3. TESTING OF AMMUNITION

3.1. TESTING OF COMMERCIAL AMMUNITION [XV-7]

The Permanent International Commission for the testing of portable fire arms in the frame work of procedure defined in Articles I-3 and I-4 of the Convention of 1st July 1969, has laid down test conditions for commercial ammunition testing in order that safety standards may be guaranteed.

Article 1

Member States adopt "test markings" for commercial ammunition intended for portable fire arms and projectiles. Reciprocal acceptance of national markings is taken for granted.

"Test markings" may only be applied when the ammunition has been tested in accordance with the procedures laid down in the following and answers to the conditions imposed by the C.I.P.

Samples of ammunition from the batch to be tested will be taken as per the conditions laid down in one of the technical appendices. Lot definition is also given in the form of an appendix.

The cartridge of a given calibre must be fired only in a weapon or device of the same calibre designed for that cartridge. [XXII-3]

In order to speed up the process of taking into use the specified data due to be published in the TDCCs, all Decisions taken in the Technical Committee relevant to such data will be sent immediately to the Contracting Parties for their notification in compliance with the provisions of Article 5 Paragraph 2 of CIP Regulations. [XXVIII-60]

Article 2

Testing may be carried out either by the national organisation or by the manufacturer, under the supervision of the national organisation. Responsibility will, in all cases, rest with the manufacturer.

Ammunition testing includes:

a. Verification of distinctive markings on basic packages.

b. Verification of the existence of distinctive markings on each cartridge.

c. Verification of dimensions.

d. Inspection and checking of the mean pressure or, failing that, of parameters judged to be equivalent in the case of special ammunition.

e. Functional safety testing.

Article 3

3.1. All cartridges, including re-filled cartridges, must bear the following marks: [XXI-5]

a. The identity of the cartridge manufacturer or the person who re-filled them or the person guaranteeing them.

b. Identification must be provided by a manufacturer's mark or a mark of origin applied in indelible fashion either to the base or the casing.

c. On the base of centrefire ammunition, the calibre in compliance with C.I.P.-noemclature.

If it is impossible for technical reasons to show the calibre on the base, it may be marked in indelible fashion on the body of the casing.
Alternative names are introduced through a Decision for certain select calibres and are added into a second line under the original name in the corresponding TDCC. After the entry into force of the Decision, the alternative names may be used in place of the official name included in the TDCC, either by identification of the weapons, or by the marking of the cartridges and cartridge unit packaging. [XXXI-47]

d. For ammunition loaded with lead shot the diameter in mm of the shot and the length of the cartridge case if it exceeds:
   - 65 mm for 20 bore and above;
   - 63.5 mm for 24 bore and below. [XXVIII-59.I.A]

e. The shell for the munitions intended for weapons with a smooth barrel of 20 gauge should be yellow in colour. This decision is not applicable to shells already placed on the market. [XXX-43]
   A 3 year transitional period is allowable. [XXIX-42]

3.2. Proof and high performance ammunition must be able to be identified:

a. Proof ammunition:
   either by a serrated rim, or by the colour red on the rear face of the rim, or by the whole cartridge case being red in colour, or by the words „Proof Ammunition” coupled with the proof pressure for that calibre on the body of the cartridge case in one of the languages used by C.I.P. Member States;

b. High performance ammunition for smooth bore weapons:
   either by a different colour on the rear face of the rim, or by the words „Max. 1050 bar” or „For a weapon proofed by 1320 bar” on the body of the cartridge case in one of the languages used by C.I.P. Member States. [XXVIII-58.B.2]

3.3. Ammunition meant to be fired from dust shot weapons must have different dimensions in order that such rounds may not be inserted into alarm weapons. [XXIII-2]

3.4. With the exception of high performance cartridges, no new round of ammunition which is not yet included in the C.I.P. Tables may be homologated:

a. if it can be loaded into and fired in the chamber of a small arm designed to fire ammunition of a calibre already homologated and included in C.I.P. Tables and which has the same or similar dimensions and a maximum permitted pressure lower than that of the new ammunition;

b. if ammunition already homologated and included in C.I.P. Tables, which has the same or similar dimensions and a maximum permitted pressure higher than that of the new round of ammunition, can be loaded into and fired of a small arm designed for this new round of ammunition with a maximum permitted pressure lower than that ammunition calibres already homologated. [XXIV-1]
Article 4

Commercial ammunition must be packed in suitable containers. The basic package must be suitably closed. It must bear the following markings:

a. Factory name or brand of the manufacturers or of the person for whom the ammunition was produced and who accepts responsibility for its compliance with current regulations;

b. Designation following TDCC denomination

c. Batch identification number and the quantity of ammunition contained in the basic package;

d. High Performance Ammunition:
   - for ammunition loaded with either lead shot, an additional inscription showing clearly that they may only be fired from weapons that have been subjected to superior proof;

e. For proof cartridges: „Proof Ammunition“; [XXV-2.C]

f. A test marking certifying that the ammunition has been tested in accordance with C.I.P. specifications;

g. In the case of re-filled cartridges, information clearly stating that they are re-filled cartridges; [XXI-5]

h. For cartridges not capable of firing solid projectiles, if need be, a description of the liquid and gaseous substances discharged during firing. [XXIII-1.A]

Article 5

The dimensions of the cartridge must be checked using the methods of legal metrology. The maximum values must be in conformity with the C.I.P. tables.

Article 6

The measurement of mean pressure, of mean velocity, and momentum, and other parameters must be carried out in accordance with C.I.P. Instructions. The values obtained must correspond statistically to a mean value less than or at the most equal to that permitted by the C.I.P. [XXII-2]

The maximum pressure for rifled barrels is limited to 4400 bar. A reduction must be imposed on those calibres already type approved (homologated) that have a pressure above 4400 bar. [XXIX-45]
Article 7

Functional safety tests will be carried out as specified by the C.I.P.

Article 8

8.1. The right to apply test markings is accorded, for given types of ammunition, by the national authority of a member state to the manufacturer or to the person whose company is mentioned on the ammunition and who guarantees it. This right is equally accorded to petitioning importers who import from a non-member country into a member country, for ammunition tested by the approved national organisation of that member country.

The said authority will be accorded, provided that:

a. the petitioner possesses and uses devices to measure dimensions and pressures or, eventually, parameters considered to be equivalent for the ammunition in question. In addition, he must possess personnel capable of using them or that he has entrusted the testing of the product to a recognised authority and

b. that tests have demonstrated that the ammunition produced complies with the directives of the C.I.P., including the technical appendices referred to in Article 11.

The ammunition control marking is composed of a unique C.I.P. symbol and the proof mark of the Proof House. No later than 3 years after the entry into force of this decision, all Member States will be required to affix the following unique C.I.P. proof marks: [XXX-41]

Ammunition control marking:

\[
\begin{array}{c}
\text{CIP} \\
\text{M}
\end{array}
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8.2. The authorisation will remain valid as long as inspection controls carried out by a body approved by the national authority, show that the conditions listed in sub-paras (a) and (b) of this article continue to be observed. It would be withdrawn where this is not the case.
Article 9
Authorisations to apply test markings, or to withdraw them, will be communicated to the Permanent Bureau to the C.I.P., which will advise delegations accordingly.

Article 10
If, in any particular country or member state, it is established that one or more lots of ammunitions bearing the test marking and offered for commercial sale, no longer correspond with the directives of the C.I.P., a counter test will be imposed by the national authority which governs the manufacturer, or the person responsible. This will be carried out on the Testing Stand or other official organisation which is competent. If it is found that the criticism is well founded and that no immediate remedy is available, the national authority will decide whether or not the lot complained of (or batches) be withdrawn from the market, informing national authorities of member states of the decision taken. If it is purely a matter of pressures, or equivalent parameters, which are too high, the manufacturer may be authorised to re-offer the ammunition for sale, marked as for ammunition which develops pressures above the normal.

In cases of urgency, where a member state finds that a certain batch of ammunition, bearing a test marking, is a source of danger for the user or third parties, the competent national authority may order that the lot be withdrawn from the market within its own country, immediately informing the Permanent Bureau of the C.I.P. and imposing relevant safety measures.

Article 11
This decision will be supplemented by technical appendices in which C.I.P. directives are given in detail.

Article 12
Formal procedures for the protection of test markings within member states are the responsibility of the competent national authority.

Article 13
Each contracting party may declare, within a period of six months after the present decision enters into force, that it reserves the right of not applying it during the following three years. Member states making use of this right undertake to develop the principle of ammunition testing according to the standards imposed by the C.I.P. After a period of five years following the entry into force of the present decision all member states will be obliged to apply it. This right might be abandoned at any time and this should be communicated to the Permanent Bureau of the C.I.P. which will advice delegations accordingly.