

# SETTING THE STANDARD

SAFETY AND TECHNICAL STANDARDS  
FOR FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION

---

---

---

---

---

*Presented by*

**S A A M I**

SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE, INC.

Since 1926

## Introduction

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute is an association of the nation's leading manufacturers of sporting firearms, ammunition, and components. Since being founded in 1926, SAAMI has been actively involved in the publication of industry standards, coordination of technical data, and the promotion of safe and responsible firearms use. SAAMI currently publishes more than 700 voluntary standards related to firearm and ammunition quality and safety.

## SAAMI Sets Product Standards For Firearms and Ammunition

2 The primary work of SAAMI is done by its Technical Committee in the setting of industry standards. Product standards for firearms and ammunition are developed by two Product Standards Task Forces, one for ammunition and one for firearms. Recommendations of the task forces are submitted for review by the entire Technical

Committee. Other key areas of expertise and standardization include pressure measurement muzzle loading, and working toward universal, internationally recognized standards by working with the Commission Internationale Permanente (CIP). In Europe, proof houses or testing facilities for firearms and ammunition, have set European standards since the 1800s. The CIP is an international association of proof houses. By working together, the CIP and SAAMI are working toward the development of international standards.



## **SAAMI Is An Accredited Standards Developer For The American National Standards Institute (ANSI)**

SAAMI is an accredited standards developer for the American National Standards Institute. As an accredited standards developer, SAAMI's standards for industry test methods, definitive proof loads, and ammunition performance specifications are subject to ANSI review and various ANSI criteria.

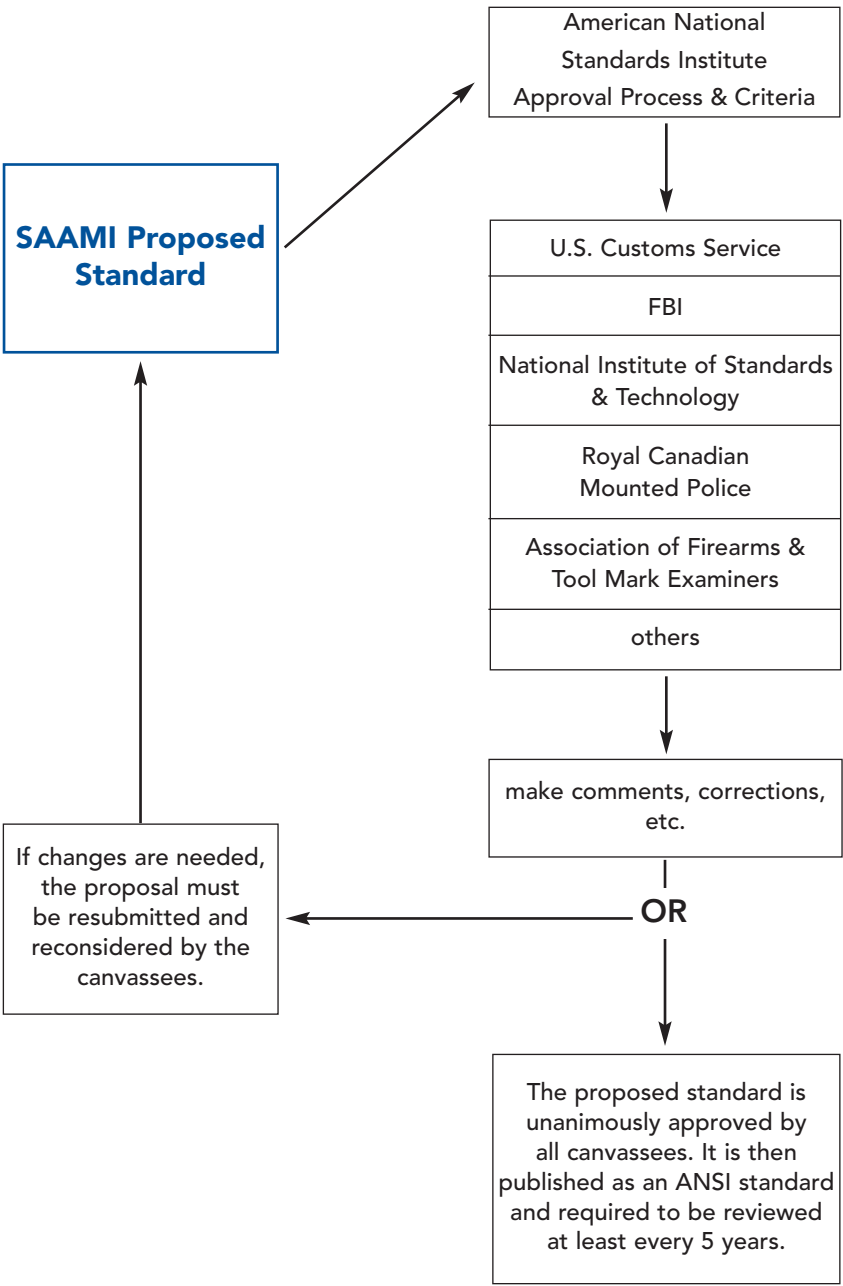
According to the American National Standards Institute, "Approval of an American National Standard requires verification by ANSI that the requirements for due process, consensus, and other criteria for approval have been met by the standards developer.

"Consensus is established when, in the judgment of the ANSI Board of Standards Review, substantial agreement has been reached by directly and materially affected interests. Substantial agreement means much more than a simple majority, but not necessarily unanimity. Consensus requires that all views and objections be considered, and that a concerted effort be made toward their resolution."

Standards are developed when the governing body, SAAMI, proposes a new standard and circulates the draft to canvasees. Canvasees for each standard include government agencies (such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Customs Service), non-SAAMI member companies, and interested parties (such as the National Institute of Standards and Technology). Once the draft standard has been reviewed and returned to SAAMI with comments or corrections, the canvass group votes on whether or not to accept the standard. If there is disagreement and a canvasee opposes the standard but the standard is accepted by the other members of the canvass group, there is an ANSI appeals process that decides the matter.

# SAAMI/ANSI Standard Process

4



It is ANSI and SAAMI policy that every five years the standards be revised or reaffirmed. Even if the standards remain the same, they must go through the approval process outlined above. Simply stated, the standards accepted by ANSI and promulgated by SAAMI are reviewed and accepted by outside experts, and every five years the validity of the standards are re-affirmed.

In 1996, SAAMI was audited by ANSI and received exemplary marks for technical expertise, professionalism, and competency. The audit concluded that, "SAAMI staff is competent and knowledgeable concerning the SAAMI standards process and ANSI requirements. The standards are processed in a professional manner."

Over the years, there have been attempts to put firearms and ammunition under the Consumer Safety Protection Act. Recognizing that firearms are not traditional "consumer products," Congress exempted the firearms and ammunition industries in 1976 saying, "The Consumer Product Safety Commission shall make no ruling or order that restricts the manufacture or sale of firearms, ammunition, including black powder or gun powder, for firearms." Congress was correct because numerous anti-gun advocates have since argued that the CSPA should be allowed to regulate firearms and ammunition in the name of safety. Numerous industries in addition to firearms and ammunition were exempted from the CSPA, including automobiles, boats, and aircraft. Congress has not wavered from its initial position.

Since 1926 SAAMI has been the principle organization in the United States actively engaged in the development and promulgation of product standards for firearms and ammunition.

The U.S. military, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and



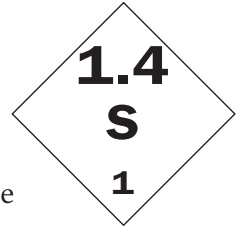
many other state and local agencies frequently require that their suppliers manufacture to SAAMI specifications. SAAMI is the only trade association whose member companies manufacture and set standards for high-performance law enforcement ammunition.

## SAAMI Proposes and Reviews International and Domestic Shipping Regulations

The SAAMI Logistics & Regulatory Affairs Committee (SLARAC) performs some of the most important functions of SAAMI.

SLARAC participates in reviewing and proposing both domestic and international regulations so that products offered by SAAMI members can be distributed economically and safely, without unreasonable restrictions, throughout the world. Working with the U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Treasury Department (Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms) on a domestic basis and internationally through the United Nations Sub-Committee of Experts on the Transportation of Dangerous Goods, SAAMI is intimately involved in the development of domestic and global standards for the safe transportation and distribution of products manufactured by SAAMI-member companies.

The Logistics and Regulatory Affairs Committee regularly offers its expertise to agencies on such important matters as the classification, labeling, placarding, and packaging of small arms ammunition. The Committee conducts tests in support of their views concerning the limited hazards associated with the storage and transportation of small arms ammunition and components. The harmonization of domestic and international regulations is a high priority and is an ongoing project.



One important product of the SLARAC Committee is a video, *Sporting Ammunition and the Firefighter*, which was produced by the Committee many years ago. The video analyzes the characteristics associated with small arms ammunition when it is subjected to severe impact and fire. When a primer ignites, it causes the propellant to burn which creates gases which, when under pressure in a firearm, send the bullet down the barrel. Pressure created by the propellant being burned is what discharges a bullet. As such, loose ammunition in a fire does not result in bullets being discharged because the propellant is not burning under pressure. The video, which has been widely circulated to fire departments, concludes that while ammunition produces a popping sound when it burns, there is no mass detonation of the ammunition, any projectiles are of low velocity, and there is no threat to firefighters in their standard turn-out gear.

## **The Environmental Committee Examines Environmental Issues Affecting the Shooting Sports By Analyzing and Collecting Data and Offering Policy Proposals to Regulatory Agencies and the Shooting Public.**

The Environmental Committee provides SAAMI members and the public with important information about the impact of shooting on the environment. Responding to concerns about lead and lead mobility at shooting ranges, SAAMI commissioned E.A. Engineering, Science and Technology, Inc. to prepare an exhaustive literature search on the issue. The committee has also helped develop range guidance recommendations for range owners so the shooting sports can be enjoyed in harmony with the environment.

**The following four books detail the many ANSI/SAAMI industry standards for the manufacture of firearms and ammunition.**

These books are the ANSI-approved standards referenced previously. Each book includes detailed specifications and technical drawings. To order, please contact SAAMI at the address on the back cover.

**Item #205** **Z.299.3 1993**  
**ANSI/SAAMI Centerfire Pistol & Revolver**  
\$30.00

**Item #206** **Z.299.4 1992**  
**ANSI/SAAMI Centerfire Rifle**  
\$35.00

**Item #208** **Z.299.1 1992**  
**ANSI/SAAMI Rimfire**  
\$20.00

**Item #209** **Z.299.2 1992**  
**ANSI/SAAMI Shotgun**  
\$25.00

**Item #207** **Z.299.5 1996**  
**ANSI/SAAMI Abusive Mishandling**  
This book lists recommendations for test procedures to evaluate new designs of rifles, shotguns and handguns. Test parameters simulate conditions where the firearm is subjected to abusive mishandling to demonstrate the ability of the firearm to withstand this abuse without discharging.  
\$5.00



## Membership

The Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute is an association of the nation's leading manufacturers of sporting firearms, ammunition and components. Founded in 1926 at the request of the federal government, SAAMI has been actively involved in the publication of industry standards, coordination of technical data, and the promotion of safe and responsible firearms use. SAAMI currently publishes more than 700 standards related to firearm and ammunition quality and safety. For a listing of SAAMI members, please write to:



SPORTING ARMS AND AMMUNITION MANUFACTURERS' INSTITUTE, INC.

11 Mile Hill Road  
Newtown, CT 06470

**For more information about ANSI, please write to:**

ANSI  
11 West 42nd St., 13th Floor  
New York, NY 10036  
212/642-4900