

## **CATEGORIES OF FIREARMS AND AMMUNITION**

### **Classification of firearms and ammunition**

- (1) For the purpose of the Firearms Act, weapons and ammunition are classified as follows:
  - (a) Prohibited firearms, prohibited ammunition or prohibited accessories – Category A,
  - (b) Firearms subject to authorization - Category B,
  - (c) Firearms subject to declaration - Category C, and
  - (d) Other firearms - Category D,
  - (e) Non-prohibited ammunition for the firearms included in Categories A through D (“ammunition”).
- (2) References to Category A through D firearms and ammunition refer also to the essential components which form or should form an integral part of such firearms and ammunition.
- (3) Any doubts about the classification of firearms or ammunition in terms of the above categories must be referred to the Czech Proof House for Firearms and Ammunition for resolution.

### **Category A**

Category A includes the following:

- (a) Firearms
  1. Military firearms including launchers, with the exception of rifles, pistols and revolvers proofed for civilian use in cases where proofing is required by special legislation,
  2. Automatic firearms,
  3. Firearms manufactured or adapted in a way that makes it possible to conceal their real purpose; firearms whose original character and appearance are adapted in a way that makes it possible to use them to more damaging effect; and firearms disguised as other objects (stealth weapons),
  4. Firearms (*“palné zbraně”*, for definition see *“Types of Firearms”*) not made of metal, unless they are identifiable as weapons by metal detector and X-ray screening devices during checks on persons and luggage,
  5. Gas-operated firearms and blank-firing firearms, unless type-approved,
  6. Booby-trap firing devices, and
  7. Firearms with any integrated sound suppressors and/or integrated laser sights;
- (b) Ammunition
  1. Ammunition with penetrating, explosive or incendiary projectiles,
  2. Ammunition for short bullet-firing firearms with hollow-point projectiles and projectiles designed to enhance the injury effect,
  3. Non-type-approved ammunition, and
  4. Munitions and ordnance;
- (c) Firearm accessories
  1. Sound suppressors,
  2. Firearm sights designed using the principles of the night vision technology, and
  3. Laser sights.

### **Category B**

Category B includes the following:

- (a) Repeating and semi-automatic short firearms,
- (b) Single-shot and multi-shot short firearms with centre-fire percussion,
- (c) Single-shot and multi-shot firearms with rimfire percussion, whose overall length is less than 280 millimetres,
- (d) Semi-automatic long firearms whose magazine and chamber can together hold more than three rounds,
- (e) Semi-automatic long firearms whose magazine and chamber cannot together hold more than three rounds, where the loading device is removable and/or where it is not certain that the weapon cannot be converted, with ordinary tools, into a weapon whose magazine and chamber can together hold more than three rounds,
- (f) Repeating and semi-automatic long firearms with smooth-bore barrels not exceeding 600 millimetres in length,
- (g) Semi-automatic firearms which resemble weapons with automatic mechanisms, and
- (h) Signal firearms for signal cartridges of more than 16 millimetre calibre.

### **Category C**

Category C includes the following:

- (a) Single-shot and multi-shot firearms with rimfire percussion, whose overall length is 280 millimetres or more,
- (b) Single-shot and multi-shot, repeating and semi-automatic long firearms not listed in Category B (d) through (f),
- (c) Gas-operated firearms where the projectile, on being discharged from the muzzle, has a kinetic energy exceeding 16 joules, with the exception of paintball firearms, and
- (d) Firearms with more than double-shot capacity and repeating firearms designed using the principles of the percussion ignition system.

### **Category D**

Category D includes the following:

- (a) Antique firearms;
- (b) Single-shot and double-shot firearms designed using the principles of matchlock, wheellock, flintlock and percussion cap systems;
- (c) Firearms (*“palné zbraně”*, for definition see *“Types of Firearms”*) designed to fire Flobert cartridges where the projectile, on being discharged from the muzzle, has a kinetic energy not exceeding 7.5 joules;
- (d) Gas-operated firearms designed to fire air cartridges,
- (e) Gas-operated firearms where the projectile, on being discharged from the muzzle, has a kinetic energy of no more than 16 joules,
- (f) Blank-firing firearms and blank-firing devices,
- (g) Mechanical projectile weapons where the stretching power exceeds 150 newtons,
- (h) Deactivated firearms rendered irreversibly inoperable,
- (i) Firearms with parts cut away to expose at least partly the internal construction of the firearm,

- (j) Inert ammunition, including inert ordnance, and
- (k) Firearms and ammunition not listed in Categories A through C.

### TYPES OF FIREARMS

1. **Firearm** (“*střelná zbraň*”) – any weapon the action of which is based on the effect of a sudden release of energy upon firing, designed to achieve the required effect at a specific distance.
2. **Firearm** (“*palná zbraň*”) – any firearm the action of which is based on the effect of a sudden release of chemical energy.
3. **Gas-operated firearm** (“*plynová zbraň*”) – any firearm the action of which is based on the effect of a sudden release of compressed air or other gas.
4. **Mechanical projectile weapon** (“*mechanická zbraň*”) – any weapon the action of which is based on the effect of a sudden release of stored mechanical energy.
5. **Blank-firing firearm** (“*expanzní zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) not designed to fire bullets and multiple projectile ammunition.
6. **Blank-firing device** (“*expanzní přístroj*”) – any device where the primary source of energy is the explosive substance contained in blank ammunition.
7. **Bullet-firing firearm** (“*kulová zbraň*”) – any barrelled firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) designed to fire bullet cartridges or projectiles and/or special cartridges or projectiles designed to be fired from bullet-firing firearm.
8. **Shot-firing firearm** (“*broková zbraň*”) – any barrelled firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) designed to fire shot projectiles and/or special cartridges designed to be fired from a shot-firing firearm.
9. **Combination firearm** (“*kombinovaná zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) with a barrel(s) designed to fire bullet cartridges or projectiles and/or special cartridges or projectiles designed to be fired from bullet-firing firearm, and with a barrel(s) designed to fire shot projectiles and/or special cartridges designed to be fired from a shot-firing firearm.
10. **Short firearm** (“*krátká zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) with a barrel not exceeding 300 mm or whose overall length does not exceed 600 mm.
11. **Long firearm** (“*dlouhá zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) other than short firearms.
12. **Automatic firearm** (“*samočinná zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) which reloads automatically each time a round is fired and can fire more than one round with one pull on the trigger.
13. **Semi-automatic firearm** (“*samonabíjecí zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) which reloads automatically each time a round is fired and can fire only one round with one pull on the trigger.
14. **Repeating firearm** (“*opakovací zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) with a magazine or a similar feeding device which, after a round has been fired, is designed to be reloaded by manually operating the bolt or rotating the cylinder.
15. **Single-shot firearm** (“*jednoranová zbraň*”) – any firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) with no magazine or other feeding device which is loaded before each shot by the manual insertion of a round into the chamber, barrel or loading recess at the breech of the barrel.
16. **Multiple-shot firearm** (“*víceranová zbraň*”) – any double- or multiple-barrelled firearm (“*palná zbraň, see definition above*”) with no magazine or other feeding device which is reloaded by the manual insertion of rounds into chambers, barrels or loading recesses at the breech of each barrel.

17. **Military firearm** (*“vojenská zbraň”*) – any firearm designed to be used in naval, air or land warfare.
18. **Sporting firearm** (*“sportovní zbraň”*) – any firearm designed to conform to the technical standards required for national and international shooting competitions.
19. **Hunting firearm** (*“lovecká zbraň”*) – any firearm designed to be used for shooting game animals in accordance with hunting legislation.
20. **Paintball firearm** (*“paintbalová zbraň”*) – a gas-operated firearm designed to fire projectiles containing coloured liquid.
21. **Signal firearm** (*“signální zbraň”*) – a single-purpose device designed, using the principles of either short or long firearms, to fire signal cartridges of more than 16 mm calibre.
22. **Historical weapon** (*“historická zbraň”*) – a firearm manufactured before or on 31 December 1890, provided that all essential components of such firearm were manufactured before or on 31 December 1890.
23. **Essential components of a firearm** (*“hlavní části střelné zbraně”*) – barrel, barrel adapter, chamber adapter, frame, cylinder, breech casing or body and slide.
24. **Deactivated firearm** (*“znehodnocená zbraň”*) – a firearm rendered inoperable in accordance with procedures prescribed by the applicable legislation.
25. **Cutaway firearm** (*“řez zbraně”*) – a firearm adapted in accordance with procedures prescribed by the applicable legislation to expose at least partly the internal construction of the firearm.
26. **Launcher** (*“odpalovací zařízení”*) – a device designed to launch projectiles powered by a reactive propulsion system or reactive material-enhanced ammunition, such as anti-armour rifles and anti-armour rocket launchers, multiple rocket launchers, land, air and vessel-mounted launchers, and launchers for special projectiles.

#### TYPES OF AMMUNITION

1. **Ammunition** (*“střelivo”*) – a general term referring to cartridges, blanks and projectiles for firearms.
2. **Reloaded ammunition** (*“střelivo přebíjené”*) – ammunition manufactured using previously fired cartridge cases.
3. **Proof ammunition** (*“střelivo zkušební”*) – ammunition designed to be used for firearm proof tests in accordance with special legislation.
4. **Munitions and ordnance** (*“munice”*) – a general term referring to hand-thrown grenades and other grenades and shells, ammunition for anti-armour rifles and anti-armour rocket launchers, artillery ammunition, bombs, torpedoes, guided and unguided missiles, cluster munitions, explosive boosters, mines, pyro-shells, launched decoys, explosive devices used for battlefield deception, screening and obscuring, signalling and illuminating devices, booby traps including their remote control devices. The term refers also to essential parts of munitions and ordnance including artillery projectiles and propellants, detonators, fuzes, and initiators.
5. **Inert ammunition, munitions and ordnance** (*“neaktivní střelivo a munice”*) – ammunition, munitions and ordnance not containing explosives or other energetic material. The term refers to dismantled, deactivated, cutaway and dummy ammunition, munitions and ordnance.
6. **Projectile** (*“střela”*) – an object discharged from a firearm and designed to hit a target or to achieve another effect.
7. **Compact projectile** (*“jednotná střela”*) – an object that does not separate into multiple parts upon exit from the barrel, designed to hit a target or to achieve another effect.

8. **Multiple projectile ammunition** (*“hromadná střela”*) – an object or substance in solid, liquid or gaseous state that separates into multiple parts upon exit from the barrel, designed to hit a target or to achieve another effect.
9. **Armour-piercing projectile** (*“průbojná střela”*) – a compact projectile made of material with Brinell hardness of more than 250, or a projectile loaded into ammunition that has armour-piercing properties on account of its design or on account of its impact energy; as a rule, the armour-piercing projectiles loaded into such ammunition are combined-effects projectiles designed for military or special use.
10. **Explosive projectile** (*“výbušná střela”*) – a composite jacketed projectile containing explosive filling that explodes on impact.
11. **Incendiary projectile** (*“zápalná střela”*) – a composite jacketed projectile containing incendiary filling that ignites on exposure to air or on impact.
12. **Hollow-point projectile** (*“šoková střela”*) – a compact projectile with a truncated cone-shaped point that has a cylindrical cavity hollowed out in the tip; the lead core is shaped like truncated cone and projects into the cavity; the jacket is scored lengthwise.
13. **Cartridge** (*“náboj”*) – a composite whole designed to be loaded into a firearm (*“palná zbraň, see definition above*), signal firearm or special firearm, consisting of a cartridge case, primer or priming mixture, propellant and projectile.
14. **Blank** (*“nábojka”*) – a composite whole designed to be loaded into a blank-firing firearm, blank-firing device or special firearm; it consists of a cartridge case and primer or priming mixture, and may contain propellant, propellant granules, or irritant chemicals.
15. **Deactivated ammunition, munitions and ordnance** (*“znehodnocené střelivo a munice”*) – ammunition, munitions and ordnance rendered irreversibly unfit for the originally intended use. Deactivated ammunition, munitions and ordnance must be marked in accordance with special legislation.
16. **Cutaway ammunition, munitions and ordnance** (*“řez střeliva a munice”*) – ammunition, munitions and ordnance manufactured for the purposes of armed forces instruction and training; it does not contain explosives or other energetic material and is adapted to expose at least partly its internal construction including substitute (inert) fillings. Cutaway ammunition, munitions and ordnance must be marked in accordance with special legislation.
17. **Dismantled ammunition, munitions and ordnance** (*“delaborované střelivo a munice”*) – ammunition, munitions and ordnance not containing explosives and other energetic material, not marked in accordance with special legislation.
18. **Dummy ammunition, munitions and ordnance** (*“maketa střeliva a munice”*) – ammunition, munitions and ordnance of the same shape and size as the original, but not containing explosives or other energetic material. Dummy ammunition, munitions and ordnance may be made of substitute (inert) material and may contain substitute (inert) fillings. The term refers to civil as well as military training ammunition and to munitions and ordnance designed for the purposes of instruction and training.
19. **Unexploded ordnance** (*“nevybuchlá munice”*) – a general term referring to ordnance that was prepared for use or was used (e.g. fired, dropped, scattered, detonated, thrown or propelled) but did not explode e.g. because the initiator mechanism failed and/or because the ordnance was designed to be triggered in some other initiating action (e.g. by the pressure of a person’s foot).
20. **Training cartridge** (*“cvičný náboj”*) – a cartridge designed to imitate the sound and light effects of live fire.

*Translator's note: This translation respects, where possible, the language of the EU Firearms Directive. Unfortunately, in contrast to the EU acquis, Czech legislation singles out the group of firearms powered by chemical energy ("palná zbraň", DE "Feuerwaffe") as opposed to other types of firearms ("střelná zbraň", DE "Schusswaffe"). The EU acquis (just like, for example, the UK Firearms Act 1968) does not explicitly recognize this dichotomy and does not reflect it in its language. For this reason, to avoid possible confusion, the term "firearm" is used throughout the translated text and references to the definition of "palná zbraň" are inserted whenever the text refers to this type of weapons. To further assist the user, the Czech terms for each type or weapon or ammunition are left in place (in italics) in the "Types of Firearms" section.*

*Poznámka překladatele: K překladu byla pokud možno využívána unijní legislativa, která je ostatně do citovaného zákona transponována - především Směrnice Rady ze dne 18. června 1991 o kontrole nabývání a držení zbraní (91/477/EHS). Bohužel, narozdíl od citovaného českého zákona, anglické znění těchto předpisů nepracuje s dichotomií pojmů "střelná zbraň" a "palná zbraň" ("Schusswaffe" vs "Feuerwaffe"). Tuto dichotomii nezná ani britský zákon o střelných zbraních (Firearms Act 1968). Proto musely být do překladu vloženy odkazy na definici "palné zbraně" všude tam, kde český předpis hovoří o "palné zbraně", což je zřejmě nejvhodnější způsob, jak uživatele na tento rozdíl upozornit. Pro větší pohodlí uživatelů byly v definicích ve druhé části materiálu ponechány i české názvy jednotlivých typů zbraní a munice (v definicích vyznačeno kurzívou).*