

**[PNP MEMORANDUM CIRCULAR NO. 2011-003,
February 03, 2010]**

**GUIDELINES ON THE MANDATORY TESTING AND STENCILING OF
LOCALLY MANUFACTURED AND IMPORTED FIREARMS**

1. REFERENCES

- a. PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2009-011, dated June 24, 2009 entitled: "*Guidelines on the Mandatory Testing of Firearms for Licensing*";
- b. PNP Memorandum Circular No. 2010-008, dated July 08, 2010 with Subject: "*Rationalized Policies on the Possession, Bearing and Carrying of Firearms*";
- c. Standard Operating Procedure No. 008-2010, dated August 13, 2010, entitled: "*Test Firing and Stenciling of Firearms for Renewal of License, Permit to Carry Firearms Outside Residence (PTCFOR) and Permit to Carry Firearms Outside Residence for Law Enforcement Agencies (PTCFOR-LEA)*";
- d. NAPOLCOM Resolution No. 2007-074 dated February 16, 2007, entitled: "Recommending to HER EXCELLENCY PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO the approval of a proposed Executive Order Providing for a New Ballistic Testing of all Registered Firearms, and the Utilization of Funds from the proceeds thereof";
- e. Memorandum from the Directorate for Operations approved by the C, PNP dated February 3, 2009 with Subject: "*Mandatory General Ballistic Testing*"; and
- f. Section 3 and 4, Chapter 2, Book VII, EO No. 292, otherwise known as "*The Revised Administrative Code of 1987*" as amended.

2. BACKGROUND

The PNP's firearms statistics from 2005-2009 indicate a 25% average annual increase in the number of firearms that were tested and stenciled. This rate is expected to increase as a result of the implementation of new firearm regulations requiring testing and stenciling every four (4) years of all licensed firearms including those firearms that will be applied for issuance of the corresponding PTCFOR and PTCFOR-LEA.

It must be noted, however, that despite this trend, the PNP's existing resources for the conduct of firearm testing and stenciling have not increased proportionately thus resulting in congestion in the process. To ease the congestion, firearms manufacturers contributing large portions of the firearms to be tested and stenciled may be authorized to provide the off-site facilities for the conduct of firearms testing and stenciling meantime that the PNP is realigning its resources to cope with the situation.

3. DEFINITIONS OF TERMS

a. *Ammunition* - Refers to loaded shells for rifles, muskets, carbines, shotguns, revolvers, pistol and other firearms from which a bullet, ball, shot, shell or other missile may be fired by means of gunpowder or explosives. For purposes of firearm testing, the standard ammunition to be used shall be the full metal jacket and copper coated ammunition;

b. *Approved Site* - Designated and approved venue outside PNP Crime Laboratory (PNP CL) with the required facilities where firearm testing and stenciling can be performed and managed by personnel designated by PNP CL and Firearms and Explosives Office, Civil Security Group (FEO-CSG);

c. *Ballistician* - A non-uniformed technical personnel of the PNP CL with specialized skills in Forensic Firearms Investigation and Examination;

d. *Bullet Recovery System* - A recovery equipment for test firing of firearms in order to obtain test/standard bullets and cartridge cases;

e. *Cartridge Case* - Refers to the component of ammunition used as container for gun powder, bullet and primer;

f. *Database of Bullets and Cartridge Cases* - A collection of reliable reference test/standard bullets and cartridge cases of licensed firearms for comparison with evidence bullets and cartridge cases;

g. *Firearms Dealer* - any person, legal entity, corporation or partnership for business duly licensed by the PNP engaged in the business of buying and or selling firearms, ammunitions, firearm's parts, firearm's accessories, tools, equipment and machineries thereof at wholesale or retail;

h. *Firearms Importer* - any person, legal entity, corporation or partnership for business duly licensed by the PNP engaged in the business of importing or bringing of firearms, ammunitions, firearm's parts, firearm's accessories, tools, equipment and machineries into the territory of the Republic of the Philippines for the purpose of sale and distribution;

i. *Firearms Manufacturer* - A person or juridical entity engaged in the business of manufacturing firearms for purposes of sale of distribution;

j. *Firearm testing* - Is the conduct of test firing of a firearm before a bullet recovery system in order to retrieve its test bullets and cartridge cases and to determine its serviceability and functionality;

k. *Forensic Firearms Examiner* - A uniformed technical personnel of the PNP CL with specialized skills in Forensic Firearms Investigation and Examination;

l. *Licensed Firearm* - A firearm covered with a license issued by the FEO-CSG;

m. *Stenciling* - Is the conduct of tracing of the embossed or engraved identifying markings of a firearm;

n. *Storage* - The proper safekeeping of database of bullets and cartridge cases for future use;

o. *Test Bullets* - Fired bullets taken during the conduct of test firing of a firearm; and

p. *Test Cartridge Case* - Fired cartridge case taken during the conduct of test firing of a firearm.

4. OBJECTIVES

a. To establish a reliable database of test bullets, cartridge cases and stencils of new locally manufactured firearms for licensing, including firearms imported by importers/ dealers, and make use of it to support the forensic investigative capability of the PNP and its Anti Crime Capability Enhancement Program on Firearms Control; and

b. To increase the output of test firing and stenciling of new locally manufactured and imported firearms for licensing.

5. GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

a. The PNP CL shall be the Office of Primary Responsibility (OPR) for the Conduct of firearms testing/samplings and stenciling for licensing and the maintenance of ballistics database and storage of test bullets and cartridge cases and stencils of licensed firearms, including the implementation of this Circular;

b. The Chief, FEO-CSG (C, FEO-CSG) shall ensure that all the data of firearms to be indorsed to the Director, PNP CL (D, PNP CL) for testing and stenciling should first be encoded in the Firearms Information Management System (FIMS) for proper accounting;

c. All requests for firearms testing and stenciling shall be indorsed by the C, FEO-CSG to the D, PNP CL in coordination with the firearms manufacturers/importers/dealers;

d. The Forensic Firearms Examiners and Technicians of the PNP CL shall conduct the test firing and stenciling of newly manufactured/imported firearms. The PNP CL shall ensure that Forensic Examiners and Technicians are readily available to attend to and fast-track the processing of these firearms;

e. The venue for the test firing and stenciling of firearms shall be at the headquarters PNP CL, PNP Training Service Target Range or at the manufacturer's approved site as recommended in writing by the C, FEO-CSG and D, PNP CL for the purpose, and approved by DO;

f. Requests for off-Crime testing and stenciling shall be considered only for manufacturers with production output of not less than 500 firearms per month; and

g. Based on the prevailing schedule of fees, the firearms manufacturer/importer/dealer shall pay P350.00 for the testing and stenciling of