



## GUIDELINES FOR FIREARMS & SMALL WEAPONS

### 1. General Provisions

- a. These Rules & Regulations pertain to actual firearms; toy, look-alike, imitation, dummy and mock weapons; BB, paint ball, pellet-firing guns, and other non-powder weapons, including airsoft guns; bladed weapons; and other weapons and devices.
- b. All exhibitors who will be displaying any of these items must submit a [Firearms & Small Weapons Form](#) to AUSA **no later than Friday, July 25, 2025**.

### 2. Actual Firearms

- a. Federal Firearms License requirements –
  - 1) No one may display actual firearms at the WEWCC without a valid Federal Firearms License.
  - 2) A copy of such license must be submitted, along with a description of the firearm(s) to be displayed, to [Annualexhibits@ausa.org](mailto:Annualexhibits@ausa.org) by **Friday, July 25, 2025**.
- b. An inventory list that includes the type and number of firearms that are being displayed must be submitted to AUSA in advance of the event and be available in your booth.
- c. All actual firearms are to be delivered to, and shipped from, the WEWCC.
- d. Security in exhibit halls during show hours:
  - 1) Actual firearms must be rendered inoperable during the entire time they are in the Walter E. Washington Convention Center (WEWCC). by having firing pins removed, at a minimum.
  - 2) Live ammunition, black and smokeless powders, primers, percussion caps or any other ignitable propellants are not permitted in the WEWCC at any time.
  - 3) Firearms must be secured to the exhibit with flexible steel cable or wire rope at least 3/16" in diameter, attached to, or running through the firearm, and attached to the exhibit or to a permanent fixture. Locking devices used with cable should be locks built into the cable, or separate secondary locks with hardened shackles.
  - 4) Firearms may not be attached to foam board or composition board or to a part of the exhibit that may be moved by a single individual operating without the use of a cart or

other equipment. If the weapons are attached to plywood, the plywood must be at least one-half inch thick, with an eye-bolt used as a locking ring on the front of the plywood and secured on the rear of the plywood to prevent easy removal. If the weapons are attached to plastic or synthetic material, that material must meet the same requirements as plywood.

- 5) Where the use of a cable is not feasible, the firearm must be secured to the exhibit using steel clamps or must be secured in a glass case.
  - 6) Machine guns and other crew-served weapons that are mounted in or on tactical vehicles must be secured so that they cannot be removed by attendees.
  - 7) Machine guns and other crew-served weapons that are not mounted in or on tactical vehicles must be secured so that they cannot be accessed by attendees.
  - 8) Regardless of your booth size and configuration, all booth equipment and structures utilized to display firearms that are accessible and intended to be handled by attendees must be positioned within your booth space in such a manner that attendees can only access and handle them while standing within the confines of your booth space. Firearms cannot be accessible or handled in the aisles, or anywhere outside the perimeters of your booth space. Firearms that are not intended to be handled by attendees must be secured in accordance with these rules & regulations so they cannot be picked-up and handed by attendees in the aisles or outside of your booth space.
- e. Giveaways of actual, toy, look-alike, imitation, dummy and mock weapons at exhibits are prohibited.
- f. Security during non-show hours, including during move-in and move-out:
- 1) A Security Officer, procured from the show security provider, CES Security, at exhibitor expense, must be on-duty within your booth space during booth install as soon as the firearms arrive at the dock entrance to the exhibit hall, during non-show hours on show days, and during booth dismantle until GES has taken control of your firearms and removed them from the exhibit space.
  - 2) You must provide CES with a list of the individuals authorized to access your booth during non-show hours.
  - 3) A designated company representative must be on-site to supervise the load-in and load-out of your firearms. Also see 'Load-out of firearms' below.

**3. 'Toy, look-alike and imitation,' dummy and mock weapons, including BB, paintball, pellet-firing air guns, airsoft guns and other non-powder weapons**

- a. **All of these items are to be delivered to, and shipped from, the WEWCC Dock.**
- b. Those toy, look-alike and imitation weapons that fall within the purview of Title 15, Code of Federal Regulations, Part 272 (15 CFR 272) must be marked as indicated in that regulation.
- c. Spring-powered and battery-powered non-powder weapons and airsoft guns may be displayed; however, no BBs, paint balls, pellets or other projectiles may be fired or expelled in the

Convention Center.

- d. Gas-operated non-powdered weapons and airsoft guns **cannot** be displayed.
- e. Hybrid/combination non-powdered weapons and airsoft guns, which combine features of spring-powered or battery-powered, non-powder weapons & airsoft guns, **and** features of gas-operated non-powdered weapons and airsoft guns, **cannot** be displayed.
- f. Security in exhibit halls during show hours – these items must be secured in the same manner as actual firearms.
- g. Items must be secured in a locked steel cabinet, including during move-in and move-out.
- h. Giveaways of toy, look-alike, imitation, dummy and mock weapons at exhibits are prohibited.

#### 4. Bladed weapons

- a. **All of these items are to be delivered to, and shipped from, the WEWCC Dock.**
- b. These include, but are not necessarily limited to, knives, box cutters, swords, sabers, bayonets, machetes, hatchets, axes, daggers, spears, meat cleavers and halberds [see below re: prohibited items]
- c. Knives with blades over four inches, swords, sabers and bayonets **may** be exhibited, provided they are secured to the exhibit in the same manner as actual firearms or are displayed in a glass case.
- d. Knives, regardless of blade length, and swords, sabers and bayonets, regardless of size and blade length, may **not** be used as promotional or give-away items.
- e. Bladed weapons must be secured in a locked steel cabinet, including during move-in and move-out.
  - a. **Other weapons and devices** -- The following weapons and devices are prohibited from being used, exhibited, demonstrated, or distributed: machetes; hatchets; axes, including ice axes; daggers; spears; meat cleavers; halberds; firefighter Halligan tools; pry bars; bows & arrows; crossbows; fencing swords, epees, and foils; ice picks; morning stars & maces; jousting lances; blackjacks; billy clubs; darts; Tasers and stun guns; Ninja weapons and throwing stars and any other weapon or device deemed inappropriate for exhibition, demonstration or distribution in the sole discretion of AUSA.

#### 5. Deviations from these Rules and Regulations

- a. Any deviations from these rules and regulations are not permitted.

#### 6. Load-out of firearms

- a. AUSA and GES highly recommend that you make arrangements with your shipper for your firearms to be packed up and loaded out of the Convention Center the night the show closes. AUSA has made arrangements with GES to make this process as smooth as possible: Please visit the GES Service Center to request special Empty Sticker labels to go on your firearm cases. Once

you have unpacked your firearm cases and are ready for them to be stored by GES during the show, you will apply this sticker. This sticker will also indicate to GES that this case is to be stored on site and delivered back to your booth at the close of the show. The night of show close, you will receive back your firearm cases as a priority and should arrange for your shipper to pick up the shipment that night. You will receive during the show a Bill of Lading (BOL) that indicates this is a priority shipment. You will then turn in this BOL to the GES Service Center once your firearms are packed up and ready to go. As a reminder, you are required to have security stay at your booth until GES has taken control of your firearms and removed them from the exhibit space. You are also required to have a designated company representative supervise the load out of the firearms.

- b. Please note, if you chose not to load out your firearms the night of show close, GES and AUSA assume zero liability for any theft or damage. If you have any high value, military hardware on display at the AUSA Annual Meeting that does not qualify as a firearm but would like to take advantage of the expedited move out the night of show close, please reach out to [ausa@ges.com](mailto:ausa@ges.com) GES and AUSA will review these requests on a case-by-case basis to see if they can accommodate the expedited move out.