

THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR SOCIETY LTD

GUIDELINES FOR BLACK POWDER AT REGIMENTAL EVENTS

Thinking of organising a small scale regimental show or recruiting event that involves the use of Blackpowder? Then the following guidelines may help to keep you within the law!

The Blackpowder for distribution at a regimental show must be under the control of a Category 2 Appointed Officer. If an Appointed Officer is not available, the Society's Explosive Officer will nominate, where possible, someone with the appropriate licences to act as Cat 2 Officer for the duration of the event. The appropriate licences are:-

- a) A current Acquire & Keep licence (COER) to cover the amount of Blackpowder being used at the event.
- b) A current RCA certificate (i.e. Transport Document).

DUTIES OF A CATEGORY 2 APPOINTED OFFICER AT A REGIMENTAL SHOW

1) Must inform the **Local Firearms Department** of where and when the event is taking place.

N.B. It is not sufficient to inform the local Bobby. It must be the Firearms Department!

2) Must inform the Local Firearms Department that: either: a) The Blackpowder is being brought in on the day for immediate distribution, or b) there will be overnight storage. See additional notes.

If the Cat 2 Officer holds a COER licence issued by another police force, he may require an additional COER issued locally to cover the duration of the event. Some Police Forces require this; but not all.

Please be aware, a new COER, depending on the police force, can take between 2 – 10 weeks to process!

3) Must keep detailed records of the distribution of Blackpowder and subsequent returns (if any).

NOTES:

- a) An ordinary Acquire & Keep licence holder has powder for his own personal use. He is not allowed to supply Acquire Only licences holders with Blackpowder! This is the responsibility of the Category 2 Appointed Officer.
- b) Blackpowder can be stored at a re-enactment over a period of 48 hrs (two nights) without an additional storage licence provided the custodian of the powder has an appropriate COER Acquire & Keep licence.
- c) Up to 30 Kg of Blackpowder can be stored in HSE approved compartmentalised wooden storage boxes without incurring a separation distance around the place of storage. The custodian of the Blackpowder must have an appropriate COER to cover the amount stored.

Having met the above criteria, the ACWS Board of Directors will, for a nominal sum, cover the event with the Society's insurance. This must be arranged with the Projects Officer.

Finally, make sure that the use of all Blackpowder, which has originated from ACWS stocks, has been authorised by the Explosives Officer. Otherwise, Buy your own!

Mike Corbishley/Lee Fairlee. Explosives Officers, ACWS. 2008

The information contained in this document replaces all previous 'Guidelines for Regimental

Shows' issued by ACWS.

ADDENDUM

Category 1. Category 2, Category 3, are terms used by the HSE in their document 'Acquisition and use of explosives by historical societies'.

Category 1 member is usually a rank & file soldier who, when using Blackpowder is under the supervision of the Category 2 member or Appointed Officer. He controls and records the distribution of Blackpowder within his regiment.

Category 3 member or Explosives Officers are the people 'who arrange for the purchase and subsequent safe keeping of Blackpowder, and ensure that all records are properly kept'.

SIMPLE GUIDE TO COMPLY WITH POWDER REGULATIONS FOR A SMALL EVENT.

- a) USE A NOMINATED CATEGORY 2 OFFICER FROM THE LOCAL AREA, IF POSSIBLE.
- b) BRING THE POWDER IN ON THE DAY FOR IMMEDIATE USE
- c) INFORM THE LOCAL FIREARMS DEPARTMENT OF THE EVENT. IF IN DOUBT ON ANY MATTER, ASK FOR THEIR ADVICE.