

## **Prohibited magazines**

### **A guide to serialising**

Under the new legislation any now prohibited magazine that remains after the amnesty ends must be held as a registered and accountable item against a licence with an endorsement to possess a prohibited (P) magazine and may thereafter only be transferred by permit in the same way as a prohibited or restricted firearm.

It is therefore necessary for owners of these magazines that are seeking the appropriate P endorsement in the category that applies to their intended purpose, to physically apply a serial number to each magazine they wish to retain.

While the Arms Act does not specify any particular format serial numbers must meet minimum requirements.

### **Minimum requirements**

1. Serial numbers must be applied in a way that is **permanent**
2. Serial numbers must be **legible** in normal light
3. Serial numbers must be a **minimum of 2mm in height**
4. Serial number must be on the **body or base plate** of the magazine, not the follower

You must make sure whatever you choose as your numbering system is exactly what you record in your application for the P endorsement as on approval you will be accountable for each magazine and must be able to produce the matching magazines for inspection when required. Applicants are required to complete the serialisation of magazines before applying for the P endorsement.

### **Practical matters**

The serial number is a practical matter for compliance not a matter of art. We are aware that size, location and neatness will be of greater concern to collectors than perhaps pest control endorsement holders.

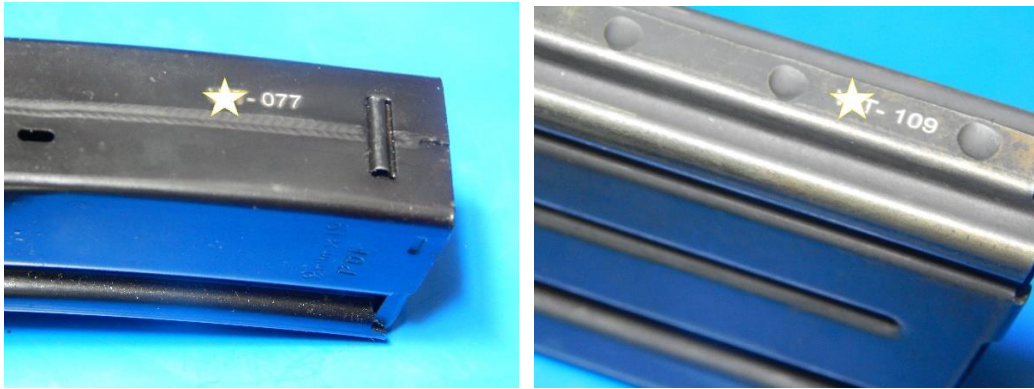
It is therefore up to holders of magazines that are applying for a P endorsement to decide on format, placement and process of application of serial numbers. Therefore applicants may adopt what suits their purpose best and to a level of perfection as you are content with provided the result is legible and permanent.

### **Steel or Aluminium magazines**

The neatest and cleanest result is laser engraving which uses a computer controlled laser making perfect and consistent results. A laser engraver is a specialist tool and relatively expensive to contract the work to but it does provide the best result.

It is important to make sure it is an engraver not a laser marker which is used to make less durable temporary marks that do not meet the minimum requirements for serialising magazines.

Here are examples of laser engraving (parts of the serial number have been obscured for security reasons)



Alternately you may wish to have a professional mechanical engraver such as diamond tipped rotary engravers or vibrating carbide tip engravers. These are more common and accessible and if you feel competent and the result will comply you can do the work yourself - legible does not require machine perfection.

There is also the option of using engineers stamps. There is a considerable risk of damaging the magazine with this process however it does leave a neat and permanent result. It is advisable to use a steel mandrel of suitable size and shape to hold the area to be stamped against to reduce the chance of the magazine being deformed by the impacts.

Examples of these methods are shown below (parts of the serial number have been obscured for security reasons).



Vibrating tip

Diamond tip rotary

Stamped

Photo etching is not recommended as it cannot be relied on to produce a durable enough result and is in any event cost and time prohibitive as a process. No example is provided but it is mentioned for the sake of completeness.

### Plastic + Polymer and Bakelite magazines

These materials are unsuitable for laser processes and are either too brittle or too elastic to respond to stamping and so by default some form of mechanical erosion method either vibrating or rotary diamond tip is needed.

Once again your need for perfection or just readability will dictate what kind of machine you employ between a professional computer guided engraver or a hand held tool. Some polymers including many soviet ones are notoriously hard to scratch let alone engrave so you may need to change tool if you find what you had success with on steel is not working. Examples of these are below (parts of the serial number have been obscured for security reasons).



**Vibrating tip**



**Rotary tip**

### **General points**

Placement is a matter of practicality and the need to not confuse any historical or factory numbers. It is recommended that you be consistent in your application and placement of serial numbers so that you know where to look for the number when required. Ideally it should be on the body of the magazine but it need not be visible when inserted into its firearm which goes some way toward preserving the display integrity for collector items.

As described in the P endorsement application form it may suit to use your initials followed by a number series to make it easier to know it is one of your magazines. However, you may wish to incorporate some or all of an associated firearms serial number to pair the magazines to it while others may choose a more generic alpha numeric sequence with no particular meaning. What matters is that your magazines match on any later inspection what you have registered as the prohibited magazines you wish to retain on your application form.

If you have any questions or issues you can contact Police on [prohibitedfirearmendorsement@police.govt.nz](mailto:prohibitedfirearmendorsement@police.govt.nz) or consult with your local collector groups who are likely to have identified the right trades people and or tools in your area to complete the work and be able to help you connect.