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SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE, INC.
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SPORTING FIREARMS

SAFE HANDLING CONSIDERATIONS AND SHIPPING GUIDELINES FOR INTERSTATE TRANSPORTATION

(The citations herein refer to federal regulations (current as of April 1, 2004); state and local laws may impose additional restrictions.)

The following paragraphs are meant to give anyone concerned with the handling or shipment of sporting firearms certain basic and important facts about the subject. These statements and recommendations do not supercede local, state or federal regulations. Local authorities should be consulted regarding any regulation on the storage, transportation, display, sale, and handling of firearms within each individual community.

A person who possesses a valid Federal Firearms License (FFL) is referred to herein as a "licensee." Anyone who does not possess an FFL is described as a "non-licensee." Notations in brackets indicate federal regulations to which the reader may wish to refer: e.g. {27CFR478.30} refers to Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 478, Section 30.

GENERAL TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS FOR BOTH LICENSEES AND NON-LICENSEES

1. Certain persons are prohibited from shipping, transporting, or receiving firearms in interstate commerce {27CFR478.32}:
 - Persons convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year imprisonment;
 - Fugitives from justice;
 - Unlawful users of a controlled substance;
 - Adjudicated mental defectives or persons having been committed to a mental institution;
 - Illegal aliens;
 - Veterans discharged under dishonorable conditions;
 - Persons having renounced United States citizenship;

- Persons subject to certain court restraining orders;
- Persons convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence; or
- Persons under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

2. No one may knowingly transport, ship, or receive in interstate or foreign commerce a firearm which has had the manufacturer's or importer's serial number removed, obliterated, or altered {27CFR478.34}.

3. Any person not otherwise prohibited from transporting, shipping, or receiving a firearm may transport a firearm interstate for any lawful purpose, if he may lawfully possess and carry the firearm in the place of origin and destination, and provided the firearm is unloaded and that it is not readily or directly accessible from the passenger compartment. In vehicles without a separate trunk, the gun must be in a locked container other than the glove compartment or console {27CFR478.38}.

4. No one may knowingly ship a firearm or ammunition in interstate commerce to any person other than a holder of a Federal Firearms License without written notice to the carrier that a firearm or ammunition is being shipped {27CFR478.31a}.

5. A carrier is required to obtain a written delivery receipt from the recipient of any shipment containing a firearm {27CFR478.31d}.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS FOR FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSE (FFL) HOLDERS

1. Before shipping a firearm to another licensee, a holder of a Federal Firearms License (FFL) must at a minimum obtain a certified copy of the recipient's FFL. However, this is not required under the following conditions {27CFR478.94}:

- If the recipient has already furnished a certified copy of his current license, or
- If the firearm is being returned to the recipient, or
- If the recipient is part of a multi-licensed business organization, and a certified list of valid license information for all of the business locations has been provided.

2. Certain shipments or deliveries are prohibited {27CFR478.99}:

A. Pistols or revolvers may not be sold or delivered to non-licensees residing outside the FFL holder's state. Rifles or shotguns may, under certain circumstances, be sold and shipped to non-licensees residing in other states; the requirements of 27CFR478.96 (c) must be fully met.

B. The minimum age for purchase or receipt of a rifle or shotgun is 18 years; for a pistol or revolver, it is 21 years {27CFR478.99 (b)}.

C. Firearms may not be sold or disposed of to the following categories of persons:

- Persons convicted of a crime punishable by more than one year imprisonment;
- Fugitives from justice;
- Unlawful users of a controlled substance;

- Adjudicated mental defectives or persons having been committed to a mental institution;
- Illegal aliens;
- Veterans discharged under dishonorable conditions;
- Persons having renounced United States citizenship;
- Persons subject to certain court restraining orders;
- Persons convicted of a misdemeanor, crime or domestic violence; or
- Persons under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for more than one year.

TRANSPORTATION REGULATIONS FOR NON-LICENSEES

1. A non-licensee may mail a rifle or shotgun to a resident of his own state or to a licensee in any state. Handguns must not be mailed. {U.S. Postal Service Domestic Mail Manual Section C024}.
2. A non-licensee may not transfer, sell, trade, give, transport, or deliver a firearm to another non-licensee who lives in a different state {27CFR478.30}. However, a person may ship a firearm to himself, in care of another person in the state where he intends to hunt or shoot if the other person does not open the package.
3. A non-licensee who is not otherwise prohibited from possessing or shipping a firearm may ship the firearm direct to a licensee for any lawful purpose, and the licensee may return that firearm or a replacement of the same kind and type directly to the individual {27CFR478.147}.

PACKING FIREARMS FOR SHIPMENT

1. All firearms must be unloaded prior to shipment. Ensure that magazines and chambers are empty, and do not include any ammunition in the package with the firearm.
2. Protect the finish of the gun from abrasion by preventing movement within the box or case, and cushion against impact during transportation.
3. A factory-supplied individual box or case must be enclosed in a carton which will conceal the identity of the contents and afford additional protection from damage. The outer packaging must not bear any marks, tags, or labels indicating what the contents are {27CFR478.31 (b)}.

FIREARMS SAFETY

The fundamental rules of firearms safety are brief and simple, and they apply to all firearms - rifles, shotguns, pistols, and revolvers. They apply to all locations where guns may be handled - in the home, in the gun store, on the range, in the field. And, they apply equally to all persons, young and old, men or women, whether experienced in the use of guns or a complete novice.

1. **Keep the gun pointed in a safe direction.**

This is the primary rule of gun safety. A "safe direction" is one in which if the gun went off, it would not cause injury or damage. Common sense dictates the safe direction, depending upon current circumstances.

2. **Keep firearms unloaded when not actually in use.** Each time you pick up a firearm, immediately open the action and inspect the chamber(s), which should be empty. If the gun has a magazine, remove it before opening the action and ensure that it is empty. If you do not know how to open the action, leave the gun alone and seek help from someone who does. Firearms and ammunition should be secured in a safe place, separate from each other.

3. **Do not rely upon a firearm's "safety."**

A "safety" is a mechanical device which can fail at any time. Always keep your fingers off the trigger until ready to shoot.

4. **Be sure of your target and what is beyond it.**

Be aware of everything which the bullet might strike. Identify your target positively, and know what is behind it. A .22 caliber bullet can travel over a mile, and a .30-06 more than three miles.

5. **Use correct ammunition.** Improper ammunition can destroy a firearm and cause serious personal injury. Be certain that the ammunition exactly matches the caliber or gauge of your gun.

6. **If the gun fails to fire when the trigger is pulled, handle with care!** Keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction while you carefully open the action, unload, and dispose of the cartridge safely.

7. **Always wear eye and ear protection.** Any exposure to shooting noise can damage hearing; vision protection is essential.

8. **Be sure the barrel is clear of obstructions before shooting.** Before loading a firearm, open the action, ensure there is no ammunition in the chamber or magazine, and visually inspect the bore. Any obstruction, however small, can damage a gun or injure the shooter.

9. **Do not alter or modify your gun, and have it serviced regularly.** Firearms are complicated mechanisms; modifications, repairs, and servicing requires training and experience. Check with the manufacturer.

10. **Learn the mechanical and handling characteristics of your firearm.** Read and refer to the instruction manual which is available from the manufacturer. Do not use any gun without a complete understanding of its functioning and safe use.

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