

YOU BE THE JUDGE



The .410 Taurus Judge is a conventional revolver

Some of you may be aware that the Firearms Act allows for the grant of a .410 or 9mm rimfire shot pistol for the destruction of vermin and pests.

The reason for the grant was because in confined areas such as Barns and out buildings it was deemed safer and more convenient than a section 2 shotgun. Single and double barreled shot pistol are prohibited section 5 handguns, as they are less than 60cm in length. Provided you can demonstrate good reason, your Firearms Enquiry Team should grant you a shot pistol on a section 1 Firearms Certificate.

A quantity of Taurus Judge revolvers chambered for .410 shot shells and smooth bored were imported two years ago. The Taurus Judge is a conventional revolver with a cylinder to accommodate five rounds. Well the police did their usual knee jerk, and have tried to say they were illegal as a shot pistol as they fell foul of the

Firearms act as a section 5(1 ad) - this is a 'revolver gun' - not a section 5(1 aba) handgun. I say rubbish.

The Act states that a revolver gun is a firearm where the cylinder or drum rotates upon firing. This applies to the South African Striker, also known as the Protecta and Streetweeper. The rotary drum magazine has a spring, which is wound, and the drum loaded with 12 shotgun cartridges in 12 gauge. In essence it a quick firing semi auto shotgun for use against insurgents. Once fired the drum rotates and ejects the spent cartridge. In complete contrast the Taurus Judge is a conventional revolver where the cylinder is locked upon firing, it only rotates upon cocking, or when the trigger is pulled in double action. In my view it clearly falls within Section 5(1 aba) and NOT Section 5(1 ad).

The only revolver I can think of that rotates upon firing is the Webley Fosberry, and the Taurus Judge is certainly not one of those. Owners of the Taurus Judge have had them confiscated, awaiting legal opinion. We have made a video of the two firearms, they are clearly different, the Judge does not rotate upon firing, whereas the Striker does.



The Striker (or Protecta or Streetsweeper) is effectively a semi-auto shotgun with a drum magazine - not a revolver

Keep Your Powder Dry

Great news for reloaders and muzzleloaders from the Department of Health & Safety Executive issued by Her Majesty's Inspector of Explosives.

Under the Explosives Act 1875, an individual was allowed to possess, without registering the premises, 30 pounds of black powder (now 15 kilos), this being the weight of the contents of a standard powder barrel. This was later modified to allow possession of either 15 kilos of black powder or 10 kilos of black and 5 kilos of smokeless. The 2012 exemption allows possession of 15 kilos of any proportion of black and smokeless powders from 15 kilos of black to 15 kilos of smokeless powder, a major improvement for the reloader.

This is in force from January 2012 and is a direct result of our lobbying together with the British Shooting Sports Council.

Don't hunt elephants with the Northampton Police

The Northampton Firearms Enquiry Team were in the news recently. At an appeal in the Crown Court a Judge upheld the decision of licensing manager, Mrs. Bridget Hodgson, to refuse the grant of a .357 pistol for the humane dispatch of deer by a Northamptonshire deer stalker and landowner, stating that in her opinion he had not demonstrated "good reason". I was in court and it appeared to me that the Judge had not grasped the essence of the appeal. Mrs. Hodgson stated that the only .357 pistol that they had granted was to dispatch circus elephants!

Throughout the world it would surely be unlawful to shoot an elephant with a handgun, the minimum requirement usually being a .375 rifle.