's research, in most cases, shooting one-handed reflects a lack of training, as the defender could have dropped whatever they were carrying; however, there are three possible reasons where it could truly be necessary: injuries, holding a small child and close-range physical altercations, such as carjackings, where one hand is needed to fend off the attacker.

Though these situations are extremely rare, they're worth training for. As always, follow the fundamental rules of gun safety and accuracy and begin with dry-practice.

Drop and Draw

Scenario: Your mind can do strange things when you're in extreme danger, so you do need to mentally prepare for this. You should practice dropping unimportant objects to gain a superior two-handed grip.

1. Set a target at 7 yards, with your firearm holstered. Put objects, such as shopping bags, backpacks or paint cans in each hand.
2. Take two steps toward the target as if you were walking normally, then drop the items and draw your handgun.
3. Use both hands to fire two rounds, center mass.

4. Repeat, alternating your bag-gage situation (left hand only, right hand only and both hands).

Tip: Don't drop items behind you. You don't want to trip over them in retreat.

Injury/Protection

Scenario: You're injured or protecting something you can't drop.

1. Set a target 3 to 7 yards out, with your firearm fully loaded and holstered. Hold your non-firing hand to your chest. You can do this with your hand empty or holding an object like a bag of flour.
2. Smoothly draw your handgun with one hand and push it to the target while mashing your cheek on your strongside shoulder. Simultaneously rotate your torso toward your weak side so the object you are holding is farther away from the target.
3. Fire two shots center mass and then one to the head.
4. Repeat until you can do this fluidly.

Tip: With the strong-side hand, grip firmly and punch the gun toward the target as if you were pointing your index knuckle at it. This will often cause it to cant 45 degrees inward, which is fine if the position more naturally aligns your eyes with the sights. With the arm fully extended and the elbow locked, roll your strong-side shoulder up toward your face, while bringing your face down to meet your shoulder so your cheek melds into the meat of your shoulder and your chin almost touches your armpit. This allows your gun hand, arm, shoulder, head and neck to act as a unit, thereby granting greater stability for better accuracy and recoil mitigation.

Retention

Scenario: You might need one hand to fend off an attacker while the other draws your gun. Fully extending the arm could result in the firearm being taken from you.

1. Set a target just in front of you, with your firearm unloaded and holstered. (Dry-practice only! Work directly with a certified instructor to move past dry-practice.)
2. Visualize the target attacking you. Make a fist with your weak hand and put it on the side of your head as if in a boxer's stance, chin tucked, defending against a punch to the temple.
3. Draw and "fire" two shots from your ribcage (retention) positioned toward the target's pelvic region. Check the angle of the muzzle to ensure you are not angling it too far up or down.
4. Take one step back, join your hands into a two-handed grip, and "fire" two more shots.
5. Repeat until you can execute all four shots in under 2 seconds.

Tip: Draw the gun clear of the holster, then rotate it toward the target. Place the magazine base and your shooting-hand thumb against your body as reference points. You may need to cant the gun slightly outward to ensure your body does not interfere with the slide's action.

<https://www.americas1stfreedom.org/articles/2021/5/10/one-handed-defense>

How to Rack a Pistol's Slide

Safety First: Ensure your pistol is unloaded BEFORE you try any of the suggestions made here.

<https://www.nrafamily.org/articles/2021/5/8/how-to-rack-a-pistols-slide>

by George Harris
Saturday, May 8, 2021

The problem

You have felt the need to acquire a handgun for personal protection and perhaps some recreational shooting. Although you have owned revolvers in the past, you'd like to try a semi-automatic to modernize. But either your hands aren't very strong to start with, or your hand strength isn't what it used to be. You're having trouble successfully locking the action rearward on the semi-automatic pistols you have handled. If you can't lock the slide back, you may be stuck using a revolver. Regardless, you'd like to learn the best methods to help with handling and operating a semi-auto.

The Fix

Using muscles to do things for which they hadn't been previously used is challenging, to say the least. I have a few options for you, as well as some suggestions on what you might look for in a new semi-automatic pistol for self-defense and concealed carry. I'd like to give you some guidelines, which will help with your handling, marksmanship and overall confidence when using your new handgun.

Success depends as much upon hand size as hand strength. Many people buy a handgun because somebody they trust suggested that brand or model, and they often end up with something too big or too small. This leads to a less-than-perfect experience with their new firearm acquisition.

With the pistol centered in the web of your hand-between your thumb and index finger the barrel

should point as an extension of the hand as if pointing at an object with your index finger. Your hand-eye coordination combined with your natural ability to point gets the muzzle on target. The second part of the equation is to be able to reach and pull the trigger without shifting your grip. If you can't reach and pull the trigger, you need to consider a pistol with a smaller grip, a shorter trigger reach or both.

This parlays into gripping the slide while holding the frame in order to retract the slide rearward, locking the action open for safety, cleaning, etc. Two things to consider are the slide's available gripping surfaces and their compatibility with your hand size, along with the resistance of the recoil spring and hammer (if the pistol is so equipped) to the movement of the slide.

Most semi-auto pistols have slide serrations, or gripping surfaces, just aft of the ejection port on either side for the purpose of manipulating the slide. The idea is to place the base of the thumb on one side of these gripping surfaces and the fingertips on the other for sufficient purchase on the slide. Many people with average hand strength simply grip the frame as they would when firing to hold it stationary while gripping the slide and pulling it back fully to load a round, clear the chamber or lock the action open.

If this is difficult for you, I suggest you hold the pistol close to your body - ensuring the muzzle is pointed in a safe direction - and push the frame forward with the shooting hand (finger off the trigger), while pulling the slide rearward with the non-shooting hand. Such a motion is similar to tearing a cloth or piece of paper in half.

Practice this action with the pistol unloaded to get the feel for what is necessary to cycle the slide using

the push/pull method. Follow that step by inserting an empty magazine to automatically lock the slide open when it is pulled sufficiently rearward. When proficiency is achieved, the final step is to practice manipulating the slide while applying upward pressure on the slide-stop lever to engage the notch in the slide, which locks the slide to the rear. Once you are able to do this comfortably, you are ready to load, unload, perform immediate action and clear the pistol for inspection. It's really about technique rather than brute force when it comes to opening the action of most semi-auto pistols.

There are a few other tricks that might help you work a semi-auto handgun. A locked-breech pistol like the SIG Sauer P239 in 9 mm is much easier to manipulate than a blowback-operated handgun like the company's P232 in .380 ACP. This is due to the resistance of the recoil spring being lighter in a locked-breech gun. Both pistols are similar in size, but their designs have differences in slide resistance due to recoil-spring strength. As a general rule, recoil springs are stronger and heavier in larger-caliber semi-automatics like those chambered in .40 S&W and .45 ACP. Because of this, my recommendation is to start with a 9mm that fits you well.

With these guidelines, you should be able to make a solid selection from the multitude of excellent semi-automatic pistols on the market. You now have the techniques to help you operate it with confidence. Of course, there is nothing wrong with using a revolver. In either case, take a class, practice and have fun.