

## **Irish Airsoft Association**

**IAA Proposals for Venue Permit Requirements**  
9<sup>th</sup> July 2009

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## Context

The Criminal Justice (Miscellaneous provisions) Bill 2009 requires the authorisation in writing of a district superintendent on order for Replica imitation Firearms to be possessed, used or carriage in a place, this relates to the establishment and maintenance of venues. The IAA has been asked for its input by The Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform, and An Garda Síochána. This document reflects that input.

The relevant part of the Bill is section 38 (9B), and is reproduced here.

9B.—(1) The Superintendent of any district may authorise in writing the possession, use or carriage of realistic imitation firearms in that district at a specified location during such period, not exceeding one year, as may be specified in the authorisation.

(2) A Superintendent shall not grant an authorisation under this section unless he or she is satisfied having regard to all the circumstances (including the provision made or to be made for the storage of realistic imitation firearms to which the authorisation (if granted) would relate and the supervision of their use) that the possession, use or carriage, as the case may be, of realistic imitation firearms in pursuance of the authorisation will not endanger the public safety or the peace.

(3) Where it is proposed to grant an authorisation under this section in respect of a specified location, the authorisation shall be granted to the person in charge of the specified location and where there is a contravention of a condition imposed in relation to the grant of such an authorisation and the contravention is proved to have been committed with the consent or approval of or to have been facilitated by any neglect on the part of the person to whom the authorisation is granted, that person shall be guilty of an offence under this Act.

(4) A Superintendent may impose in relation to the grant of an authorisation under this section such conditions (if any) as he considers necessary to prevent danger to the public and, where a condition is imposed, it shall be specified in the authorisation.

(5) An authorisation under this section may be revoked at any time by the Superintendent of the District in which it is granted.

(6) A person who contravenes a condition imposed in relation to the grant of an authorisation under this section shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine of up to 5,000 euro or up to 12 months imprisonment.

We hope that if a permanent venue or event complies with the suggested requirements, that the relevant permit would be granted without prejudice. The IAA has done a lot of

work to improve our sport's profile with the relevant authorities, and is very encouraged by the positive attitude expressed by our contacts in the Department and the Gardaí.

## **Permanent Venues**

### **Safety and Security of Replica Imitation Firearms**

Where RIFs are stored permanently in a venue, there should be adequate provisions for their storage which prevents theft or use by unauthorised persons.

All RIFs used in the venue shall be tested with a chronograph to ensure compliance with Criminal Justice Act 2006 legislation with regard to power levels.

### **Public Safety**

Any area where RIF may be on display, either in play or in preparation for play, shall be shielded from public view. This includes the play area, safe zone and car parking facilities. Where this is not possible for car parking facilities, there shall be strict enforcement of concealment of RIF until they are in an area shielded from public view. Concealment for RIF shall completely cover or otherwise obscure the RIF from identification as such by any reasonable person.

The Venue shall refuse admission to persons who have travelled to the venue without adequate concealment for RIF as defined above.

The venue boundaries shall be clearly marked on all discernable entrances and exits to prevent members of the public from straying into the gaming area, and prevent players from similarly straying out

A map detailing the venue location and boundaries shall be provided to the District.

## Events

### Safety and Security of Replica Imitation Firearms

Where an event is open to the public, there may be a requirement for RIF to be secured to prevent theft or misuse, especially if displayed on a stand for demonstration purposes.

Where RIF is being carried by an operator for demonstration purposes, it should be made clear that they are a representative of the event. This may not be necessary in the case where the event is one of a military theme, where it is expected that RIF may be present.

Where an event is private, i.e. a once-off Airsoft event in a location not already authorised as in "Permanent Venues" above, the restrictions under "Permanent Venues" above shall apply.

If RIF are to be discharged in the venue, they shall be tested with a chronograph to their maximum potential output, to ensure compliance with Criminal Justice Act 2006 legislation with regard to power levels.

### Public Safety

Where an event is open to the public, those attending the event shall be made aware of the fact that RIF may be on display. This can be done either in small print on promotional materials or tickets, or displayed or otherwise made known on entrance to the event.

Where an event is open to the public, RIF shall not be on view in a location in the venue that is viewable from outside the venue by non-attendees who may not be familiar with the nature of the event.

Where attendees transport RIF to or from the event, they should be refused admission if the RIF is not adequately concealed or otherwise obscured from identification by a reasonable person.

## Existing IAA Regulations

We reproduce here the existing IAA regulations that have been in effect on IAA-affiliated sites for two years. These would be enforced in addition to the above on IAA affiliated venues.

1. Venues shall adhere to all laws governing the state in which it is situated, and co-operate in every reasonable respect with representatives of those authorities.
2. A venue shall not bring the sport of Airsoft into disrepute.
3. A venue must have a clearly marked and separate safe area, in which it is safe to remove eye protection.
4. All venues shall chronograph all Airsoft devices in accordance with the IAA Chronographic guide
5. All equipment provided by the venue shall be in good repair and safe to use.
6. A venue must have a person on hand at all times during games with a recognised first aid qualification.
7. All players under the age of 18 must have the permission of a parent or guardian to play.
8. Venues shall make themselves available for inspection by the IAA.
9. Venues shall give a suitable safety briefing before games commence.
10. All venues must hold valid insurance, and make their policy information available for inspection and verification.
11. Venue operators must acknowledge that breach of these guidelines may result in disciplinary action in a manner laid down in the IAA constitution.