

# INDUSTRY WIDE LABOR-MANAGEMENT SAFETY COMMITTEE

## **SAFETY BULLETIN #2**

### **PROHIBITIONS AND SPECIAL RESTRICTIONS ON THE USE OF LIVE AMMUNITION**

***This Safety Bulletin shall only be used when live ammunition will be utilized and, in that circumstance, shall be used in concert with Safety Bulletin #1, Recommendations For The Use Of Firearms, Blanks, And Dummy Rounds.***

Live ammunition (“ammunition”) is prohibited from use in nearly every aspect of the entertainment industry. Some limited exceptions that would allow the USE of ammunition (for filming purposes) can include the following:

- a) a controlled and supervised environment, such as a shooting range, when used for the purposes of actor training, postproduction gunfire sound recording, a documentary (except reenactments), and firearms education;
- b) when ammunition is essential to the subject matter of the work, such as a competitive reality show involving firearms, a documentary (except dramatic reenactments), or a firearms-education and safety-training production; or
- c) while filming trained military or police fire their weapons in a controlled military or police facility.

When using ammunition, the Production will be subject to the rules and regulations in the applicable location and may need to consult with the Authority Having Jurisdiction (“AHJ”).

When ammunition is permitted to be used, it may be used only if the criteria and special conditions of this Safety Bulletin have been met; if the ammunition is used under the supervision of the Property Master, Assistant Property Master, or the Armorer (collectively, the “Property Master”); and if appropriate medical personnel is available.

The Property Master will be the individual acting in the interest of the Production for obtaining, maintaining, and handling all firearms and ammunition.

NOTE: Any prohibition or restriction on the PRESENCE of ammunition on a set does not apply in the following situations:

- i. Security personnel employed to provide security who carry a firearm in compliance with applicable laws and, at all times in the scope and course of that employment, are in possession and control of the firearm;
- ii. A peace officer (as defined under applicable laws) or a law enforcement officer who is authorized to carry a firearm in the course and scope of the officer's duties and, at all times in the scope and course of those duties, is in possession and control of the firearm; or
- iii. Commercial locations where live ammunition is customarily found in the absence of production (e.g., a gun store or ammunition factory/warehouse), provided that adequate storage and control measures are in place to prevent cast and crew from accessing the ammunition.

### Production Management and Property Master Responsibilities

Production Management, in conjunction with the Property Master, will ensure that the following standards are adhered to:

1. Key Production personnel (e.g., Director, Producer, Director of Photography, First Assistant Director, Special Effects Technician, Visual Effects Supervisor, and Property Master) have determined a situation exists in which there is no other, practical alternative but to use ammunition.
2. This special use of ammunition shall only be performed in a controlled and supervised environment (e.g., a military, police, or private gun range, or in an area deemed by the Property Master to be safe for this procedure).
3. Permission and/or a permit to use ammunition shall be obtained from the AHJ (e.g., sheriff, police, county, city, township, military base, or agency having authority to issue this type of permit) whenever it may be required.
4. The Production and/or Studio Safety Department, if applicable, shall be notified prior to the use of any ammunition. Additionally, the Production's insurance company should be notified of the intended use of ammunition.
5. Notification of the intended use of ammunition shall be made on that day's call sheet. If the call sheet is not available before the date the ammunition is to be used, advanced notice is to be given.
6. Before any use of a firearm and the loading of ammunition in a rehearsal and/or for an on-camera sequence, all persons involved shall be thoroughly briefed at an on-site safety meeting. See *Safety Bulletin No. 1, Recommendations For The Use Of Firearms, Blanks, and Dummy Rounds*.

## Storage and Organization

1. When firearms are being utilized with ammunition, the firearms will be distinctly labeled as such.
2. Firearms using ammunition shall never be co-mingled with any other firearms.
3. All ammunition shall be kept in the custody and control of the Property Master. The ammunition shall be stored in a manner to keep it safe and secure and in compliance with all applicable local, state, and federal regulations.
4. Ammunition will not be kept at the work location any longer than is necessary.
5. Ammunition shall be secured in a locked box. That box shall be clearly marked as containing ammunition.
6. Ammunition will be transported in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations.

## On-Site Safety Procedures

1. The safety meeting shall include an “on-site walk-through” and/or “dry-run” with the Property Master, Range Master (if applicable), and anyone who will be using and/or handling the firearms and/or ammunition. An understanding of the intended action, possible deviations, plans to abort, emergency procedures, and chain of command should be made clear. Any subsequent change to the foregoing will require an additional safety meeting.
2. Establish safe zones that protect cast and crew from any hazard associated with the discharge of a firearm, including possible ricochet and/or the ejection of hot shell casings. Particular attention shall be paid to the line of fire. Ensure all personnel are located in the safe zones, which typically are behind the firing line.
3. Prior to the firearm discharge, a rehearsal shall be held to ensure that all who will be present know their designated locations and the safe zones that have been identified. Upon completion of the rehearsal, a formal announcement shall be made to all those present that ammunition will be fired.
4. Cast and crew members shall be limited to those members required to capture the effect. No minor(s) may be present when the ammunition is being fired.
5. While at a shooting facility (e.g., gun range, military base), the Range Master shall have overall control and final authority over the shooting facility and every person present, including all members of the Production cast and crew.

6. All safety procedures and requirements shall be strictly followed. There shall be no deviation from the intended sequence without the permission of the Property Master or Range Master (depending on who is in charge at the specific location).

## Training

In conjunction with the use of ammunition, all personnel must be familiar with, and trained in, the safe use of firearms. Follow the training requirements as outlined in *Safety Bulletin No. 1, Recommendations For The Use Of Firearms, Blanks, and Dummy Rounds*.

The use of ammunition for the purposes of cast training shall only be allowed with the approval of Production Management, which could consult with the Studio Safety Department, the Risk Management/Insurance Department, consultants, and the Production's insurance brokers and carriers. This training should only be conducted at a shooting facility approved by Production Management and under the direction and control of a qualified Property Master and/or Range Master.

## GLOSSARY

**AMMUNITION a.k.a. LIVE AMMUNITION:** One or more loaded cartridges consisting of a primed case, propellant, and containing one or more projectiles.

For the purpose of this Safety Bulletin, ammunition does not include:

- a) blank rounds and dummy rounds;
- b) projectiles (regardless of the material or manufacturer) that are intended solely to create bullet-hit type special effects, such as projectiles fired from Air Rifles, Air Pistols, Air and/or Gas-operated Capsule Guns, Paintball Guns, Blow Guns, Squib-fired Trunnion Guns, Crossbows or Crossbow-type devices, Slingshots, or any other special-effects device designed to propel a projectile and create a bullet-hit type special effect; and
- c) any propelled projectile required to be photographed in flight. See Safety Bulletin No. 30, *Recommended Guidelines for Safely Working with Edged, Piercing, and Projectile Props*.

All such non-ammunition projectiles are to be supervised and operated under the direction of the licensed Special Effects Technician in charge.

**PROPERTY MASTER:** This is the member of the cast and crew responsible for acquiring appropriate props, organizing them, and overseeing the usage of props on set. Firearms are considered props in the film industry and are the responsibility of the Property Master or someone designated by the Property Master (i.e., the Armorer). The Property Master must maintain all necessary, firearms/ammunition/blanks-related licenses, permits, and documentation for the jurisdiction in which work is being performed.

**RANGE MASTER:** A person who oversees the safe discharge of firearms at a shooting facility.