

A. Purpose:

1. To provide an alternate method to test the operability of a firearm, if during the examination it is determined to be unsafe for test firing. If it is not necessary to obtain test standards for comparison purposes, the working condition of the firearm can be established by using a primed empty cartridge case or shotshell to primer fire the firearm.

B. Responsibility:

1. It is the examiner's responsibility to safely establish the working condition of a firearm.

C. Safety:

1. Appropriate hearing and eye protection must be used.
2. Perform the testing in a safe designated laboratory area.

D. Procedure:

1. Obtain a primed empty cartridge case in the desired caliber. If a primed cartridge case is not available, create one by using an inertia bullet puller or reloading press to remove the bullet from the cartridge case, retaining only the primed cartridge case. For shotguns, obtain a primed empty shotshell in the desired gauge, or create one by cutting open a live shotshell, removing all components, and retaining only the primed shotshell.
2. Wear proper hearing and eye protection.
3. Ensure that the ventilation exhaust system is turned on.
4. Turn on the hallway warning device.
5. Load the primed empty cartridge case, or primed empty shotshell, into the chamber of the firearm. Primer fire the firearm inside the water recovery bullet trap, the snail bullet trap, or the indoor range.
6. When utilizing a primed empty cartridge case, it is imperative that the examiner check the barrel for obstructions between each firing.
7. Repeat the primer firing process if the firearm has more than one action.
8. Recover all primer fired components.

*Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro*

E. Equipment:

1. Inertia bullet puller

F. References:

1. AFTE procedures manual
2. Laboratory safety manual

G. Appropriate Appendices:

- 1 Appendix 4 -- Worksheets

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