

THE VIOLENT CRIME REDUCTION ACT 2006

Section 2 shotgun cartridges and primers

Some cartridges used in large bore shotguns and punt guns utilise rifle and pistol primers. Owners of rare and obsolete calibres may also utilise rifle cartridges, flare gun and other cartridges which use or contain 'rifle' and 'pistol' primers.

As of the 6th April 2007 it is an offence for anybody to sell to anybody a cap type primer "designed for use in metallic cartridges for use in a firearm" (i.e. small and large rifle and pistol primers) unless they produce the appropriate certificate. The Act also relates to cartridges containing these primers (i.e. capped cases) whether for a firearm or a shotgun.

Whilst empty and un-primed cases are not subject to the Act, a primed or capped case may not be sold to anybody without a certificate authorising them to possess ammunition of a relevant kind i.e. a firearm or shotgun certificate.

As the Act says "sell" and not 'give', primers may be given to other people. Their possession without a certificate is not an offence; however BASC does not advocate giving primers to non certificate holders.

PLEASE NOTE: 209 type shotgun primers and percussion caps for muzzle loading firearms and shotguns are exempt from this law and may be acquired without a certificate. Blank ammunition is also not affected.

Once a capped case incorporating such a primer is made into 'shotgun ammunition' by adding the remaining component parts i.e. shot and propellant, it may be given but where they are 'sold' a valid certificate must be produced by the purchaser.

Part 2 (Weapons) of the Violent Crime Reduction Act can be viewed here - www.opsi.gov.uk/acts/acts2006/20060038.htm

The Home Office Circular on the commenced sections may be viewed here - <http://www.homeoffice.gov.uk/about-us/corporate-publications-strategy/home-office-circulars/circulars-2007/012-2007/>

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