



RIFLES

Effective Date: 2/01/08**Revision Date: 6/30/09****Enforcement Division
Policy Number: LE 4.03.04**

POLICY

The Texas Alcoholic Beverage Commission (TABC) will issue a rifle to a certified peace officer (CPO) when necessary, unless the CPO chooses to carry an authorized personally-owned rifle.

PROCEDURES

a. Authorized Rifles.

1. Approved CPOs may use an agency-issued rifle.
2. CPOs will not modify an agency-issued rifle.
3. CPOs may be authorized to use a personally owned rifle. Authorization of a rifle other than the agency-issued rifle requires:
 - the approval of both **the firearms instructor and supervisor** and
 - the completion of a *Personally Owned Weapon Report*.
4. The TABC allows modifications of personally owned rifles only with approval of firearm instructor, training coordinator, and chief or assistant chief of enforcement.

b. Requesting Rifle Authorization.

1. CPOs who want to carry a rifle while on-duty must submit a written request to their firearms instructor. The request must include:
 - a detailed description of the CPO's reason for requesting authorization;
 - whether the CPO requires a agency-issued rifle or intends to use a personal rifle which meets the qualifications of these policies and procedures; and
 - if the CPO wishes to use a personal rifle, the make, model, and serial number of the rifle and any modifications made to the rifle.
2. The firearms instructor will review the requesting CPO's proficiency with their handgun and will submit the request with recommendations to the CPO's immediate supervisor.
3. The lieutenant and captain will conduct an overall assessment of the CPO's duties and proficiency with firearms and will submit the CPO's request with their recommendations to enforcement headquarters.

4. Approval will be conditional on demonstrated proficiency during rifle training.

c. Rifle Training.

1. CPOs who have been conditionally approved to carry a rifle must complete rifle training before they are authorized to carry a rifle while on duty.
2. The initial rifle training course will consist of a patrol rifle course provided by the agency's firearms instructors.
3. The rifle training course will cover operation of the rifle, field stripping and cleaning the rifle, rifle maintenance, various shooting positions, and the differences between the sight pictures used with a handgun and rifle.

d. Annual Qualification.

1. CPOs authorized to carry a rifle will qualify once a year by completing a course selected by the training coordinator and firearms instructors. CPOs must pass the course with a minimum score of 90%.
2. CPOs must qualify using only the manufactured iron sights.
3. The firearms instructors will allow CPOs three attempts to pass the qualification course.
4. A CPO who fails the qualification course must successfully complete a remedial rifle course selected by the training coordinator and supervising firearms instructor.
5. If a CPO fails the remedial course, the firearms instructor and training coordinator will revoke the CPO's rifle authorization.
6. The firearms instructor and training coordinator may revoke a CPO's rifle authorization at any time for an unsafe act with a rifle or any firearm or for a violation of the policies and procedures in this section.
7. A CPO whose rifle authorization has been revoked will no longer carry a rifle. The CPO may, however, submit another request for authorization to carry a rifle after three months have passed since the date of the revocation.

e. Deployment of a Rifle.

1. Subject to the following exceptions, a rifle will only be deployed at the direction of a supervisor.
2. A CPO may only deploy a rifle without the approval of a supervisor when time constraints prevent the CPO from notifying a supervisor and:
 - there is reason to believe that a subject is wearing protective body armor;
 - there is reason to believe that a subject is armed with or has immediate access to

a high-powered weapon which surpasses the capability of weapons normally carried by CPOs; or

- the range of the engagement is greater than the distance in which a handgun is effective.
3. A CPO who deploys a rifle will notify his or her supervisor as soon as possible and will complete a *Use of Force Report*.

f. Transporting the Rifle.

1. When on-duty, a CPO will carry a rifle in a carrying case or a trunk mount system.
2. The CPO will not remove the rifle from the vehicle except for inspection, transfer from one unit to another, an act authorized under this section, or other authorized purpose.
3. A rifle transported in a vehicle must:
 - have an empty chamber;
 - be de-cocked;
 - have a fully loaded magazine in the magazine well; and
 - have the action closed.

FORMS

Personally Owned Weapons Report
Use of Force Report

REVISION HISTORY

06-30-09: The 16-hour course requirement and the instructor's certification by the National Rifle Association reference were deleted from the Rifle Training section.
