Army and other security corps are reported to the Police Headquarters, even though such reporting is not required by the national laws.

**Transparency**

**Publication of laws, directives and procedures**

20. To develop and implement, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including, where appropriate, the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of small arms and light weapons, if possible, in cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations, with a view to eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The Czech Republic’s laws and implementing regulations, including those applicable to the national control system preventing illicit trading in SALW, are published in “Sbírka zákonu” (Statute Book), which is available to the public. Laws forming the legislative basis for the national control system can also be found on the websites of the competent ministries. For example, the Interior Ministry website includes the Arms Act and the website of the Ministry of Industry and Trade includes i.a. the Foreign Trade in Military Material Act, as well as blank applications for a permit and a licence, and brief notices to businessmen.

**Supplying information to international organisations**

III/5. States and international and regional organizations should, where appropriate, cooperate, develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources and information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

The Czech Republic presented detailed information on the national control system and its key elements, the control system in the Czech Army and in other armed corps, the control powers of the State in foreign trade in military material and non-military arms, marking of SALW, the holding of small arms by civilians, and the production of SALW and ammunition in the publication “The Czech Republic and Small Arms and Light Weapons” distributed by the delegation of the Czech Republic to the UN and to all countries participating in the UN Conference on Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2001. The publication contained information on stockpile security and methods of destroying SALW in the Czech Army, but no details on illicit trade in SALW. Its appendices included statistical data on non-commercial permanent exports of arms and ammunition from the Czech Republic (1995-2000) and the share of SALW in exports and imports of military material (1996-2000).

Within the framework of regional cooperation, the Czech Republic supplies the relevant information on SALW to the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and its member countries.

**Marking and tracing**

II/7. To ensure that henceforth licensed manufacturers apply an appropriate and reliable
marking on each small arm and light weapon as an integral part of the production process. This marking should be unique and should identify the country of manufacture and also provide information that enables the national authorities of that country to identify the manufacturer and serial number so that the authorities concerned can identify and trace each weapon.

III/12. States are encouraged to exchange information on a voluntary basis on their national marking systems on small arms and light weapons.

II/8. To adopt where they do not exist and enforce, all the necessary measures to prevent the manufacture, stockpiling, transfer and possession of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons.

Measures for reliable marking of SALW by licensed manufacturers in the production process

The Czech Republic has this type of laws, regulations and procedures.

Marking of SALW intended for non-military purposes is regulated by the Firearms Proofing Act and its Implementing Regulation No. 335/2004. These SALW are marked in accordance with the Convention for the Reciprocal Recognition of Proof-Marks of Small Arms (Convention pour la reconnaissance réciproque des poinçons d’épreuves des armes a feu portatives), to which the Czech Republic acceded in 1969. The Convention was published in "Sbírka zákonu" as Notice No. 70/1975. It imposes obligations on arms manufacturers, importers and proofhouses in the field of the marking of arms. Each weapon must bear the manufacturer’s registered trademark, name or code of the person or entity submitting the weapon to the proofhouse, serial number, model name, country of origin and calibre. These marks must be made on at least one of the main parts of the weapon; serial numbers must appear on the barrel, frame and breech. The manufacturer affixes his marks during the production process, as a rule before the final assembly. Once this obligation is fulfilled, the Czech Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority will affix its proof-mark. Any unmarked weapons must be presented by the manufacturer or importer to the Czech Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority for marking according to the Firearms Proofing Act.

SALW intended for military purposes are marked with the manufacturer’s code (assigned to the manufacturer by the Ministry of Defence), serial number, and a military acceptance mark containing the last two digits of the year. The marks are affixed by the manufacturer. The Czech Republic has not yet introduced a marking system for SALW intended for service with armed and security forces and corps, which would conform to the International Instrument to enable states to identify and trace, in a timely and reliable manner, illicit small arms and light weapons. Amendments to the Arms Act and to the Firearms Proofing Act are currently in the drafting stage.

Manufacturers and importers are prohibited from marketing unmarked or inadequately marked SALW; as a result, nobody may legally acquire and hold such arms. Though the marking system came into effect in the Czech Republic before the adoption of the Programme of Action, it fully complies with its provisions.
Measures to prevent the production of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons

Measures to prevent the production of unmarked or inadequately marked SALW fall within the scope of the Firearms Proofing Act and Act No. 227/2003 amending the Firearms Proofing Act. The operative legislation requires manufacturers to submit arms for proofs and not to market them until they have been duly proofed and marked with a proofmark. Arms are proofed by the Czech Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority, which also supervise the observance of the Firearms Proofing Act. This legislation includes sanctions for violators.

Measures to prevent transfers of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons

The national legislation and measures necessary to prevent the transfers of any unmarked or inadequately marked SALW are in place. They comply with the requirements of the Programme of Action and were introduced before its adoption.

The Firearms Proofing Act is binding on manufacturers as well as importers, distributors, repairers and holders of arms. According to the Arms Act, persons transferring arms are obliged to report the acquisition or transfer. The report must state i.a. whether the arm has been proofed and marked. The Czech Republic has no specific regulation on brokering.

Measures to prevent stockpiling of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons

According to the Firearms Proofing Act, arms are to be marked at manufacture or when they are imported. For this reason no stockpiling of unmarked or inadequately marked arms should take place. Such cases constitute a breach of the Firearms Proofing Act and of the Arms Act and the violator faces criminal sanctions. The existing laws, regulations and administrative procedures were introduced before the adoption of the Programme of Action.

Measures to prevent holding of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons

According to the Arms Act, a newly acquired weapon must be reported by its holder to the competent Police department within ten working days. On the basis of the report the Police will register the weapon and issue a weapon passport. Weapons that should be proofed according to the Firearms Proofing Act are not registered unless they bear the required proof-mark. The Arms Act took effect on 1 January 2003. The previous regulations dealt with the situation similarly. The existing legislation was introduced before the adoption of the Programme of Action.

Monitoring arms transfers

III/9. States are encouraged to use and support, as appropriate, including by providing relevant information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, Interpol's International Weapons and Explosives Tracking System database or any other relevant database that may be developed for this purpose.

III/11. States undertake to cooperate with each other, including on the basis of the relevant
existing global and regional legally binding instruments as well as other agreements and arrangements, and, where appropriate, with relevant international, regional and intergovernmental organizations, in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, in particular by strengthening mechanisms based on the exchange of relevant information.

All transfers within the country as well as cross-border transfers are monitored. Natural persons and legal entities transporting SALW must report to the competent Police Inspectorate responsible for arms, ammunition and explosives. There are 80 arms inspectorates in the Czech Republic. Cross-border transfers are monitored by the Police Headquarters, Administrative Tasks Service, which serves as the chief police inspectorate responsible for arms, ammunition and explosives. It also serves as the national authority responsible for information exchange within the EU in terms of Directives 91/477/EEC and 93/15/EEC.

Information is shared with non-EU countries on request, but only through the INTERPOL.

Arms lost and found in the Czech Republic are entered in “P-Zbrane” register kept by the Police Headquarters. Data from the register can be obtained from the Administrative Tasks Service, Strojnická 27, 170 00 Praha 7, tel. 974834435, fax 974834707, e-mail rsscp@mvcr.cz.

This service also conducts searches for SALW in the Czech Republic, including the identification of trading routes used by arms licence holders.

System for the marking of SALW in the Czech Republic

The current system for the marking of SALW in the Czech Republic is divided into two categories according to the type of SALW: the marking of hunting, sporting and personal arms, i.e. arms for non-military (civilian) purposes, and the marking of SALW for military purposes.

A. Marking of SALW for civilian purposes

In 1969, the Government of the Czech Republic acceded to the Convention for the Reciprocal Recognition of Proof-Marks of Small Arms; its executive body is the Permanent International Commission for the Proof of Small Arms (C.I.P., – Commission Internationale Permanente pour l'Epreuve des Armes à Feu Portatives) This Convention regulates and provides guidelines for the whole system of marking small firearms according to their type. Proof-marks are unique and allow definite identification and tracing of the country of import or manufacture, or origin of arm including the year of manufacture. In general, the Convention also defines the duties of arms manufacturers, importers and proofhouses as regards arms marking. (In the Czech Republic, the Convention was published in "Sbírka zákonu" as MFA Notice No. 70/1975). At its plenary sessions, C.I.P. approves resolutions to be transposed by the member countries into their legal and technical regulations.

In practice, the system of marking of firearms and ammunition based on C.I.P. regulations is recognized in 70 countries although only 13 of them are signatories (Federal Republic of Germany, Republic of Austria, Kingdom of Belgium, Republic of Chile, Spain, Republic of Finland, French Republic, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Republic
of Hungary, Republic of Italy, Russian Federation, Slovak Republic, Czech Republic). Over the almost ninety years of its existence, the C.I.P. has strongly influenced arms producers throughout Europe.

In the Czech Republic, the marking of firearms and ammunition is carried out by the Czech Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority, in accordance with the Firearms Proofing Act and its Implementing Regulation No. 335/2004, issued by the Ministry of Industry and Trade. In part, C.I.P. resolutions are also incorporated into binding technical standards (Czech National Standard, class 39 – circa thirty standards). If the weapon meets safety requirements, the proofhouse marks it as follows:

a) by stamping the relevant proofmark (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 proofmark, indicating the year of proof, usually the last two digits of the year or a code as entered in the proofhouse register, at least on one of the main parts of the weapon.

If the weapons have not been previously marked, a manufacturer or importer must submit each of them to the relevant national proofing authority. Each weapon presented to a relevant arms proofing authority in a C.I.P. member country, must bear the following marks:

a) a registered trademark, name and code of the person or entity submitting the weapon;
b) serial number;
c) model name;
d) country of origin;
e) calibre.

**Proofmarks used by the Czech National Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority**

- Individually proofed shotguns – higher-level proof
- Homologation of gas arms, expansion arms and devices
- Identification mark of the Czech Arms and Ammunition Proofing Authority in Prague
- New individual proofs for all types of arms
- Individually proofed shotguns – steel shots
B. Marking of SALW for military purposes

Military SALW must currently bear the following marks:

a) the manufacturer’s code as assigned by the Ministry of Defence, on one of the main parts of the arm;
b) serial number, on one of the main parts of the arm;
c) model name (type), on one of its main parts;
d) army acceptance mark containing the last two digits of the year, on one of the main parts of the arm.

The marks are affixed by the manufacturer; a Military Administration officer performs random checks of SALW supplied to the Army according to the arms acceptance plan.

Over the past ten years, the manufacture of military SALW has practically stopped. Some types of SALW manufactured for civilian purposes are introduced in the Army with modified
calibres, corresponding to those used by the Army.

According to Act No. 219/1999 on the armed forces of the Czech Republic as amended namely by Act No. 546/2005 amending Act No. 219/1999 in respect of assessing the technical fitness of military arms and ammunition and their registration, the forces falling within the competence of the Defence Ministry use military arms to perform the tasks assigned to the armed forces of the Czech Republic.

SALW in service with the Czech Army are mainly Czech arms, or arms manufactured in former Czechoslovakia; the remainder are imported from the former USSR, Russian Federation, Poland, Bulgaria, Austria and the United States (mounted machine guns, sniper rifles, hand-held anti-tank weapons and special military arms); some individual items have been imported from other countries.

Arms are marked with inscriptions, signs and numbers according to the requirements of the national legislation (laws and regulations), to the rules applicable in each country of manufacture at the given time or to the requirements of the purchaser abroad. In the Czech Republic, the obligatory marks are included in the technical specifications for national defence products; the technical specifications are drafted by the manufacturer and approved by the purchaser. The rules governing such technical specifications are included in Czech Defence Standard (COS) No. 051625 and Defence Ministry Regulation No. 257/1999, which specifies the design of the military property mark, the national identification mark and the Castle Guard mark, and the procedure for marking military material with the military property mark and an internationally recognized identification mark; the Regulation also includes designs of military uniforms and insignia and rules for their wearing, and regulates marking of military equipment by the national identification mark, national emblem or Castle Guard mark.

Generally, arms (SALW) are marked in order to facilitate their identification, registration and technical inspections throughout their service life, i.e. from their manufacture to final destruction. SALW must bear the following marks:

a) **a serial (registration) number** on the specified (main) parts, as difficult as possible to alter or remove;

b) in the process of manufacture and proofing, marks affixed after completing each stage of the manufacturing process, or marks affixed after completing technical proofs, high-pressure tests, and after check-out following final assembly, etc.; the marks are affixed by the manufacturer, by the purchaser's representative or the quality testing officer;

c) **specification of the manufacturer** (country, organization) by a mark (trademark, including registered trademark), by a full or abbreviated name of the manufacturer or a code;

d) **property marks** of the user; the Defence Ministry’s arms bear the **military property mark** (crossed swords);

e) **year of manufacture or acceptance for use** in a four-digit or two-digit form (e.g. 1980 or 80);

f) warnings, distinctive markings or colours intended as guidance for users, in particular on the safety catch (on/off); maximum number of cartridges in the magazine (magazine capacity 15 =15);
g) additional markings, e.g. after major repairs or permanent modifications of the arm (decommissioning, production of sections, adding of components, etc.)

All SALW of domestic or foreign manufacture used by the armed forces of the Czech Republic are the property of the Czech Republic in terms of the Property of the Czech Republic Act.

SALW manufactured in former Czechoslovakia and in the Czech Republic bear a unique serial number. On Czechoslovak arms, this number is stamped (“hammered out” in newer types) in accordance with technical specifications – formerly in accordance with technical specifications and design documentation – for the weapon type concerned; precise location of the serial number is shown in the design documentation. The same number is stamped on other main parts of the arm (removable barrel, breech, etc.). In addition to the serial number, these arms bear also the military property mark – two crossed swords, the manufacturer’s code (formerly) or the NCAGE code (at present applied by some manufacturers) in accordance with Act No. 309/2000 regulating defence standardization, cataloguing, and national quality testing of national defence products and services, and amending the Trades Licensing Act, and the last two digits of the year of manufacture, unless included in the serial number. As a rule, arms bear also marks to confirm high-pressure tests, technical proofs, checks by a Military Administration officer (formerly) or the Defence Ministry’s quality testing officer (at present) and other additional numbers, letters and marks affixed by the manufacturer. Some arms used by the Czech armed forces may also bear the marks required by the Firearms Proofing Act although this Act does in fact not apply to them.

Arms are also stamped with marks identifying repairs or modifications at military repair facilities (VOZ, VOP or OZ); the marks include the year of repair in a two-digit form in accordance with the Defence Ministry’s internal standards.

Since the Czech Army’s equipment and stockpiles contain arms older than fifty years (e.g. 7.62mm pistols type 52), there may be some minor differences in their marking. However, all these arms are marked sufficiently to enable their identification under today’s standards.

The imported SALW are marked in a similar manner, enabling their identification. Unlike arms manufactured in the Czech Republic, they do not bear the military property mark. As their percentage is very low and their marking is outside the control of the Czech Army, it will not be treated here in greater detail.

After 1950, some arms were manufactured according to licensing documentation provided by the former USSR (e.g. 26.5mm signal pistol type 44; 7.62mm heavy machine gun type 43; 7.62mm tank machine gun ZTDA; 12.7mm PL machine gun type 38/46). This was the case not only of former Czechoslovakia, but also of Poland, Romania, Bulgaria, the German Democratic Republic, etc. Out of these arms, the Czech Army currently uses only the 12.7mm PL machine gun type 38/46 as a mounted weapon in some weapon systems. Arms manufactured in this manner in other countries include RPG-7V light anti-tank weapons (Bulgaria) and PKT, NSV and KPVT machine guns (Poland).

The original serial number is preserved until the arm is physically destroyed or transferred outside the Defence Ministry’s control. Arms are not allocated any further registration or additional numbers (e.g. numbers of army units, unit types or army unit serial numbers like was the case with arms used by the Army, Police and customs services in the years 1918-
The only exception are the modified and non-fireable 7.62mm self-loading rifles type 52/57 in service with the Castle Guard, bearing an additional HSxxxx code (e.g. HS0001), and with the Prague Garrison Headquarters, bearing a PVxxxx code (e.g. PV0001).

Three-letter codes identifying military weapons manufacturers in Czechoslovakia (the Czech Republic) were introduced in 1948 (1950):

- **rid** Ceská zbrojovka Strakonice
  - 7.62mm pistol type 52
- **she** Ceská zbrojovka Uherský Brod
  - 7.62mm sub-machine gun type 58P, V, Pi
  - 9mm pistol type 82
  - 9mm pistol types 75B and 75BD
  - 26.5mm signal pistol type 44/81 (/67)
  - 7.62mm sub-machine gun types 24 and 26
  - 7.62 self-loading rifle type 52/57, etc.
- **czo** Zbrojovka Vsetín
  - 7.62mm multipurpose machine gun type 59
  - 7.62mm multipurpose machine gun type 59L
  - 12.7mm sniper rifle types 96 and 99
  - 12.7mm ranging weapon type ZH-59
  - 7.62mm barrel insert type VH-7A
  - 7.62mm and 20mm barrel inserts, etc.
- **tgf** Zbrojovka Brno
  - 12.7mm PL machine gun type 38/46
  - 7.62mm heavy machine gun types 43, 43/66
  - 26.5mm signal pistol type 44
- **grv** Konstrukta Brno
  - weapon prototypes
- **aym** Povážské strojírny Povážská Bystrica
  - 7.62mm self-loading rifle type 57
- **irv** Zeveta Bojkovice
  - 14.5mm barrel insert type 85
  - 68mm RPG type 75 - training weapon

There were tens of such codes assigned to weapons manufacturers. Some of the companies have turned to other lines of production but their weapons still exist. Since some companies have changed their name, the best-known name of the company is retained in the list. The list names only their best-known products.

The military property mark was introduced in 1948.

Military equipment is marked according to material, using stamps, colour prints, burning, engraving, etching or vulcanisation. The size of the military property mark varies according to the size and type of the arm. Rules for its use have been incorporated in **Act No. 219/1999 on the armed forces of the Czech Republic** (of 14 September 1999), MILITARY MATERIAL, Part 1: Military Material and its Marking, Section 31:

- Article 1: “The armed forces are authorized to use military material to fulfil their tasks. Military material is marked with the military property mark.”
- Article 5: “The Ministry shall define the design of the military property mark in its regulation, …”
Sections 1 and 2 of the Defence Ministry’s Regulation No. 257/1999 regulate the affixing of the military property mark to military equipment. The design of the mark remains unchanged (Annex 1 to the Regulation).

Other marking of SALW falls within the competence of the manager of property group 2.2 (weapons and weapon systems) – the Director of the Defence Ministry’s Support Section.

The serial number is not standardized - possible alternatives include:
- numerical code:
  9mm pistol type 82, e.g. 00001 to 210000
  26.5mm signal pistol type 44/81, e.g. 10001 to 50000
- alphanumerical code:
  7.65mm submachine gun type 61, e.g. s1000 to s9999 (letters x,V,Y,P,L,H,E,U,G, etc.) or 1000V to 9999V
  7.62mm pistol type 52, e.g. F10001 to F20000 (letters A,E,G,M,R,S etc.) or Y01 to Y9999 or AZ01 to AZ9999 (letters CB,FK,JM,LB)
  7.62mm submachine gun type 58, e.g. 50001k to 80000k (letters p,g,h,n,c,t,d,s,m etc.) or K10001 to K40000 (letters C,U,B,H,A,M etc.) or 10001A to 30000A
  7.62mm machine gun type 59, e.g. F30001 to F31000 (letters H,D,P,A etc.) or CD4001 to CD5000 (letters BA,GH,JK,RS etc.)
- alphanumerical code combining manufacturer’s code and date of manufacture:
  12.7mm ranging gun ZH-59, e.g. 0242czo0460

The year of manufacture may be indicated in a two-digit form, e.g. 54, 61, 77 (in most weapons, located as a rule next to the property mark) or in a four-digit form, e.g. 1960 (machine guns type 59); it may be also incorporated in the serial number, e.g. 0242czo0460 (=the fourth month of 1960).

Repairs made in specialized military repair facilities are indicated by a VOZ (VOP, OZ) letter code in an oval (according to the type of military repair facility) and the last two digits of the year in which the repair was made. Any other repairs of the same weapon are marked only by the last two digits of the year. These marks are located in accordance with the technical requirements for repairs of the specific type of weapon. Major modifications of the weapon are also marked (e.g. the U mark, identifying the modification of the 9mm pistol for safe use with Czech-made cartridges, is located on the body of the arm, in the ejection slot above the serial number of the arm).
ANNEX: EXAMPLES OF MARKING OF WEAPONS
AND THEIR MAIN PARTS

7.62mm Submachine Gun type 58P, V or Pi

swords – military property mark
she – manufacturer’s code
78 – year of manufacture (acceptance for use) = 1978

P – production series
27051 – serial (registration) number

- repairs; 86, 91 – years of repairs (1986; 1991)

SERIAL NUMBER OF BREECH CASING WITH BARREL (REGISTRATION/SERIAL NUMBER IS STAMPED AT ASSEMBLY)
Data on the barrel (on the breech casing)

BA  – production series (translation from the Russian alphabet = VA)
738  – serial (registration) number

Data on the weapon – on the cover of the trigger

RPG-7V  – weapon type
BA-738  – series and serial number of the weapon
10  – manufacturer’s code (Bulgaria)
1967  – year of manufacture

NB: Data on the cover of the trigger – series and the serial number are identical with the data on the barrel (stamped at manufacture). The cover is easily interchangeable (in the case of repairs or maintenance).
Marking of weapons (Poland, Bulgaria, USSR): see separate file in the annex