

NROI Interpretation for the Production Division Equipment Rules (Appendix D4)

June 25, 2009

General interpretation(s):

In accordance with the direction of the Board and their statement of intent with regard to Production Division equipment rules, NROI hereby issues the following ruling:

- External modifications continue to be strictly constrained to items specifically listed below.
- Some specific classes of internal modifications are now specifically allowed, but in general internal modifications remain constrained to items specifically listed.
- If a conflict appears to exist between these general statements and the listed details, below, the specifics listed in the notes and clarifications below shall be deemed definitive.
- The burden of responsibility is on the shooter to ensure that his/her equipment is compliant with these provisions. If a modification is disputed – either by a Match Official or a competitor, under 11.1.2 and 11.7 – the competitor may be required to provide evidence of a specific clause in the rules or published NROI rulings which specifically authorizes the modification.
- While the rules are currently silent on a Match Official's authority to disassemble a competitor's equipment, a competitor may – at any time – be required to prove that the equipment is compliant with the equipment rules, up to and including the disassembly of their equipment to verify compliance and proper function (e.g., the proper operation of factory safety mechanisms).
- A competitor who cannot demonstrate that his/her equipment is compliant with these provisions will be moved to Open Division, under 6.2.5.1

Except as specifically modified below, all other clauses in Appendix D4 remain in effect, along with any applicable NROI rulings. In order to carry binding authority in competition, an NROI ruling must be published in Front Sight and/or on the USPSA web-page.

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(Appendix D4)
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Specific clauses and related interpretation(s):

Appendix Item	Current Language	January-09 Interpretation/clarification
21	Authorized Modifications (strictly limited to these items and their stated guidelines)	<p><u>Please note</u> that, during a match, a shooter may be required to demonstrate that their gun is in compliance with Division rules by identifying a specific rules clause or published interpretation which authorizes any disputed modification. If the shooter cannot identify an authorizing rules-clause or published interpretation, the RM shall rule that the modification is PROHIBITED for Production use and shall move the shooter to Open Division.</p>
21.1	Internal throating and polishing to improve accuracy, reliability and function.	<p>Because internal modifications are currently very difficult to enforce, NROI now deems that this clause means “INTERNAL modifications which do NOT conflict with other clauses of this appendix are NOW ALLOWED.</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ See 21.3 for specifics with regard to slides. ■ See 21.4 for specifics with regard to barrels. ■ ALL factory safety mechanisms, whether internal or external, must remain functional. ■ See 22.2 for specifics on external safeties. ■ Per existing NROI ruling, any “internal” modifications which result in a <u>visible change</u> to the external appearance of the gun when it is in battery REMAIN PROHIBITED unless specifically allowed by the plain language herein.

21.3a	Slide - refinishing	<p>Per existing NROI ruling, cosmetically enhancing the finish of a slide is already ALLOWED in Production Division, provided that the finish provides no competitive advantage.</p> <p>This clause is NOW interpreted to specifically ALLOW refinishing the frame, as well as the slide, subject to the existing constraints on refinishing (cosmetic only, no competitive advantage).</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Any finish which provides a non-cosmetic function will be deemed PROHIBITED. For example, a gun finish which provides a roughened texture in an area where grip tape is not allowed (Appendix E4) is a PROHIBITED modification.
21.3b	Milling of slide – only as required to insert sights.	Remains in effect – a slide may be modified specifically for the purpose of installing sights, and for <u>no other purpose</u> .
21.4	After-market slides and barrels – provided they are the same length, contour and caliber as original factory standard.	<p>SLIDES: Current rules remain in effect – You may replace the slide with an OEM or aftermarket slide which is of the same length, contour and caliber as the original slide for that model of gun.</p> <p>BARRELS: Current rules remain in effect - you may replace the barrel with an OEM or aftermarket barrel which is of the same length, contour and caliber as the original barrel for that model of gun.</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For purposes of this interpretation, a barrel within +/- 0.1” of OEM is “the same length”.

21.5	Grips	<p>For semi-automatic Production guns, grip tape, grip sleeves, checkering, stippling or other texture may only be applied in the areas shown in appendix E4. Glue and grit is considered the same as stippling.</p> <p>Replacement grip panels are allowed provided they do not extend below the butt of the gun to form a make-shift magwell.</p> <p><u>Revolver</u> grips may be replaced with OEM or aftermarket grips of any shape, profile and surface texture.</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ See 22.4, below, for specifics with regard to modifications on revolver grips.
21.6	Exchange of minor INTERNAL components (strickers, sears, springs, connectors/disconnectors, and other wholly-internal parts)	<p>INTERNAL parts: This clause is NOW interpreted to mean that a broad range of INTERNAL parts may be modified or replaced – either with OEM or aftermarket parts.</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Strickers, sears, springs, connectors/disconnectors, and any other part which is NOT visible when the gun is in battery is considered an INTERNAL part and may be modified or replaced unless otherwise prohibited in these provisions (see section 22 for specific prohibitions). ■ Guide rods are considered an “internal part” and may be modified and/or replaced with OEM or aftermarket guide rods even though part of the guide rod is externally visible when the gun is in battery. Note that the weight limits in D4-18 remain in force and relevant.

21.6 (cont)	Exchange of minor EXTERNAL components	<p>Sights, firing pins, firing pin retainers, extractors and ejectors MAY be replaced with OEM or aftermarket parts.</p> <p>Any other components which are externally visible may ONLY be replaced with OEM parts which are offered on the specific model of gun or another approved gun from the same manufacturer except as specifically clarified below. Examples of external components which may only be replaced with OEM parts include (but are not limited to): magazine releases, slide stops, thumb safeties and triggers.</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Barrels are considered “external parts” and are subject to specific restrictions in 21.4 and associated rulings. ■ A factory/OEM magazine release which extends only the length of the magazine release may be used. A magazine release which provides larger surface area (paddles, buttons) may only be used if it is an OEM part available on an approved model of gun. ■ Externally-visible parts from “custom shop” guns will only be considered “OEM parts” if the custom-shop gun is on the NROI list of approved Production guns.
21.7 (New)	Magazines	<p>Prior restrictions on magazines have been lifted. OEM and aftermarket magazines and base-pads may be used. However, any and all magazines used in competition, must fit into the USPSA box while empty and inserted in the handgun as described in item 7 of this appendix. Grip tape and/or skate board tape are specifically allowed on magazines and base-pads</p>

22	Specifically prohibited modifications and features	<p>Please <u>note</u> that the absence of an item in the list of prohibited modifications MAY NOT be construed to mean a modification is allowed. A modification is only allowed in Production Division if there is a rules clause or interpretation which specifically declares that it is allowed in the Division.</p> <p>Removing or disabling firing-pin blocks or any other factory safety mechanism in Production division is specifically prohibited.</p>
22.2	Disabling of any external safety or externally operated safety	<p>Remains in effect – external- and externally-operated safety mechanisms must remain operable. (no change)</p> <p>Special Notes/Clarifications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ For purposes of this clause, a “trigger safety” is externally visible, and must remain operable. ■ For purposes of this clause, the prohibition on “disabling” means that you may NOT modify an external safety mechanism in any way that affects its function <u>as a safety</u> per the OEM design. ■ For purposes of this clause, a magazine-disconnect is NOT considered a safety mechanism, and may be removed. <p>Please <u>note</u> that other clauses in the body of the competition rules require that a “trigger mechanism must, at all times, function safely” (5.1.4), that handguns must be “serviceable and safe” (5.1.6) and that the Range Master is the final authority on the definition of “safety” as it pertains to the mechanism of the gun (8.1.2.4). It is the competitor’s responsibility to be able to demonstrate at any time that all factory safety mechanisms are functional, regardless of whether they are internal or external.</p>

22.4	Grips – any addition or removal of material which changes the factory profile or adds function such as beavertail or thumb rest.	As noted above (21.5) <u>Revolver</u> grips may be replaced with OEM or aftermarket grips of any shape, profile and surface texture. 22.4 is deemed to NOT APPLY to REVOLVER grips. Adding or removing material to change the profile of Revolver grips is ALLOWED.
22.5	External plugs (such as Seattle Slug)	Remains in effect – external plugs which alter the grip profile or extend past the bottom of the grip are PROHIBITED.
22.6	Magwell opening	The longitudinal (front-to-back) dimension of the opening <u>may</u> be more than 1/4” greater than the corresponding dimension of a magazine. External flaring remains PROHIBITED.
Special Cond #2	Unless specifically authorized above, modifications are prohibited.	UNLESS a modification is SPECIFICALLY authorized in the rules or SPECIFICALLY authorized in an official, published NROI interpretation, it is considered a PROHIBITED MODIFICATION.