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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/2403**

**of 15 December 2015**

**establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered irreversibly inoperable**

**(Text with EEA relevance)**

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**COMMISSION IMPLEMENTING REGULATION (EU) 2015/2403  
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**establishing common guidelines on deactivation standards and  
techniques for ensuring that deactivated firearms are rendered  
irreversibly inoperable**

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*Article 1*

**Scope**

1. This Regulation shall apply to firearms of categories A, B, C or D as defined in Annex I to Directive 91/477/EEC.
2. This Regulation shall not apply to firearms deactivated prior to the date of its application, unless those firearms are transferred to another Member State or placed on the market.

*Article 2*

**Persons and entities authorised to deactivate firearms**

Deactivation of firearms shall be carried out by public or private entities or by individuals authorised to do so in accordance with national legislation.

*Article 3*

**Verification and certification of deactivation of firearms**

1. Member States shall designate a competent authority to verify that the deactivation of the firearm has been carried out in accordance with the technical specifications set out in Annex I ('the verifying entity').
2. Where the verifying entity is also authorised to deactivate firearms, Member States shall ensure a clear separation of those tasks and of the persons carrying them out within that entity.
3. The Commission shall publish on its website a list of the verifying entities designated by Member States, including detailed information on and the symbol of the verifying entity as well as contact information.
4. Where the deactivation of the firearm has been carried out in accordance with the technical specifications set out in Annex I, the verifying entity shall issue to the owner of the firearm a deactivation certificate in accordance with the template set out in Annex III. All information included in the deactivation certificate shall be provided both in the language of the Member State where the deactivation certificate is issued as well as in English.

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5. The owner of a deactivated firearm shall retain the deactivation certificate at all times. If the deactivated firearm is placed on the market, it shall be accompanied by the deactivation certificate.

6. Member States shall ensure that a record is kept of the certificates issued for deactivated firearms, with an indication of the date of deactivation and the certificate number, for a period of at least 20 years.

*Article 4***Requests for assistance**

Any Member State may request the assistance of the entities authorised to deactivate firearms or designated as verifying entities by another Member State in order to carry out or verify the deactivation of a firearm, respectively. Subject to acceptance of the request, where such request concerns the verification of the deactivation of a firearm, the verifying entity providing assistance shall issue a deactivation certificate in accordance with Article 3(4).

*Article 5***Marking of deactivated firearms**

Deactivated firearms shall be marked with a common unique marking in accordance with the template set out in Annex II to indicate that they have been deactivated in accordance with the technical specifications set out in Annex I. The marking shall be affixed by the verifying entity to all components modified for the deactivation of the firearm and shall fulfil the following criteria:

- (a) it is clearly visible and irremovable;
- (b) it bears information on the Member State where the deactivation has been carried out and the verifying entity that certified the deactivation;
- (c) the original serial number(s) of the firearm are maintained.

*Article 6***Additional deactivation measures**

1. Member States may introduce additional measures to deactivate firearms in their territory going beyond the technical specifications set out in Annex I.

2. The Commission shall regularly analyse with the Committee established by Directive 91/477/EEC any additional measure taken by the Member States and shall consider revising the technical specifications set out in Annex I in due time.

*Article 7***Transfer of deactivated firearms within the Union**

1. Deactivated firearms may only be transferred to another Member State provided they bear the common unique marking and are accompanied by a deactivation certificate in accordance with this Regulation.

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2. Member States shall recognise the deactivation certificates issued by another Member State if the certificate fulfils the requirements set out in this Regulation. However, Member States which have introduced additional measures in accordance with Article 6 may require proof that the deactivated firearm to be transferred to their territory complies with those additional measures.

*Article 8***Notification requirements**

Member States shall notify to the Commission any measures they adopt in the field covered by this Regulation as well as any additional measure introduced in accordance with Article 6. For that purpose, Member States shall apply the notification procedures laid down in Directive (EU) 2015/1535.

*Article 9***Entry into force**

This Regulation shall enter into force on the twentieth day following that of its publication in the *Official Journal of the European Union*.

It shall apply from 8 April 2016.

This Regulation shall be binding in its entirety and directly applicable in all Member States.



## ANNEX I

**Technical specifications for the deactivation of firearms**

- I. The deactivation operations to be performed in order to render firearms irreversibly inoperable are defined on the basis of three tables:
- Table I lists the different types of firearms,
  - Table II describes the operations to be performed to render each essential component of firearms irreversibly inoperable,
  - Table III sets out which deactivation operations are to be performed for the various types of firearm.
- II. To take into account technical developments of firearms and deactivation operations over time, these technical specifications will be reviewed and updated on a regular basis, at the latest every 2 years.
- III. In order to ensure a correct and uniform application of the deactivation operations of firearms, the Commission will elaborate definitions in cooperation with the Member States.

**TAB I: List of types of firearms**

TYPES OF FIREARMS	
1	Pistols (single shot, semi-automatic)
2	Revolvers (including cylinder loading revolvers)
3	Single-shot long firearms (not break action)
4	Break action firearms (e.g. smoothbore, rifled, combination, falling/rolling block action, short and long firearms)
5	Repeating long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)
6	Semi-automatic long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)
7	(Full) automatic firearms: e.g. selected assault rifles, (sub) machine guns, (full) automatic pistols
8	Muzzle loading firearms

**TAB II: Specific operations per component**

COMPONENT	PROCESS
1. BARREL	1.1. If the barrel is fixed to the frame <sup>(1)</sup> , pin the barrel to action with a hardened steel pin (diameter > 50 % chamber, minimum 4,5 mm) through the chamber and frame. The pin must be welded <sup>(2)</sup> .
	1.2. If the barrel is free (not fixed), cut a longitudinal slot through the full length of the chamber wall (width > $\frac{1}{2}$ calibre and maximum 8 mm) and securely weld a plug or a rod into the barrel from the start of the chamber ( $L \geq \frac{2}{3}$ rd barrel length).

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COMPONENT	PROCESS
	<p>1.3. Within the first third of the barrel from the chamber, either drill holes (must have a minimum of 2/3rds of the diameter of the bore for smoothbore arms and the whole diameter of the bore for all other arms; one behind the other, 3 for short arms, 6 for long arms) or cut, after the chamber, a V slot (angle <math>60 \pm 5^\circ</math>) opening locally the barrel or cut, after the chamber, a longitudinal slot (width 8-10 mm <math>\pm</math> 0,5 mm, length <math>\geq</math> 52 mm) at the same position as the holes, or cut a longitudinal slot (width 4-6 mm <math>\pm</math> 0,5 mm from the chamber to the muzzle, except 5 mm at the muzzle).</p> <p>1.4. For barrels with a feed ramp, remove the feed ramp.</p> <p>1.5. Prevent removal of the barrel from the frame by use of hardened steel pin or by welding.</p>
2. BREECH BLOCK, BOLT HEAD	<p>2.1. Remove or shorten firing pin.</p> <p>2.2. Machine the bolt face with an angle of at least 45 degrees and on a surface larger than 50 % of the breech face.</p> <p>2.3. Weld the firing pin hole.</p>
3. CYLINDER	<p>3.1. Remove all internal walls from cylinder for a minimum of 2/3rd of its length by machining a circular ring <math>&gt;</math> = case diameter.</p> <p>3.2. Where possible, weld to prevent the removal of the cylinder from the frame, or if impossible, use appropriate measures that render the removal impossible.</p>
4. SLIDE	<p>4.1. Machine or remove more than 50 % of the breech face with an angle between 45 and 90 degrees.</p> <p>4.2. Remove or shorten the firing pin.</p> <p>4.3. Machine and weld the firing pin hole.</p> <p>4.4. Machine away locking lugs in slide.</p> <p>4.5. Where applicable, machine the inside of the upper forward edge of the ejection port in the slide to an angle of 45 degrees.</p>
5. FRAME (PISTOLS)	<p>5.1. Remove feed ramp.</p> <p>5.2. Machine away at least 2/3 of the slide rails on both sides of the frame.</p> <p>5.3. Weld the slide stop.</p> <p>5.4. Prevent disassembly of polymer frame pistols by welding. According to the national laws, this process can be performed after the checking of the National Authority.</p>
6. AUTOMATIC SYSTEM	<p>6.1. Destroy the piston and the gas system by cutting or welding.</p> <p>6.2. Remove the breech block, replace it by a steel piece and weld it or reduce the breech block by 50 % minimum, weld it and cut off locking lugs from the bolt head.</p>

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COMPONENT	PROCESS
	<p>6.3. Weld the trigger mechanism together and, if possible, with the frame. If welding within the frame is not possible: remove the firing mechanism and fill the empty space appropriately (e.g. by gluing in a fitting piece of filling with epoxy resin).</p> <p>6.4. Prevent the disassembly of the closing system of the handle at the frame by welding or use appropriate measures that render the removal impossible. Securely weld the feed mechanism of belt fed weapons.</p>
7. ACTION	<p>7.1. Machine a cone of 60 degrees minimum (apex angle), in order to obtain a base diameter equal to 1 cm at least or the diameter of the breech face.</p> <p>7.2. Remove the firing pin, enlarge the firing pin hole at a minimum diameter of 5 mm and weld the firing pin hole.</p>
8. MAGAZINE (where applicable)	<p>8.1. Weld the magazine with spots on the frame or the handle, depending on type of arm to prevent removing the magazine.</p> <p>8.2. If the magazine is missing, place spots of weld in the magazine location or fix a lock to permanently prevent the insertion of a magazine.</p> <p>8.3. Drive hardened steel pin through magazine, chamber and frame. Secure by weld.</p>
9. MUZZLE LOADING	9.1. Remove or weld the nipple(s), weld the hole(s).
10. SOUND MODERATOR	<p>10.1. Prevent removal of the sound moderator from the barrel by use of hardened steel pin or weld if the sound moderator is part of the weapon.</p> <p>10.2. Remove all the inner parts and their attachment points of the moderator so that only a tube remains. Drill holes each 5 cm in the exterior remaining tube.</p>
Hardness of inserts	Hardness pin/plug/rod = 58 -0; + 6 HRC TIG welding stainless steel type ER 316 L

(1) Barrel fixed to the frame by screwing or clamping or by another process.

(2) Welding is a fabrication or sculptural process that joins materials, usually metals or thermoplastics, by causing fusion.

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TAB III: Specific operations per essential components of each type of firearm

TYPE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROCESS	Pistols (excepted automatic)	Revolvers	Single-shot long firearms (not break action)	Break action firearms (smoothbore, rifled, combination)	Repeating long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)	Semi-automatic long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)	Automatic firearms: assault rifles, (sub) machine guns	Muzzle loading firearms
1.1			X		X	X	X	
1.2 and 1.3	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
1.4	X					X	X	
1.5		X						
2.1			X		X	X	X	
2.2			X		X	X	X	
2.3			X		X	X	X	
3.1		X						
3.2		X						
4.1	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
4.2	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
4.3	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
4.4	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
4.5	X					X	X (for automatic pistols)	
5.1	X						X (for automatic pistols)	



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TYPE	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
PROCESS	Pistols (excepted automatic)	Revolvers	Single-shot long firearms (not break action)	Break action firearms (smoothbore, rifled, combination)	Repeating long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)	Semi-automatic long firearms (smoothbore, rifled)	Automatic firearms: assault rifles, (sub) machine guns	Muzzle loading firearms
5.2	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
5.3	X						X (for automatic pistols)	
5.4	X (polymer frame)						X (for automatic pistols)	
6.1						X	X	
6.2						X	X	
6.3							X	
6.4							X	
7.1				X				
7.2		X		X				
8.1 or 8.2	X				X	X	X	
8.3					X (magazine tube)	X (magazine tube)		
9.1		X						X
10.1	X		X		X	X	X	
10.2	X		X	X	X	X	X	

**▼B***ANNEX II***Template for marking of deactivated firearms****EU<sup>1)</sup> aa<sup>2)</sup> bb<sup>3)</sup> cc<sup>4)</sup>**

- 1) Deactivation mark
- 2) Country of deactivation — official international code
- 3) Symbol of the entity that certified the deactivation of the firearm
- 4) Deactivation year

The full mark will be affixed only on the frame of the firearm, while the deactivation mark (1) and the country of deactivation (2) will be affixed on all other essential components.



## ANNEX III

**Model certificate for deactivated firearms**

*(this certificate should be prepared on non-falsifiable paper)*

EU Logo

Name of entity  
that verified & certified the conformity  
of the deactivation

Logo

**DEACTIVATION CERTIFICATE****Certificate number:**

The deactivation measures conform to the requirements of the common minimum technical specifications set out in Annex I to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) 2015/2403.

**Name of entity that performed the deactivation:****Country:****Date/year of certification of the deactivation:****Manufacturer/brand of firearm deactivated:****Type:****Make/Model:****Calibre:****Serial number(s):**

Official EU deactivation mark

Name, title and signature  
of the responsible person

**PLEASE NOTE:** This certificate is an important document. It should be retained by the owner of the deactivated firearm at all times. The essential components of the deactivated to which this certificate relates have been marked with an official inspection mark; these marks must not be removed or altered.

**WARNING:** Forging a deactivation certificate could constitute an offence under the national law.