

## Firearms Licensing

### Operational Assistance Note: Good Reason and Target Shotgun shooting within GB

In section 12.47 of the Home Office guidance on firearms licensing law (2021) the National Target Shotgun Association (NTSA) is recognised as a national governing body (NGB) for Target Shotgun (TSG). The NTSA seeks to assist, with this note, firearms licensing staff when they may be considering good reason in relation to an applicant who participates in the TSG discipline.

The Home Office guidance identifies that Section 1 shotguns (S1S) may be used for Target Shotgun practice and competition. It will be helpful to note that S1S may not be held by Home Office approved shooting clubs. NTSA considers this may be a helpful factor to bear in mind in individual good reason considerations.

NTSA practices and competitions are normally shot alongside the discipline of IPSC practical shotgun. IPSC Shotgun is conducted in four divisions; Open, Modified, Standard & Standard Manual. The variations from a Standard self-loading shotgun are

- Manual division requires the use of a shotgun with a purely manual action (also known as a pump action) to chamber each cartridge
- Modified division allows some alterations or modifications to the shotgun which are not permitted in Standard division. Examples include optical sights, compensators or ports.
- Open division allows for even further modifications, for example detachable magazines.

These types of modifications are such that the same shotgun is highly unlikely to be reasonably capable of being able to be used in different divisions in the same competition.

Target shotgun sets its own specific challenges, and an applicant might conceivably seek authority to acquire a S1S shotgun for any or each of the divisions and a separate firearm specifically for use in TSG, potentially in different chamberings.

### Ammunition allowances

At paragraph 12.54 the Home Office guidance offers considerations as to the quantities of ammunition that may be held by a firearm certificate holder.

Whilst some of the ammunition used in TSG (Birdshot and Buckshot) are not controlled under s1 Firearms Act 1968 (as amended) and so are not relevant here (though may be in any calculation of net explosive quantity at a storage location) solid slug ammunition is relevant. In this regard a serious target shooter may apply for up to 2000 rounds. Such an application might reflect the need for batch consistency and will, of course, be subject to thorough consideration.

### Spare firearms

Ordinarily, at many competitions, the inoperability of a firearm that might develop during the day might be addressed by the competitor borrowing a firearm of the appropriate type in order to complete the competition. This practice typically relies on s15 Firearms (Amendment) Act 1988, allowing members of an approved club to possess firearms without the need for a certificate. In relation to S1S this legal facility is not available.

It may be the case that an applicant seeks authority to acquire separate firearms for this discipline based on this restriction. Whilst licensing staff might consider such applications, it is recognised that each application must be decided upon its own merits.

### Further information

Further information regarding Target Shotgun may be found via the NTSA website; [www.ntsaco.uk](http://www.ntsaco.uk)

