



SAPS Central Firearms Registry Accreditation as a Hunting Association: no. 1300050

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# Newsletter

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## **NSA's 3<sup>rd</sup> PARTY INDEMNITY INSURANCE CANCELLED**

We are sincerely sorry to report that due to unforeseen response issues the NSA EXCO was forced to as from 14 June 2006, cancel the 3<sup>rd</sup> Party Indemnity Insurance which it had negotiated for it's members.

We are already in negotiations with other insurers to see if we cannot re-negotiate another deal for indemnity insurance for our members.

Members are urged to ascertain that their own personal indemnity insurance, which is usually part of one's short term insurance, covers hunting and shooting range accidents. Our research indicates that the absolute majority of short-term insurance policies do cover for such incidents, but please make sure you are covered.

Members will be informed of the outcome of the negotiations as soon as we have answers.

## **Firearms Control Amendment Bill, 2006**

Irrespective of numerous representations by all bodies representing the firearm and hunting fraternity in this country on the proposed amendments of February this year, the Minister on 19 May 2006, has seen it fit to publish amendments which deviate substantially from those proposed in February and which effectively nullifies the innovative proposed "auditing" of existing firearms of legal firearm owners (see NSA comments at: <http://www.natshoot.co.za/downloads/NSA-comments-on-amend-ACT-60-2000.pdf> on the February proposals).

The NSA will continue to make representation regarding the Amendments to the FCA (Act 20 of 2000) as was introduced in the National Assembly as a section 75 Bill, and which was published in Government Gazette No. 28843 of 19 May 2006. Members will be kept up to date as to the outcome of the process which is currently running in Parliament.

Suffice it to say that we are not at all happy with the manner in which the proposed amendments of May were unilaterally changed by the Minister, after the initial proposals of February 2006 was exhaustively discussed and re-discussed, and also seemed to be more reasonable than those which are currently in the Act.

At the NSA we are also very worried about the changes that will be made to the Regulations (2004), as we do not know what these are going to be. We, therefore cannot predict how any such changes will impact on the already tiresome and overburdened process of firearm renewals and licensing.

The processes for renewals and licensing are regulated by the Regulations, and it is clear that up to now the linkages of the process to SASSETA has been a major head ache (inefficiency is too kind a concept to describe the inability of SASSETA to keep up their side of the process – six months wait for a rubber stamp for a certificate for proficiency training is ridiculous to say it in kind words – so much for delivery !!!).

The one thing which seems to be a little bit positive is that there are noises to the effect that the SASSETA involvement in Dedicated Hunter qualifications might be dropped from the Regulations. But one does not know if this will happen for sure. We shall keep members posted.

## **PROPOSED DEAT REGULATIONS ON NORMS AND STANDARDS FOR HUNTING IN SOUTH AFRICA**

Following the much talked about interim report of Minister van Schalkwyk's appointed Panel of Experts on Hunting, DEAT has now, through the pen of Director Dr Piet Botha, published proposed Regulations through which to introduce a common set of norms and standards in the hunting industry in this country.

Although it is clear that the proposed regulations are squarely aimed at stopping the canned hunting of large predators, it has also with a broad paint brush, tried to regulate hunting on other levels in the country. Something, which we at NSA feel, DEAT have failed to achieve due to what can only be perceived as a lack of knowledge of, and experience in, the hunting industry for which the regulations are meant. According to the proposed regulations, shotguns are not mentioned as hunting firearms, and is therefore, because of it's omission, not a legal firearm to hunt with should the proposed regulations be accepted as they stand now.

Some of the more imponderables which seem to indicate a lack of knowledge and experience on the subject matter the regulations are proposed to regulate, included aspects like;

- black-backed jackals and caracal have been taken off the list as damage causing animals (which they remain),
- the proposed banning of the controlled use of gundogs (all serious wingshooters use these as a matter of ethics), and
- the proposed banning of sound, decoys and luring of waterfowl (at the same time banning the use of artificial lures for fly fishing).

However, more sinister are the proposals to regulate the annual so-called off-take of animals which seriously infringes on the Constitutional rights of land owners (especially exempted properties) as regards their ownership of game. Game ranch owners' managerial decision making power will in terms of the proposed regulations, be replaced with a quota system to be determined annually by SANBI. As realities in semi-government institution's capacity goes in this country, it is highly unlikely that SANBI will be able and have the capacity to make informed decisions in this regard .

NSA is in conjunction with SA Wingshooters, busy drafting comments on the proposals, and will submit such to DEAT on 19 June 2006.

This document will be available on the NSA website from 20 June 2006 for members' information.

## **NEW NSA MEMBERSHIP DEAL FOR SA WINGSHOOTER MEMBERS**

EXCO has in negotiations with SA Wingshooters, with who we share our administration and who houses our offices, agreed that SA Wingshooter members would receiving the financial benefits of these administrative arrangements by substantially lowering Wingshooter members' membership fees for the NSA if they would wish to join.

From 1 June 2006 all SA Wingshooter members will thus have the advantage of subscribing to the NSA for a mere R99 per annum (i.e. January to January) without entrance fees having to be paid.

Existing NSA members who are also Wingshooter members will at their annual renewals now also only pay R99 per annum.

Wingshooter members who are NSA members and who have already paid their renewals of subscription from 1 June 2006 for 2006/2007, will be given a pro-rata monthly benefit to make up for the excess they have paid in renewals. This should come to a credit of R51. These members will receive a 4 month benefit added to their annual subscriptions, and their annual renewal dates will be moved on accordingly with 4 months.

## **LASER SHOT HUNTER EDUCATION**

An innovative laser simulation technology serving as an aid for hunting and shooting training is currently marketed in this country through Laser Shot SA cc in Rivonia.

This exciting concept is not new and has been around in the USA for a number of years. It has, however, now been brought into this country by Mike Mansell of Aim Shooters Show fame.

Instead of using live rounds, the system uses laser beams generated through a battery loaded round fitted for your firearm's calibre, or through a simulation rifle, handgun, or shotgun which goes with the system. The system is easy to set-up in a 5m x 14m garage and is very safe to use. That is why Mike says they are looking at opportunities to get youth shooting training opportunities on the go at schools and at shooting ranges that would be interested to present such worthwhile activities (if you are, please contact Mike at the numbers indicated below)..

"Recorded video scenarios of game animals are presented to the trainee in their natural environment. The trainee evaluates the scenario and makes shooting decisions based on safety, responsibility and ethics" says Mike. Mike also said that; "The system enhances the "Think Before You Shoot" concept as the basis of the hunt". The system is not just meant for younger people, and older experienced hunters and sport-shooters are guaranteed to also more than enjoy a shooting exercise on the system

Mike says; "The Laser Shot Hunter Education software package is an excellent tool for use in hunter training; using this package will help hunters improve their knowledge of anatomy, marksmanship, gun actions, and virtual hunting".

With the package it is also possible to compose one's own practice/education program for hunting and sport-shooting. Programs based on one's own recorded video scenarios make it possible to introduce them into the program, making one's simulated "laser hunt" customised to one's own requirements.

Included in the package are fun shooter's challenges like;  
Bull's-eye Blast • Varmint Town • Field Targets • Dove Shoot • Mallard Mania • Marksmanship Trainer  
Pheasant Flush • Prairie Dog Hunt • Quail Crazy 3D • Speed Trainer • Trap • Target Range • Timing  
Trainer and more.

The technology included in the HW-100 package:

- 100 Series Laser Detection Camera
- Adult Rifle x 1 • Youth Rifle x 1
- CD: Hunter Education Courseware
- CD: Shooter's Challenge (15 games) (see HT-100 Brochure)
- User's Manuals

The Minimum PC Requirements to run the system:

- 2.4GHz PC • 256MB System RAM
- NVIDIA/ATI Video Card w/64 MB RAM
- 4.4 GB Free Harddrive Space • CD-ROM
- USB 1.0 Port • DirectX 9.0b
- Windows XP Operating System

NSA members can visit the NSA website for more information on the system or you can contact Mike at 011-803 7181 (Fax 011-803 15080), or per e-mail at [lasershotsa@iafrica.com](mailto:lasershotsa@iafrica.com)

The system is also explained to an international audience at [www.lasershot.com](http://www.lasershot.com)

**Enough for now !!!**

Keep Safe

**Dr Herman Els**  
Executive Chairman: NSA