Czech National System of Marking SALW

The control of SALW is governed by national laws and regulations issued by the government authorities that control the exports, imports, and transit of SALW and their handling in the Czech Republic. These laws and regulations cover all aspects of the UN Programme of Action and ITI and are compatible with other international commitments, in particular in commitments arising from EU membership.

A few of history – the first Proof House in our country was created in Prague in the year 1891 and since this time all firearms which were imported or manufactured in our territory were proved and marked. The firearms were also recorded in books with indications as owner, his address, type of gun, model, caliber, serial number, country of origin and dimensions of gun. Czech Police has a very similar system of registered firearms.

In 1969, the Czech government acceded to the Convention for the Reciprocal Recognition of Proof marks of Small Arms – C.I.P. This Convention regulates and provides guidelines for the whole system of marking small arms according to their type. Proof marks are unique and allow definite identification and tracing of the country of import or manufacture or origin of the arm including the year of manufacture. In general, the Convention also defines the duties of arms manufacturers, importers and Proof Houses as regards arms marking.

In practice, our system of marking of firearms and ammunition is based on C.I.P. regulations and is carried out by the Czech Proof House for Arms and Ammunition, in accordance with the Firearms Proofing Act and its Regulation. In part, C.I.P. resolutions are also incorporated into binding technical standards. If the weapon meets safety requirements, the Proof House marks it as follows:

a) by stamping the relevant proof mark (according to the type of weapon) on each main part of the weapon, using a special stamp;

b) by stamping a mark, next to the proof mark, indicating the year of proof, usually the last two digits of the year or a code as entered in the proof house register, at least on one of the main parts of the weapon.

Each weapon presented to a relevant arms proofing authority in a C.I.P. member country, must bear the following marks:

i) a registered trademark, name and code of the person or entity submitting the weapon;

ii) serial number;

iii) model name;
iv) country of origin

v) caliber

C.I.P. marking requirements for ammunition are for case: the code of producer and the caliber; and for ammunition packages: factory name or brand, caliber, batch identification number, the quantity of ammunition contained in the basic package, proof mark.

All marking must be: unique, durable and visible.

As a good example of the assistance to the third countries let me mentioned here the Prague Tracing Workshop on the ITI for 15 African states of ECOWAS which was held in October 2009 in Prague. This seminar was organized in co-operation with UNODA and was paid from our national voluntary financial contribution to UNODA projects for 2008-2009. The participants also visited two Czech producers of ammunition and firearms.

Thank you.