

N° 1806.

**ALLEMAGNE, BELGIQUE,
FRANCE ET ITALIE**

Convention internationale en vue de
l'établissement de règles uniformes
pour la reconnaissance réciproque
des poinçons officiels d'épreuves
des armes à feu et règlement y
annexé. Signée à Bruxelles, le
15 juillet 1914.

**GERMANY, BELGIUM,
FRANCE AND ITALY**

International Convention regarding
the Establishment of uniform
Regulations for the reciprocal
Recognition of Official Proof
Marks on Fire-Arms, and Regu-
lations annexed thereto. Signed
at Brussels, July 15, 1914.

¹ TRADUCTION. — TRANSLATION.

No. 1806. — INTERNATIONAL CONVENTION² BETWEEN GERMANY, BELGIUM, FRANCE AND ITALY REGARDING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF UNIFORM REGULATIONS FOR THE RECIPROCAL RECOGNITION OF OFFICIAL PROOF MARKS ON FIRE-ARMS. SIGNED AT BRUSSELS, JULY 15, 1914.

French official text communicated by the German Consul-General at Geneva, the Minister for Foreign Affairs of the French Republic, the Belgian Minister for Foreign Affairs and the Spanish Ambassador in Paris. The registration of this Convention took place August 3, 1928.

THE GOVERNMENTS OF GERMANY, BELGIUM, FRANCE and ITALY, having recognised the desirability of concluding, on the bases proposed by the International Technical Fire-arms Testing Commission, which met at Liège in May and June 1911 a convention for the establishment of uniform regulations for the reciprocal recognition in their respective countries of official proof marks on fire-arms, the undersigned, being duly authorised for the purpose, have laid down the following provisions :

Article I.

In order to determine the shooting or proof pressures in sporting guns, proof houses shall use standard apparatus having the following characteristics :

Support block with screw bolt Sauer system and percussion mechanism with safety device ;

Cylindrical barrels of the various calibres usually employed for sporting weapons, 70 centimetres in length³ ;

Chambers 65 millimetres in length, having the dimensions at present employed in England and specified in the table forming Annex I of the present Convention ;

Junction cone to 6 millimetres with sharp edges ;

Three interchangeable crusher gauges of the French type on the barrels. Pistons 6.18 millimetres in diameter ; section 0.3 square centimetres ; weight about 3.27 grammes.

On each barrel the axis of the first crusher gauge shall be 17 millimetres from the breech end of the barrel, the axis of the second 162 millimetres from that end and the axis of the third 100 millimetres from the mouth of the barrel.

¹ Traduit par le Secrétariat de la Société des Nations, à titre d'information.

¹ Translated by the Secretariat of the League of Nations, for information.

² Deposit of ratifications : Belgium, May 5, 1925 ; France, May 14, 1926 ; Germany, August 12, 1927. Accessions : Spain, May 16, 1923 ; Hungary, August 7, 1928.

³ Most of the standard apparatus constructed hitherto has only two barrels, one with a calibre of 12 and the other with a calibre of 16. They may, if necessary, be supplemented by barrels of other calibres.

The crusher gauge cylinders shall be copper cylinders 4.90 millimetres by 3 millimetres, to be supplied by the Laboratoire central des Poudres et Salpêtres, of Paris.

Article 2.

In order to determine the shooting or proof pressures in rifles and carbines, proof houses shall use standard apparatus having characteristics to be determined hereafter by the Permanent International Small Arms Commission referred to in Article 7 of the present Convention.

Article 3.

In order to determine the shooting or proof pressures in revolvers and automatic pistols, proof houses shall use standard apparatus with characteristics to be determined under the same conditions as for the arms mentioned in Article 2.

Article 4.

A specimen of the standard apparatus used in each case shall be deposited in the Conservatoire des Arts et Métiers at Paris, to be used as international standard apparatus.

Article 5.

The contracting States undertake reciprocally to recognise as equivalent to the proof marks affixed in their national proof houses, foreign official proof marks provided the regulations governing them are not at variance with the following principles :

A. The full test for a sporting gun shall consist of at least two shootings, one being a provisional test during the manufacture of the barrel and the other being a final test either after all the metal parts of the barrel and the closing apparatus have been given their final internal and external dimensions, or when the weapon is in finished white state, or when it is completely finished and ready for delivery.

B. For the final test, sporting guns may be classed either as guns using black powder or guns using smokeless powder. A separate proof mark shall be used for each class.

C. For the final test for guns using black powder, the testing charge shall be such as to indicate on the first crusher gauge of the standard apparatus a minimum pressure of :

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 620 kilogrammes per square centimetre for a calibre | of 12 ¹ ; |
| 620 " " " " | of 16 ¹ ; |

D. For the final test of guns using smokeless powder, the testing charge shall be such as to indicate on the first crusher gauge of the standard apparatus a minimum pressure of :

| | |
|---|----------------------|
| 850 kilogrammes per square centimetre for a calibre | of 12 ¹ ; |
| 850 " " " " | of 16 ¹ ; |

¹ The above-mentioned pressures were measured by the International Technical Fire-arms Testing Commission with one of the standard international apparatus constructed during the negotiations for the present Convention.

E. For the testing of rifled carbines, revolvers and automatic pistols of the various calibres, the cartridges employed shall develop a pressure of not less than 30 % above the pressure recorded in firing a sufficient number of the most powerful commercial cartridges of the same calibres containing black powder or smokeless powder.

Article 6.

For sporting guns the contracting States may only allow official recognition of the proof marks relating to the final tests for black powder or smokeless powder carried out on arms ready for delivery.

Article 7.

In order to ascertain that the regulations of the various official proof houses for fire-arms are in conformity with the above provisions, and in order to determine what improvements in and additions to those provisions may be desirable, the contracting States agree to constitute a Commission entitled the Permanent International Small Arms Commission, which shall have its seat at Brussels.

Article 8.

The composition and powers of the Permanent International Small Arms Commission shall be determined by the regulations forming Annex II of the present Convention.

Article 9.

Should any doubt or dispute arise as to the interpretation or application of any technical rules laid down by the present Convention, the administration concerned shall apply to the Permanent International Commission for an opinion.

Article 10.

Any State not a signatory of the Convention and desirous of acceding thereto shall inform the Belgian Government, which shall at once notify such accession to the other contracting States.

The accession shall take effect three months after the despatch of the said notification unless during that period the Permanent International Commission raises any objections to the regulations attached to the application submitted to it.

Article 11.

The contracting States reserve the right jointly to introduce in the Convention any modifications which may be shown by experience to be desirable.

Article 12.

The present Convention shall be ratified and the ratifications shall be deposited at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Brussels, as soon as possible, and in any case within three months.

It shall remain in force for three years as from the thirtieth day after the date on which the procès-verbal of the deposit of ratifications is closed.

It is understood that if none of the contracting States has informed the Belgian Government six months before the expiration of the said period of three years that it intends to terminate the Convention, the latter shall remain in force for a further period of three years, and so on thereafter.

Should any of the contracting States denounce the present Convention, such denunciation shall only apply to the State in question, and the Convention shall remain binding upon the other States.

In faith whereof the undersigned have signed the present Convention.

Done at Brussels, July 15, 1914, in a single copy, of which a certified true copy will be sent to each of the signatory Governments.

(L. S.) (Signed) VON BELOW.

(L. S.) (Signed) J. DAVIGNON.

(L. S.) (Signed) A. KLOBUKOWSKI.

(L. S.) (Signed) COSTA.

ANNEX I.

Minimum dimensions for gun chambers fixed by the Gunmakers' Association, London, and adopted by the Birmingham and Provincial Gunmakers' Association and by British ammunition manufacturers.

| Description | | Chamber | | | | | | Countersink (or rim) | | | | | | |
|--------------|-------------------|---------|--------|-------|-------------------------------------|-------|--------------------------------------|----------------------|----------|------|--------|------|------------------|-----|
| Ca- libre | Nominal length | | Length | | Diameter extremity of chamber | | Diameter under swell of muzzle | | Diameter | | Depth | | Radius of Arc | |
| | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. | Inches | Mm. |
| 4 | 4 | 100 | 4.000 | 101.6 | 1.035 | 26.3 | 1.090 | 27.7 | 1.200 | 30.5 | 0.130 | 3.3 | 0.030 | 0.8 |
| 8 | 3 1/4 | 82 | 3.250 | 82.5 | 0.914 | 23.2 | 0.930 | 23.65 | 1.035 | 26.3 | 0.115 | 2.95 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 10 | 3 1/4 | 82 | 3.250 | 82.5 | 0.845 | 21.5 | 0.861 | 21.9 | 0.933 | 23.7 | 0.074 | 1.9 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 10 | 2 7/8 | 67 | 2.875 | 73.0 | 0.845 | 21.5 | 0.859 | 21.85 | 0.933 | 23.7 | 0.074 | 1.9 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 12 | 3 | 75 | 3.000 | 76.2 | 0.800 | 20.3 | 0.815 | 20.7 | 0.886 | 22.5 | 0.074 | 1.9 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 12 | 2 3/4 | 70 | 2.750 | 69.8 | 0.800 | 20.3 | 0.813 | 20.66 | 0.886 | 22.5 | 0.074 | 1.9 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 12 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.560 | 65.0 | 0.800 | 20.3 | 0.812 | 20.64 | 0.886 | 22.5 | 0.074 | 1.9 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 14 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.560 | 65.0 | 0.763 | 19.4 | 0.775 | 19.7 | 0.847 | 21.5 | 0.068 | 1.75 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 16 | 2 3/4 | 70 | 2.750 | 69.8 | 0.732 | 18.6 | 0.745 | 18.92 | 0.815 | 20.7 | 0.062 | 1.6 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 16 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.560 | 65.0 | 0.732 | 18.6 | 0.744 | 18.9 | 0.815 | 20.7 | 0.062 | 1.6 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 20 | 2 3/4 | 70 | 2.750 | 69.8 | 0.685 | 17.4 | 0.698 | 17.73 | 0.766 | 19.5 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 20 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.560 | 65.0 | 0.685 | 17.4 | 0.698 | 17.73 | 0.766 | 19.5 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 24 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.500 | 63.5 | 0.649 | 16.5 | 0.661 | 16.8 | 0.728 | 18.5 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 28 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.500 | 63.5 | 0.614 | 15.6 | 0.626 | 15.9 | 0.688 | 17.5 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.020 | 0.5 |
| 32 | 2 1/2 | 65 | 2.500 | 63.5 | 0.562 | 14.3 | 0.574 | 14.6 | 0.636 | 16.2 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.019 | 0.4 |
| 410 | 2 | 50 | 2.000 | 50.8 | 0.465 | 11.8 | 0.475 | 12.05 | 0.537 | 13.7 | 0.060 | 1.55 | 0.015 | 0.4 |
| 360 | 1 3/4 | 45 | 1.750 | 44.5 | 0.415 | 10.55 | 0.424 | 10.8 | 0.479 | 12.2 | 0.050 | 1.3 | 0.015 | 0.4 |

ANNEX II.

REGULATIONS.

Article 1.

The Permanent International Small Arms Commission shall be composed of delegates of contracting States.

Voting on the Commission shall be by States, each State being entitled to one vote.

Article 2.

The principal object of the Commission shall be the examination of the regulations of the various official proof houses for fire arms so as to determine whether they are in conformity with the conditions laid down in the Convention to which the present Regulations form an annex.

The Commission shall take decisions by a majority vote on any disputed questions which may arise under Article 9 of the Convention.

It shall give its opinion on any other question relating to the testing of fire-arms submitted to it by any of the contracting States.

Lastly, it shall endeavour to find such improvements or modifications as it may become necessary in the interest of public safety to introduce into the regulations governing the testing of fire-arms.

Article 3.

If it considers it desirable for that purpose to carry out certain continuous research or experimental work, the plenary Commission or a sub-committee thereof may meet at the place selected for such experiments.

Article 4.

A Permanent Bureau consisting of the President and Secretary of the Commission and an archivist, shall be appointed to collect and file dossiers, documents and publications on the subject, to preserve printed specimens of officially recognised proof marks, to classify, translate and communicate information of every kind relating to the testing of fire-arms in the contracting States and also in other States, — in brief, to conduct the Commission's correspondence, to carry out its administrative work and to keep its archives.

This Bureau shall be housed at the Belgian Ministry of Industry and Labour (Administration of Industry, Bureau of Metrology).

Article 5.

The Permanent International Small Arms Commission shall meet when summoned to do so by its Bureau ; it may be so summoned at the request of any of the contracting States.

In order to prevent any delay in the meeting of the Commission, every State shall inform the Belgian Government, which shall thereupon notify the Bureau, of any change in its list of delegates.

In the absence of notification to the contrary during the month of January every year, the list of delegates for the previous year shall be deemed to be valid for the current year.

Article 6.

The Permanent Bureau shall transmit to the signatory States the decisions taken by the Permanent International Commission and shall in particular send them facsimiles and descriptions of internationally recognised proof marks.

Article 7.

In order to ensure the execution of the foregoing provisions, the contracting States shall, through the diplomatic channel, communicate to the Belgian Government, which shall forward them to the Permanent Bureau, the laws, decrees and regulations regarding the testing of fire-arms in force in the various countries, together with all other documents which the Bureau may ask them to provide.

Article 8.

The working costs of the Permanent Bureau shall be borne by the Belgian Government.

The allowances of the delegates to the Permanent International Commission shall be paid by their respective countries.

Article 9.

The present Regulations shall have the same validity and duration as the Convention to which they form an annex.

Done at Brussels, July 15, 1914.

(L. S.) (Signed) VON BELOW.

(L. S.) (Signed) J. DAVIGNON.

(L. S.) (Signed) A. KLOBUKOWSKI.

(L. S.) (Signed) COSTA.