

In December 2004 the Liberal government introduced the new regulations on Firearms Marking to comply with the UN *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms*. Although delayed many times, we understand that this law will come into effect December 2, 2007.

The intention of this regulations is to put "CA-07" on the frame or receiver of all newly imported firearms, and although it doesn't sound like much, this law could have serious, unintended consequences, and potentially the end for much of the Canadian firearms industry

Canada represents a very small percentage (about 4%) of the world market for firearms. The world's manufacturers have indicated that they will refuse to comply and Canadian importers will have put the mark on themselves.

The only practical method of doing so is by computerized laser engraving which the versatility to engrave the many different firearms materials like steel, aluminium, alloys and polymers. These units are very expensive, costing into the hundreds of thousands of dollars.

The process is also time consuming requiring that each firearm be removed from inventory, removed from its packaging, cleaned, placed into a type specific fixture, engraved, re-greased, repackaged, and then returned to inventory.

All this cost can only be absorbed one way, it must be passed along to the consumer and **the cost of a new firearm in Canada will skyrocket, perhaps as much as \$200 per gun**. The sales of new firearms in Canada will drastically drop and our importers, distributors and retailers, already impacted by the Firearms Act, my very well go out of business for the last time.

Because the laser burns through the firearm's finish these marked firearms will experience chronic rust problems. Marking the guns this way will certainly invalidate the warranty and repair costs will also fall upon the Canadian industry. There may even be serious metallurgical issues caused by the application of that much heat to certain materials.

Canada is the **only country** to require these special markings as all the others have either refused to comply or have accepted the current manufacturers markings as sufficient for tracing purposes. Marking firearms in this way will have no demonstrable impact on public safety. The firearms community need to contact the Federal government and reinforce the fact that this unnecessary marking system will have devastating effects on industry, and impact hunters and consequently their contributions to conservation and wildlife management. It only takes a few minutes to send your comments – don't sit back and expect the other guy will do it. You know what happened the last time!

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