

Summary of Weapon Approvals, Specifications and Standards for Use

The definitions of “firearm”, “handgun” and “less lethal projectile” from the PSA Equipment and Use of Force Regulation would apply to the proposals in this document.

1. Firearms deployed with less lethal ammunition:

- a) The only less lethal projectile permitted for use in shotguns used by frontline members is a bean bag round in a “sock” configuration.
 - i. “Frontline member” means a member of a police service who is primarily assigned to perform policing functions on patrol or in response to calls for service and is not a member of a specialized team such as a tactical unit, public order unit, containment team or hostage rescue team.
- b) Extended range impact weapons of 37 mm or 40 mm calibre may be used by members of tactical teams, hostage rescue units, containment teams, and public order units, provided the following requirements are met:
 - i. The only ammunition used in the weapons is less lethal projectiles.
 - ii. Ammunition is factory loaded, unless the ammunition is loaded solely for training purposes.

2. Aerosol weapons:

- a) Aerosol weapons, the active ingredient of which is oleoresin capsicum (OC), may be used by a member of a police service if the following requirements are met:
 - i. the weapon must be a hand-held canister;
 - ii. the weapon may dispense a foam, gel or spray;
 - iii. the active ingredient is subject to a maximum Major Capsaicinoid (MC) percentage of 1.33 as measured by a High Performance Liquid Chromatograph (HPLC) test;
 - iv. there must be a legible serial number and expiry date on the weapon;
 - v. the weapon must be able to be continuously deployed from any angle or orientation;
 - vi. the weapon must be equipped with a safety device to prevent unintentional discharge;
 - vii. the propellant must be high pressure, non-flammable, non-ozone-depleting, chemically inert and toxicologically safe;
 - viii. the contents must not contain any carcinogenic ingredients, or probable carcinogens;
 - ix. weapon must be CEW-compatible (i.e., the contents will not be ignited by a CEW deployment); and
 - x. the contents must not be blended with tear gas (CS or CN).

- b) Despite the above requirements, an aerosol weapon, the active ingredient of which is oleoresin capsicum (OC), used by a member of a public order unit, tactical unit, hostage rescue team, or containment team does not need to meet the above requirements.

3. PepperBall System:

- a) A member of a tactical unit, hostage rescue team or public order unit may use the weapon known as the PepperBall.

4. Tear Gas:

- a) Only 2-Chlorobenzylidenemalononitrile (CS) may be used, and it may only be used by a member of a tactical unit, hostage rescue team or public order unit
 - i. For greater certainty, chloroacetophenone (CN) is not permitted.
- b) Tear gas may not be applied intentionally in concentrated form directly to a person.

5. Batons:

- a) A baton may be used if it meets the following requirements:
 - i. be of fixed length or expandable;
 - ii. be straight or handled;
 - iii. be rigid at all times, including when expanded; and
 - iv. have a minimum length (when expanded in the case of an expandable baton) of 16 inches.
- b) Despite the above requirement, a baton used by a member of a public order unit is not required to meet the above specifications.

6. Conducted Energy Weapons:

- a) A conducted energy weapon of the following type may be used:
 - i. TASER X26P
 - ii. TASER X2
 - iii. TASER 7
- b) A member of a police service shall not use a conducted energy weapon on a person unless the member reasonably believes that,
 - i. the person is,
 - a) without the consent of another person, applying force intentionally to that person, directly or indirectly, or
 - b) attempting or threatening, by an act or a gesture, to apply force to another person, if the person has, or causes that other person to believe on reasonable grounds that the person has, present ability to effect this purpose; or

- c) taking into account the totality of the circumstances, there is an imminent need for control of the person in order to,
 - i. arrest the person, or
 - ii. prevent the commission of an offence.