



HANDGUNS & RELATED EQUIPMENT

Enforcement Division
Policy Number: LE 4.03.02

Effective Date: 2/1/08

POLICY

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) will issue an approved handgun to each certified peace officer (CPO) unless the CPO chooses to carry an authorized personally-owned handgun. While on duty, the CPO will only carry a handgun that has been approved by the firearms instructor and a supervisor.

PROCEDURES

a. Handguns.

1. Authorization of a handgun other than the agency-issued handgun requires:
 - the approval of both **the firearms instructor and supervisor** and
 - the completion of a *Personally Owned Weapon Report*.
2. A firearms instructor and a supervisor may approve a handgun between .380 and .45 caliber to substitute for the agency-issued firearm or a secondary handgun to be carried in a safe manner while on or off-duty.
3. A firearms instructor and a supervisor may only approve firearms that:
 - are clean and well maintained;
 - are mechanically safe to fire; and
 - meet the requirements described in this manual.

b. Holsters.

1. The TABC will issue to CPOs a holster to accompany the agency-issued weapon. If a CPO chooses to carry an approved personal handgun, the CPO must also wear an approved personal holster.
2. CPOs carrying their duty weapon on their person while on duty will carry it in a holster. CPOs participating in undercover operations may be an exception; however, the weapon must be carried in a safe manner.
3. A firearms instructor and a supervisor may only approve a holster that:
 - is specifically designed for the handgun;
 - covers the trigger when the weapon is holstered;

- is a thumb break type or has another recognized retention system approved by the captain;
 - attaches to the belt by loop or slot and requires the belt to be unfastened in order to remove the holster; and
 - is black, brown, tan, or other neutral color.
4. A firearms instructor and a supervisor may only approve a shoulder holster if:
- the CPO has demonstrated proficiency in wearing and qualifying with a shoulder holster;
 - the shoulder holster is leather and form-fitting to the weapon;
 - the shoulder holster is a horizontal carrying type and thumb break type; and
 - the shoulder holster covers the trigger when the weapon is holstered.
- c. **Grips.**
1. The handgun issued by the TABC may have factory-installed grips, or the TABC may issue grips.
 2. CPOs may, at their own expense, install slip-on, rubber grips.
- d. **Handgun Ammunition.** Refer to *Ammunition*, § 4.03.05 of this manual, for policies and procedures.

FORMS

Personally Owned Weapons Report
