

Approved by Director: Dr. Guy Vallaro

Measuring Barrel and Overall Length

A. Purpose:

To measure the barrel and overall length of a firearm.

The State of Connecticut defines a pistol or a revolver as any firearm having a barrel less than 12 inches. Federal statutes define short-barreled shotguns to have an overall length of less than 26 inches and a barrel length of less than 18 inches. Federal statutes define short-barreled rifles to have an overall length of less than 26 inches and a barrel length of less than 16 inches.

B. Responsibility:

Assigned Unit staff

C. Safety:

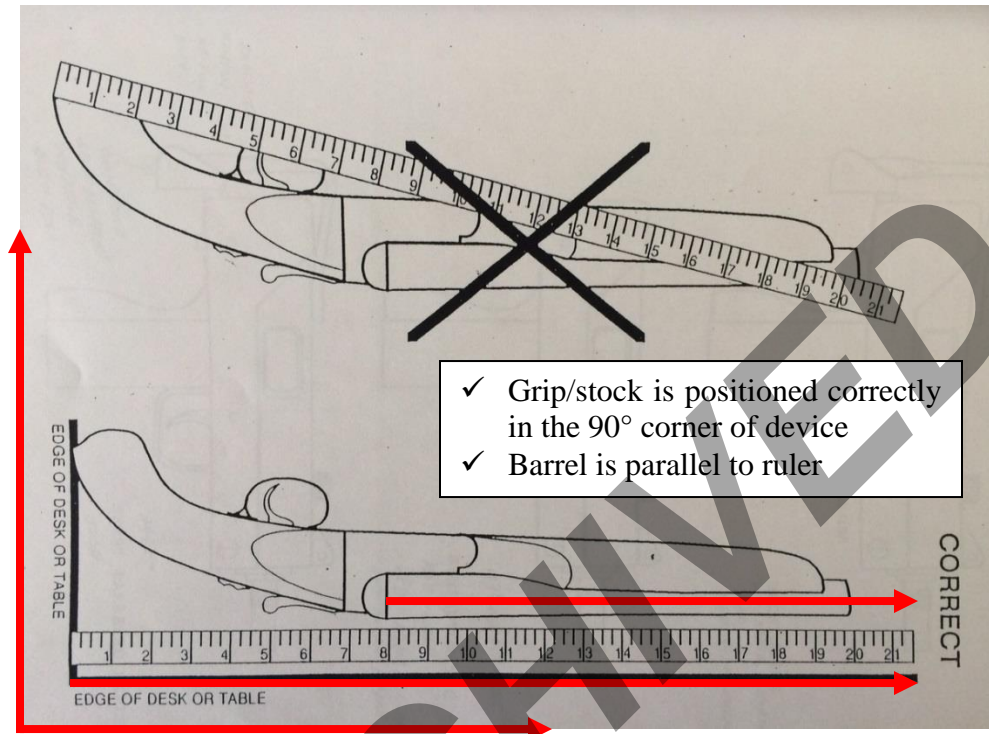
1. Follow all safety rules for handling firearms.
2. Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) can be used at the discretion of the analyst.

D. Procedure:

1. Overall Length

- a. Using the Overall/Barrel Measuring Device, place the rear of the firearm so that the rearmost portion of the firearm is contacting the rear fixed plate.
- b. Align the firearm in the measuring device so that the barrel is parallel to the side plate
- c. Gently slide the movable plate until it contacts the barrel.
- d. Looking perpendicularly to the ruler, observe the reading on the ruler, and record it on the Weapon Worksheet.

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2. Barrel Length

- a. With the action of the firearm in the closed position, gently insert the metal rod into the barrel until it encounters the breechface.
 - b. Slide the adjustable collar until it touches the tip of the barrel and lock in the collar with the thumb screw.
 - a. Remove the barrel measuring rod and place it on the measuring device parallel to the ruler and flush against the rear plate. Record on the Weapon Worksheet the measurement on the ruler where the collar is positioned.
3. Uncertainty of Measurement (UoM) has been calculated for this analysis. This information may be found in the Unit's uncertainty budget, located within the Firearms Unit.

Equipment:

1. Precision Forensic Testing Overall/Barrel Measuring Device

References:

1. *Instructions for Use of the MD-36/MD-48 Overall/Barrel Measuring Device from Precision Forensic Testing instruction manual*

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2. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms & Explosives (ATF) *Firearms and Ammunition Identification Guide*
3. Connecticut General Statutes § 53a-3 (18); 53a-211
4. National Firearms Act of 1934: 26 U.S.C. Chapter 53
5. GL 1.5 ASCLD/LAB Uncertainty Policy
6. Firearms Unit Uncertainty Budget

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