

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 1, 2015

## 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 firearm as defined in section 2 of the *Criminal Code* (Canada).

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

## Standards

The chief constable, chief officer, or commissioner:

### Approved firearms and ammunition

- (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 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 9.523 grams (147 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).

#### **Maintenance of firearms**

- (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) Must ensure that an officer successfully completes a training course for that firearm and is qualified before the officer is authorized to carry and use a firearm or ammunition under Standard (1), (2), or (3) above.
- (8) Must ensure any officer authorized to carry and use a firearm or ammunition under Standard (1), (2), or (3) above is requalified on the use of the firearm at least every 12 months.
- (9) Must ensure that written records are maintained of the firearms training and requalification completed by each officer in the police force.

#### **Policies and procedures**

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

*NOTE: These BC Provincial Policing Standards replace the Police Act Use of Force Regulation s. 3, 4, and 10(1) and 10(4).*