



# CMP As-Issued Military Rifle Clinics and Matches RIFLE INSPECTION CHECKLIST

*Update: 6Mar14*

When CMP-sanctioned Rifle Clinics or As-Issued Military Rifle Matches are attended by large numbers of new and inexperienced shooters, especially where M1 Garand rifles are involved, the CMP recommends that the host shooting club set up a rifle inspection station where all rifles brought to the range to be fired in the clinic or match are inspected. The inspection steps recommended in this "Rifle Inspection Checklist" will help to detect many rifles that are not safe to fire. Specially trained armorers or gunsmiths are not required to complete these simple inspection steps, although it is recommended that the inspectors be experienced in handling As-Issued Military Rifles. Inspectors should follow these inspection steps:

## **STEP 1 -- CLEAR THE RIFLE**

When receiving a rifle from a competitor (or anyone for that matter) keep the muzzle pointed in a safe direction while you verify that the bolt is open, the chamber is clear and the magazine is empty. Continue to keep the rifle pointed in a safe direction throughout the inspection procedure.

## **STEP 2 -- CHECK THE RIFLE'S TRIGGER PULL WEIGHT**

This ensures that the trigger meets minimum trigger pull weight requirements. A light trigger pull may also be a sign of an improper trigger job. Cocked triggers on As-Issued Military Rifles must be capable of lifting the following minimum weights:

- Semiautomatic rifles---4 ½ lbs. minimum  
These include the M1 Garand, M14/M1A, M16/AR and M1 Carbine. The only exception to this is the 1941 Johnson that has a minimum trigger pull of 3 1/2 lbs.
- Bolt action and straight pull rifles---3 ½ lbs. minimum  
These include the U. S. Krag, 1903 Springfield, 1917 Enfield, Swiss K31 and Swedish Mauser M96 as well as many other manually operated foreign military rifles.

### ***To check the rifle's trigger weight follow these steps:***

1. Once the rifle is confirmed to be unloaded, manually close the bolt on an empty chamber.
2. Verify that the rifle's safety is in the "off" position.
3. Hold the rifle in a vertical position, with the muzzle up. Hold the rifle above a trigger weight with the correct amount of weight on it. Engage the rifle's trigger with the trigger weight hook. *Note: Minimum trigger weight should*

*be checked with a weight set like Brownell's Universal Trigger Weight System (Stock# 678-650-000AE).*

4. Slowly raise the rifle until the trigger slack is completely taken up. Continue to raise the rifle until the trigger weight is lifted off of the ground. The trigger must lift and hold the weight to pass the test.
5. If the rifle fails to lift and hold the weight it **should NOT** be fired in the match due to safety concerns. *Note: If a qualified armorer or gunsmith is available, the trigger may be adjusted and reweighed. Unqualified personnel should not attempt to make trigger adjustments.*

### **STEP 3 -- CHECK FOR A TWO-STAGE TRIGGER**

- Almost all older military rifles, particularly semiautomatics, have two-stage triggers.
- A two-stage trigger can be identified by feel. When you apply pressure to the trigger you will feel initial movement or "take up" (this is the first stage). You will then come to a point of increased resistance where you have to press harder to cause the trigger to release the hammer or striker.
- A single stage trigger only has only one step or pressure level to overcome.
- When verifying that the rifle has a two-stage trigger, check to be sure the trigger returns to the full forward position after taking up the slack or first stage without releasing the trigger (second stage). The trigger must return forward with no hesitation or hang-up.
- If a rifle does not have a two-stage trigger or a first stage that does not return to its full forward position, this can be a sign that something is broken or missing or that a bad trigger job was done on the rifle. Such a rifle could be dangerous and **should NOT** be fired in the match.

### **STEP 4 -- CHECK SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES FOR PROPER DISCONNECTOR OPERATION**

The purpose of this inspection step is to minimize the likelihood of unintended multiple rounds being fired with the single pull of the trigger. Semiautomatic rifles use a disconnecter to do this. The disconnecter is a device that prevents the continued firing of the gun while the trigger remains depressed. The disconnecter holds the gun at full cock as long as the trigger is held back.

To check for proper disconnecter operation in a semiautomatic rifle:

1. Verify that the rifle is unloaded and place the safety in the "off" position.
2. Close the bolt.
3. Pull the trigger and hold the trigger to the rear without releasing it.

4. Open the bolt to reset the hammer (while continuing to hold the trigger to the rear), then close the bolt.
5. Release the trigger (listen for the disconnect click), then pull the trigger again, the hammer should drop if the disconnect is working properly.
6. If you hear the click and the hammer drops when you pull the trigger, it passes the test.
7. If you did not hear the click and the hammer does not drop when you pull the trigger (because it has already followed the bolt forward), the disconnect function is not working correctly and the rifle **should NOT** be fired in the match.

**Note:** *CMP Armorers find 15 to 20 rifles every year at the National Matches that fail this test. These competitors often decided the night before the match to adjust their trigger or do a "trigger job" on it. In the process they caused their rifle to be left in an unsafe condition. Others simply had a part break or wear out to cause this condition.*

#### **STEP 5 – CHECK SAFETY FOR PROPER FUNCTIONING**

CMP Rules require that rifles may not be modified to "interfere with the original functioning of the rifle and its safety devices." This inspection step verifies that the rifle's safety is functioning properly.

To check for proper functioning of the safety:

1. With the hammer or firing pin forward (uncocked), verify that the safety will NOT engage. **Note:** *This test applies to M1 Garands and M1903 rifles, but may not apply to other As-Issued Military Rifles.*
2. After cocking and verifying that the rifle is not loaded, engage the safety. It should snap into place and the hammer or firing pin must not drop.
3. Pull the trigger and verify that that the safety is blocking the release of the trigger, hammer or firing pin.
4. Release the trigger and disengage the safety, verifying that the hammer or firing pin does not drop.
5. Pull the trigger and verify that the hammer or firing pin does drop.

#### **STEP 6 -- GENERAL VISUAL INSPECTION**

The purpose of this last inspection step is to detect obvious problems where the competitor may not realize the rifle violates certain rules or where there are other safety concerns. A minimum list of things this check should cover is as follows:

- **Safety Compliance:** Are there any issues with the rifle's condition that might create a safety concern?

- **Loose, Missing or Broken Parts:** Make sure the rear sights, gas plugs and other parts are in place.
- **Rule Compliance:** Does the rifle meet the requirements for competing in the match to be fired?
- **Bore Obstructions:** Verify that the bore is clear and unobstructed (no grease, patches or other objects)
- **Correct Ammunition:** Verify that the chambering of the rifle and the ammo intended for use in it are compatible.
- **Lubrication:** Many rifles that come to clinics are “dry as a bone” and could use proper lubrication (grease) to ensure better functioning.

### **STEP 7 – EMPTY CHAMBER INDICATORS (ECIs)**

- If the rifle did not come to the inspection station with an ECI in it, issue an ECI and explain how it is used to confirm that the action is open and the chamber is empty.
- Explain that the ECI must remain in the rifle at all times except when the rifle is on the firing line and the Range Officer authorizes the removal of ECIs.
- **CMP Rule 3.1.1. *Empty Chamber Indicators (ECIs) must be placed in all rifles and pistol when they are on a range. ECIs must be in all firearms, at all times, except during preparation and firing periods.***



**M1 Garand with ECI inserted**  
***ECIs must be in all firearms, at all times, except during preparation and firing periods.***

### **OPTIONAL STEP – WEB SLINGS**

It is recommended that every student in As-Issued Military Rifle Clinics have access to a military web sling. When rifle inspections take place, this is an excellent time to make sure clinic students have web slings to use during the dry firing and range firing portions of the clinic.

- Check to see if the student brought a sling of his/her own. If it is not a web sling, inform him/her that the instruction will teach proper use of the sling with military web slings.
- Clinic sponsors may wish to purchase an inventory of web slings that can be sold to clinic students. Web slings may be purchased from the CMP for \$7.95 each.
- Clinic sponsors may also have a supply of web slings that they can provide to clinic students.