



GRETCHEN WHITMER
GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
LANSING



M. SCOTT BOWEN
DIRECTOR

SUBMITTED: June 16, 2025

MEMORANDUM TO THE DIRECTOR

Information: Natural Resources Commission

Subject: Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges

Authority:

Section 1 of 1989 PA 269 (PA 269) and Executive Orders 2009-45, 2009-54, 2011-1, and 2011-2 authorize the Department of Natural Resources (Department) to adopt generally accepted operation practices for sport shooting ranges.

Discussion and Background:

Sport Shooting Ranges, 1989 PA 269, provides civil immunity to persons who operate or use certain sport shooting ranges. The law was amended by Public Act 250 of 1994 to protect owners and operators of shooting ranges from nuisance suits based on noise emanating from the range. Under the terms of the law, an existing sport shooting range in compliance with noise ordinances or laws that existed when the range was established, and operating according to generally accepted operation practices (GAOPs), is afforded this protection.

Once adopted, the GAOPs must be reviewed at least every five years. The most recent review of the GAOPs occurred in 2019 and was based on specifications outlined in the *National Rifle Association (NRA) Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction, 2012*. During that review, Department staff determined the 2012 edition of the *NRA Range Source Book* had not been modified and, as a result, no changes to the GAOPs were necessary at that time.

In 2023, a revised edition of the *NRA Range Source Book* was published. Staff recently reviewed the 2023 edition and determined that modifications had been made. Based specifically on that review, an outline of "Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Shooting Ranges" is provided below. Note that the *NRA Range Source Book* was designed to provide guidance and direction to the sport/recreational shooting community. The information contained within the manual is advisory and should be considered a set of guidelines rather than absolute requirements for safe and responsible range design and operation. Those portions of the *NRA Range Source Book* which are not included in the GAOPs are considered informational to the named Sections, Chapters and Articles. Because each shooting range is unique, with design and operation of the range being dependent upon its site, surrounding topography, adjoining land ownership, and shooting opportunities offered, not all ranges require identical operating environments or on-site structures.

Drawing from the *NRA Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning & Construction 2023**, the following portions define the "Generally Accepted Operation Practices":

Section I, General Information

Chapter 1, General Information

- Article 1. Introduction
- Article 2. Planning Overview
- Article 3. Americans with Disabilities Act

Chapter 2A Developing a Shooting Range Safety Plan

- Article 1. General
- Article 2. General Administrative Regulations
- Article 3. Safety Planning
- Article 4. General Range Commands

Chapter 2B Safety Rule and Commands

- Article 1. Range Safety Rules
- Article 2. Range Commands

Chapter 5, Operations and Maintenance

- Article 1. General
- Article 2. Administration
- Article 3. Safety
- Article 4. Security
- Article 5. Public Health
- Article 6. Employee Health
- Article 7. Sanitation
- Article 8. Operations
- Article 9. Maintenance

Chapter 6, Sound Abatement on Shooting Ranges

- Article 1. General
- Article 2. State Shooting Range Statutes
- Article 3. Sound
- Article 4. Sound Abatement Techniques

Section II, Outdoor Ranges

Chapter 8, General Outdoor Range Information

- Article 1. General
- Article 2. Legal Considerations

Chapter 10, Outdoor Range Operation and Maintenance

- Article 1. General
- Article 2. Operations
- Article 3. Maintenance
- Article 1. General
- Article 2. Safety
- Article 4. Operations and Maintenance

Chapter 21, Outdoor Informal Training

Section III, Indoor Ranges

Chapter 23, General Indoor Range Information

Article 2. General Indoor Information

Article 3. Safety

Chapter 25, Indoor Range Operations and Maintenance

Article 1. General

Article 2. Operations

***Source: National Rifle Association, The Range Source Book, A Guide to Planning and Construction, 2023**

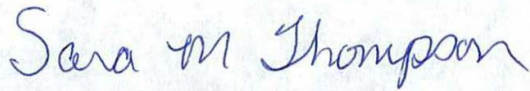
Staff recommends that the Director adopt the GAOPs as outlined above.

Generally Accepted Operation Practices for Sport Shooting Ranges

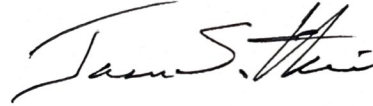
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Relevant Divisions have contributed to the preparation of this memorandum. This memorandum will appear on the Department's July 1, 2025, calendar and is eligible for approval on July 10, 2025.



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I have analyzed and discussed these recommendations with staff and concur.

M. Scott Bowen
Director

Date Approved: