

Section 1.0 – Use-of-Force	Page 1 of 2
Sub Section 1.1 – Firearms	Effective: January 30, 2012
Subject 1.1.1 – Firearms and Ammunition	Revised effective: February 27, 2020

## Definitions

**"Ammunition"** – a projectile intended for use with a firearm.

**"Director"** - the director of police services referred to in section 39 (1) of the *Police Act*.

**"Firearm"** – a barrelled weapon from which any shot, bullet or other projectile can be discharged and that is capable of causing serious bodily injury or death to a person, and includes any frame or receiver of such a barrelled weapon, and anything that can be adapted for use as a firearm (as per section 2 of the *Criminal Code*, R.S.C. 1985, c. C-46). A conducted energy weapon is not considered a firearm for the purposes of BCPPS 1.1.1 and 1.1.2.

**"Officer"** – a constable appointed under the *Police Act* or an enforcement officer appointed under s. 18.1 of the *Police Act*.

**"Pistol"** – a handgun; a firearm designed to be held in one hand.

## Standards

### Approved firearms and ammunition

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner:

- (1) Must ensure only firearms approved by the director are carried and used by officers.  
Approved firearms are semi-automatic pistols with the following specifications:
  - (a) Double/single or double action-only trigger mechanism;
  - (b) Single action trigger force of not less than 1.36 kg;
  - (c) Hammer/firing pin block safety mechanism; and
  - (d) Barrel of not less than 76 mm and not more than 127 mm in length.
- (2) Must ensure the duty ammunition issued and used in a firearm described under Standard (1) are 0.40 calibre Smith and Wesson or 9 mm factory loaded cartridges with the following specifications:
  - (a) Hollow point bullet design;
  - (b) Bullet weight no less than 8.035 grams (124 grain); and
  - (c) Muzzle velocity between 290 m/second to 396 m/second, when fired in a firearm referred to in Standard (1).

- (3) May authorize, or designate in writing a person who may authorize, an officer to carry for a special purpose a firearm and ammunition of a type other than that referred to in Standards (1) and (2) above.
- (4) Must prohibit officers from carrying a firearm or ammunition other than those referred to in Standards (1), (2), or (3) above.
- (5) Must, on the request of the director, submit a report on all special firearms and ammunition issued and the reason for issuing them if an authorization is made under Standard (3).

### **Holsters**

- (5.1) Must ensure that only holsters, of any type, which have been approved by the chief constable, chief officer, commissioner or their delegate, are used by officers.
- (5.2) Must ensure that officers are provided training for each type of holster that is issued for use.

### **Off duty carrying of firearms and ammunition**

- (5.3) Must ensure that officers carry their issued firearms only when on assigned duty, unless otherwise authorized in writing or described in policy.

### **Maintenance of firearms**

- (6.1) Must ensure that an up-to-date inventory of all the police force's firearms is maintained.
- (6.2) Must ensure that each firearm and all ammunition is securely stored when not in use.
- (6) Must ensure that each firearm in the inventory of their police force is maintained in good working order.

### **Training, qualification and requalification for firearms**

- (7) *Deleted. See BCPPS 1.1.2 Firearms Training and Qualification.*
- (8) *Deleted. See BCPPS 1.1.2 Firearms Training and Qualification.*
- (9) *Deleted. See BCPPS 1.1.2 Firearms Training and Qualification.*

### **Policies and procedures**

- (10) Must ensure policies and procedures are consistent with these *BC Provincial Policing Standards*.