

## 10. Intervention models

The way an intervention is begun is the key to its success. An essential element is quick analysis of the information about the person, place and circumstances of the event.

One common way of indicating the level of possible threat is a number and/or colour code, which helps team members prepare for potential threats and provides very concise information for support.

### Basic division of intervention numbers according to the level of threat:



#### Level 1 (green)

Individual is cooperative and peaceful, without threat. Accepts and follows all orders. Level 1 (GREEN) is the level of intervention that does not indicate a threat to health; a standard situation. It is about being prepared for verbal contentions, clarifying the circumstances of the incident.



#### Level 2 (orange)

Verbally aggressive individual, resisting physically and not following orders. May be necessary to use force. Level 2 (ORANGE) involves a threat to the safety of officers, probable aggressive attitudes, situation may escalate and develop quickly, and officers shall be prepared for intervention.



#### Level 3 (red)

Physically aggressive individual who attacks officers. Necessary to use self-defence or other force measures. Involves a direct threat to the safety of officers and other people, highly probable aggressive attitudes. Level 3 (RED) means that the officer must be prepared for the use of firearms<sup>16</sup>, evacuation of persons or a direct rescue operation. This is the code for high risk action.

*The codes are used as a quick and simple way to convey the situation to other patrols at the intervention site. Team members should be prepared for an escalation of interventions, and the division of codes allows faster planning of operations, e.g. during transport to the scene of an accident.*

<sup>16</sup> *Guidelines for implementation of the UN basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials.* Amnesty International. 2015.

*Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners.* United Nations. 1977

**During the implementation of practical classes, the trainer should indicate how the change of threat level influences the actions of the team members (position, behaviour, equipment, preparedness) before possible intervention.**

#### **11. Fundamental rights: objectivity of the trainer's behaviour**

The trainers must respect and protect fundamental rights, including human dignity, at all times. The principle of non-discrimination is at the core of the training and is a concern for all Frontex staff. Indeed, it is of utmost importance that controlled passengers are treated equality, in all situations, and that their specific vulnerabilities are taken into account.

Respecting human rights and fundamental freedoms in Frontex Category 1 staff training is particularly important because Frontex is an institution of the European Union and strictly adheres to European Union Law. All States involved in Frontex activities are expected to meticulously respect human rights.

**The objective of Frontex Category 1 statutory staff behaviour is to balance human rights with the need for identification and ensuring the overall security of the European Union. Trainers should emphasise the importance of respecting and ensuring human rights in all circumstances.**

Implementation of **fundamental rights in Use of Force** by law enforcement officials. Further reading for trainers:

- *Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials*. United Nations. 1990.
- *The European Convention on Human Rights and Policing: A handbook for police officers and other law enforcement officials*. Murdoch, J. & Roche, R. Council of Europe. 2013.
- *Use of Force in Law Enforcement and the Right to Life: The Role of the Human Rights Council*. Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights. 2016.
- *Use of Force – Guidelines for implementation of the UN basic principles on the use of force and firearms by law enforcement officials*. Amnesty International. 2015.

## SECTIONS

From here on, the manual is divided in three sections, namely firearms (Section A), Use of Force (Section B), and intervention tactics in specific cases (Section C).

### Section A – Firearms (service firearms)

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## A.1 Introduction

The personal service firearm (firearm) training program is based on the needs of working life. Safe and professional firearm handling is taken into account in the planning and implementation of training.

The aim of the training is to achieve safe and reliable firearm use techniques and sufficient shooting skills. It also takes into account the role of tactics that will be practised in individual and patrol situational exercises.

A high-quality, content-oriented, safety-related training program provides a clear basis for working during Frontex operations.

The Chapter 2 of the Annex V of the regulation (EU) 2019/1896 stipulates the use of firearms as follows<sup>17</sup>:

*“Statutory staff deployed as members of the teams shall not use firearms against persons, except in the following circumstances, and only when less extreme means are insufficient to achieve the necessary objectives:*

- *The use of firearms by statutory staff deployed as members of the teams is a last resort in an extreme emergency, especially if there is any risk that bystanders might be endangered*
- *The use of firearms by statutory staff deployed as members of the teams is necessary to defend themselves or others against an imminent threat of death or serious injury*
- *The use of firearms by statutory staff deployed as members of the teams is to prevent an imminent threat of death or serious injury*
- *The use of firearms by statutory staff deployed as members of the teams is to repel an actual attack or prevent an impending dangerous attack on essential institutions, services or facilities*

*Prior to the use of firearms, statutory staff deployed as members of the teams must give a clear warning of their intention to use such firearms. Warnings may be given orally or by the firing of warning shots.”*

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<sup>17</sup>- REGULATION (EU) 2019/1896 OF THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND OF THE COUNCIL of 13 November 2019 on the European Border and Coast Guard and repealing Regulations (EU) No 1052/2013 and (EU) 2016/1624. Attachment: Annex V - Rules on the use of force, including training and the supply, control and use of service weapons and non-lethal equipment, applicable to statutory staff deployed as members of the teams.



## A.2 Rules of firearms training

In addition to the safety rules described here, it is always to be ensured that the respective local safety and other rules are informed to all involved persons, and the rules are followed. If there is a discrepancy between the local rules and the ones described in this manual, the most safety one is to be followed. In unclear situations the case is to be referred to the respective person in a chain of command, to take the decision.

### A.2.1 Safety rules and conditions for using the shooting range

To ensure training safety, the training of personal service firearms must comply with the safety regulations and instructions, the rules of shooting ranges and areas, and observe the following rules and conditions:

- management relations and safety regulations for the trainees;
- firearm inspection by trainers before the start of shooting;
- minimum protection for official firearm shooting is a personal protective vest (additional plate according to established safety rules), goggles (including for wearers of spectacles), gloves and hearing protection;
- trainees need to know the location of a first aid kit and emergency telephone, and trainers need to assess the health of trainees;
- firearms, magazines and cartridges may be handled only with permission from the trainers, and dropped cartridges or magazines may be picked up only with permission from the trainers;
- the exercise must be controlled and guided, and the trainees must only perform the commanded exercises;
- the exercise is interrupted by the 'STOP (x3)' command;
- in order to ensure occupational safety, there should be a sufficient number of trainers in relation to the number of trainees;
- the training director, staff and other involved persons must be clearly distinguished in their clothing colour from the trainees, for example with reflective vests;
- entering and exiting the training area requires permission from the training director;
- persons behind the shooters must not handle firearms except in a location designated by the leader of the training, in a safe direction and with inspected firearms;
- the beginning and end of the exercise must be clearly stated by the exercise leader. The notification must be made immediately available to all persons participating in the exercise;
- a report shall be made from every shooting exercise. The report shall include (but not be limited to) the following matters, when applicable:
  - list of attendees;
  - list of trainers;
  - person in charge of the exercise;
  - ammunition used;
  - main learning goal (intended learning outcomes);
  - results;
  - danger and malfunction situations, and technical issues in training facilities (if any);
  - remarks and comments.

Shooting is strictly forbidden upon:

- appearance of other persons or animals within the shooting area;

- any of the shooters crossed the line, entering the shooting area himself/herself;
- projectiles being expelled outside of the shooting area.

#### A.2.2 Safety rules for training without the use of ammunition

- trainees must not have live ammunitions in their possession during the exercise;
- firearms used in training must be inspected by the trainers;
- inspected firearms must be marked as empty by using blue tape or a chamber blocking device;
- the leader of the exercise is responsible for instructing the use of non-lethal weapons in the training (baton etc.).

#### A.2.3 Safety rules for tactical training - scenarios (simulation training)

- only simulation firearms are used in the exercise;
- trainers must inspect the simulation firearms before the exercise;
- the training environment must be marked and controlled;
- minimum protection for simulation training is a personal protective vest (additional plate may be required based on the established rules), eye / head protection and gloves. It is also advised to protect bare skin and genital areas;
- the leader of the exercise is responsible for instructing on the use of non-lethal weapons in the training (baton etc.).

#### A.2.4 Shooting range voice commands

##### Shooting Range Voice Commands

- Load Magazine  
**"CHARGE"**
- Magazine in the gun  
**"LOAD"**
- Gun Loaded and ammunition in the chamber  
**"LOAD AND MAKE READY"**
- Shoot/Stop Shooting  
**"FIRE" / "CEASE FIRE"**
- Rotation right/left  
**"ATTENTION RIGHT/LEFT"**
- Moving Forward  
**"FORWARD, GO"**
- Moving Backward  
**"BACK, GO"**
- Malfunctions  
**"JAM"**
- Empty Magazine

**“EMPTY”**

- Safety Operations with gun

**“SHOW CLEAR FOR INSPECTION”**

- Gun into the holster

**“HOLSTER”**

- At the end of session

**“RANGE IS CLEAR”**

- Stop Firing in emergency situations or in case of shooting accidents

**“STOP” (x3)”** (everyone is obliged to repeat loudly)

### A.3 Inspection of the firearm

#### A.3.1 - User inspection of the firearm

1. keep your firearm pointed in a safe direction (QR ⇒ A.31 User inspection of a weapon 1).



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2. remove magazine from the firearm and take out ammunition from the ammunition chamber.





3. keeping the firearm pointed a safe direction, lock the slide in the back position and check the ammo chamber and magazine to make sure there is no ammunition left in your firearm.



4. release the slide lock and take a test shot in a safe direction, place the empty magazine in the firearm and then the firearm in the holster.





### A.3.2 - Trainer inspection of the firearm

1. stand in line (with other shooting participants)
2. the trainer inspects your firearm and magazines
3. unload the firearm
4. raise your hand and hold the magazines and firearm with the firearm slide locked back
5. wait until the trainer goes behind your back and checks your firearm and magazines, by tapping your shoulder and saying "checked"



6. after the trainer checks the firearm, release the slide lock and take a test shot in a safe direction, place the empty magazine in the firearm and then the firearm in the holster.

### A.3.3 - Passing a firearm to another person

1. keep the firearm pointed in a safe direction
2. unload and check your firearm
3. face the other person and let him or her grasp the firearm securely (lock back the slide, firearm pointed in a safe direction)
4. continue to hold onto the firearm until the other person confirms that he or she is holding it securely by saying "Thank you," "I've got it," or something similar.
5. the person takes over the firearm, releases the slide lock and takes a test shot in a safe direction. Then he or she can holster the firearm and place the magazines in the pouches

## A.4 Disassembly and assembly of the firearm and checking the condition of the firearm

### A.4.1 - Disassembly of the firearm

1. User inspection. Make sure that the chamber is empty!



2. point the weapon in a safe direction and pull the trigger (note: the trigger must be in the rearmost position to remove the slide)
3. hold your firearm with your hand with your fingers across the top of the rear of the slide in front of the rear sight and your thumb on the rear of the frame



4. using your fingers, retract the slide about 3mm and hold it in this position (Note: If you pull the slide too far to the rear, it will reset the pistol's trigger to the forward position.)

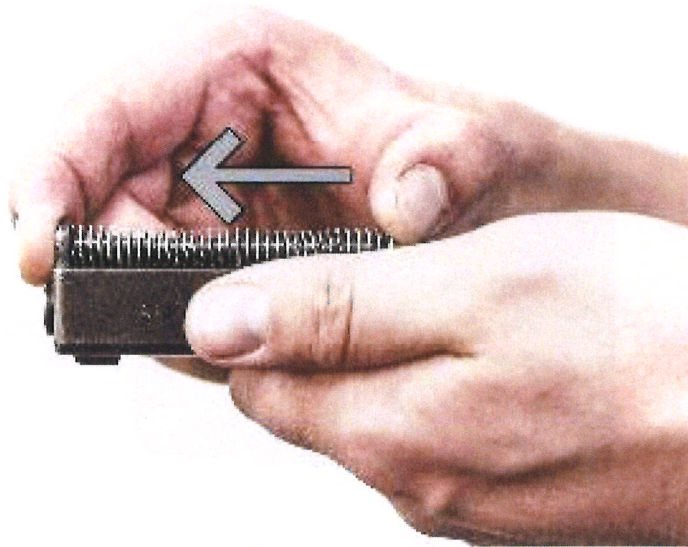


5. using the thumb and finger of your hand, pull the slide lock down evenly on both sides

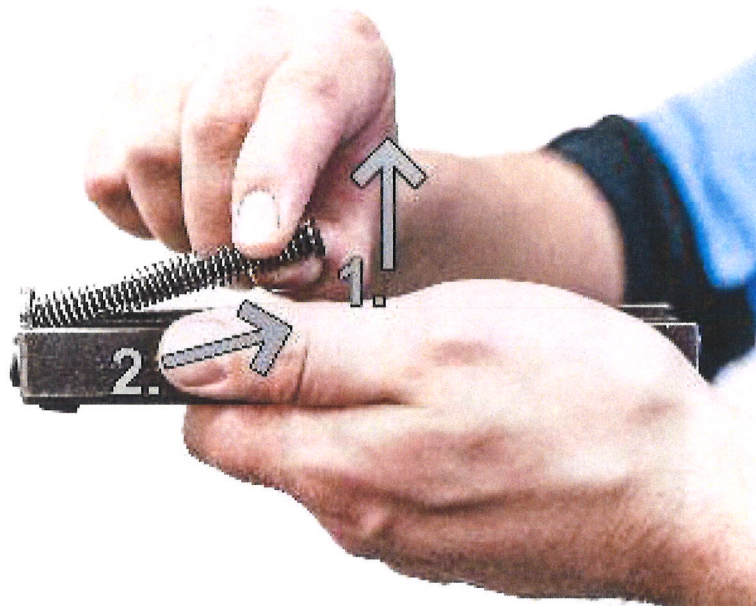




6. while holding the slide lock down, push the slide forward and off the frame

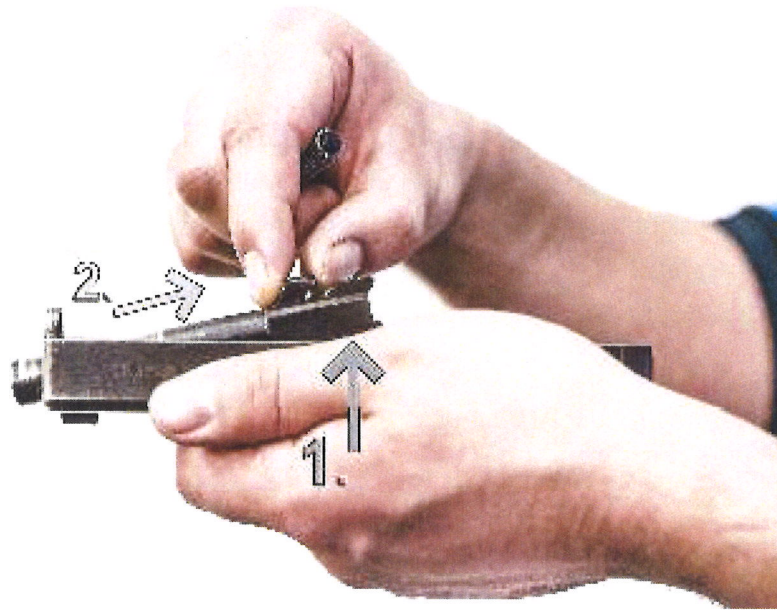


7. press the recoil spring towards the front (muzzle end) of the slide while pulling it up to remove it from the slide



8. holding the barrel by the barrel locking cams, lift it and push it toward the front of

the slide and then pull it up and towards the rear to remove it from the slide



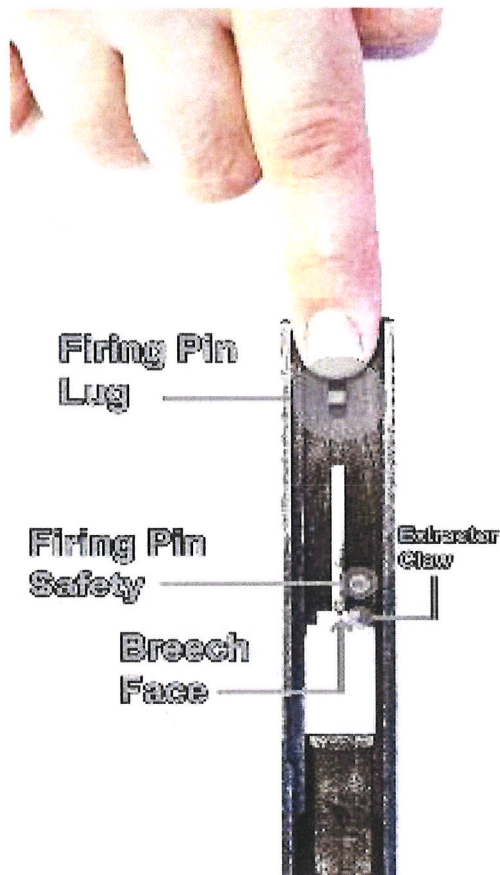
#### 10. Parts of the firearm





#### A.4.2 Checking the condition of the firearm, and maintenance

1. inspect the outside of the frame and slide for dirt, corrosion or any visible damage. Pay special attention to the sights, trigger and trigger safety, slide stop lever, magazine catch and extractor
2. inspect the barrel for dirt, leading, bulges, cracks or obstructions
3. firing pin safety test: Hold the slide, pull the plug of the firing pin all the way to the rear of the slide and then ease it forward until it stops in contact with the firing pin safety



4. press the lug of the firing pin forward with your forefinger using moderate force. The firing pin must not move forward past the firing pin safety, and must not protrude from the breech face of the slide
5. firing pin: hold the slide with the muzzle end forward and press the firing pin safety into the slide with your fingertip. The firing pin should move downward, and the tip of the firing pin should protrude from the breech face
6. firing pin channel: hold the firing pin safety depressed with your fingertip, and vigorously shake the slide from end to end. You should hear the firing pin moving freely in the firing pin channel.
7. extractor: look across the breech face to inspect the extractor for cleanliness and to ensure the extractor claw is not broken

8. ejector: inspect the ejector to ensure that it is intact
9. slide stop lever test: pull upward on the slide stop lever and release. The lever should snap down sharply into the frame
10. magazine inspection: inspect all magazines for dirt or visible damage, taking special care to look for spread or damaged feed lips or broken magazine followers. Press down on the follower with your fingertip and release. The follower should spring fully upward, and should not stick inside the magazine tube

#### A.4.3 Assembly and functionality of the firearm

1. assemble the firearm in reverse order.
2. trigger safety test: Make sure that the firearm is empty! With the firearm pointed in a safe direction, grasp the sides of the trigger (without touching or depressing the trigger safety) and attempt to pull the trigger to the rear. The trigger safety should prevent rearward movement of the trigger and the pistol should not fire.



3. **Trigger reset test:** With the muzzle of your pistol pointed in a safe direction, pull the trigger and hold it to the rear. You should hear and feel the firing pin release. While continuing to hold the trigger to the rear, pull the slide to the rear and release it, allowing it to snap forward. Now release the trigger. The trigger should reset to its forward position.



4. Slide lock-open test: Insert an empty magazine into your pistol. Pull the slide fully to the rear. The slide should lock open. Repeat the slide-lock test using each of your empty magazines.

## **A.5 Safe handling of the firearm**

### **A.5.1 Firearm status (loaded or not loaded)**

1. The shooter must always know the status of the firearm (loaded or not loaded).
2. Always handle the firearm as if it were loaded!

### **A.5.2 Direction of the gun barrel**

1. Always keep the gun pointed in a safe direction ("laser rule" - meaning if there was an imaginary laser emitted from the muzzle of your firearm, don't let it hit anything you're not willing to shoot).

### **A.5.3 Rules of the trigger finger**

1. Keep your trigger finger on the body of the firearm until the firearm is pointed at the target and a decision on possible use is made.



## A.6 Firearm handling and shooting techniques

### A.6.1 Shooting position

1. The shooting position must be balanced and pointing forward.
2. Arms straight or slightly bent.



## A.6.2 Grip of the firearm

1. Grip the firearm from top as far as possible.
2. The grip on the firearm must be firm but not overly tight.
3. The purpose of the support hand is to stabilise the firearm.



4. The trigger finger needs to move freely and separately from the other fingers.
5. The pull of the trigger must be straight back.





### A.6.3 Draw out of the holster

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1. The firearm hand moves to the grip and the support hand moves to the chest. (*QR* ⇒ A.6.3 *Draw out of the holster*)



2. Open the holster lock and draw the firearm out of the holster to the low-ready position, and turn it in the direction of the target.



3. Take the firearm to the shooting position with both hands.



#### A.6.4 Loading the firearm

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1. Point the firearm in a safe direction and place the magazine into the firearm (QR ⇒ A.6.4 Loading a firearm).



2. take a grip on the back of the slide with the support hand and make sure your finger is not on the trigger



3. push the gun forward. Release your grip on the slide when the slide is in the rear position



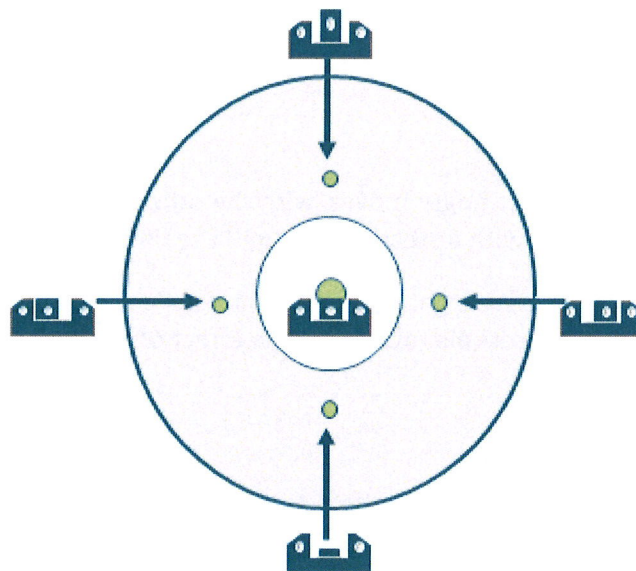


4. take the firearm to the shooting position with both hands



#### A.6.5 Aiming

1. The sight is formed so that the front and rear sights are at the same level, and the front sight grain is in the middle of the rear sight slot.
2. When aiming, both eyes should be open.





### Safe aiming principles:

1. Ensure that you have a clear sightline (there are no untargeted people or animals).
2. Ensure that you are aiming at a clearly recognised and identified target.
3. Use ammunition (cartridges) only in accordance with instructions (and in accordance with local regulations).
4. Aim at the body; a larger aiming area gives a higher probability of a hit and a lower probability of fatal injury.
5. The upper aiming area of the target increases the chance of hitting a bystander.
6. When the situation (environment, background, type of surface) allows, aim at the legs; the lower aiming area gives a lower probability of a fatal wound, but a higher probability of a ricochet (consider the type of surface, background, surroundings).
7. Warning shots must be aimed and controlled.
8. When aiming, the trigger should remain free without your finger on it; place your finger on the trigger only when you shoot at the target.

### Activities after using firearms:

1. After using your firearm,<sup>18</sup> make sure you are safe and the threat is over - make sure that the shot was effective (target is incapacitated).
2. Give clear instructions: the person should lie down, and should keep their hands visible.
3. Make sure that there is no other threat (+1 rule), make sure that you are safe (and bystanders are also safe).
4. Secure the firearm (trigger safety, holster).
5. Secure dangerous objects, secure the person - put handcuffs on the person.
6. Provide necessary first aid<sup>19</sup> to the OBJECT, other OBJECTS and bystanders.
7. Always call an ambulance.
8. Immediately inform about the incident, call for support, secure the area, isolate people, look for witnesses.

#### A.6.6 Trigger methodology

1. Only the trigger finger moves, with the other fingers in place, pulling the trigger straight back with a steady force until the firearm fires.
2. After the shot, re-sight the firearm as soon as possible and return the trigger to the trigger threshold, observing the effect of the shot.

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<sup>18</sup> - an officer has the universal right and obligation to use force in defending themselves, their colleagues or any other person from serious injury or death. "Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, Adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990".

<sup>19</sup> - any omission (non-action) constitutes a fundamental rights violation.

### A.6.7 Filling and emptying the magazine

#### 1. Filling -

take the magazine in your hand, check the cartridges and fill the magazine



#### 2. Emptying

take the magazine in your hand and remove the cartridges.

### A.6.8 Changing the magazine

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1. Bring the firearm closer to the upper body; the purpose is to see the firearm and the target at the same time (QR ⇒ A.6.8 Changing the magazine).



2. Remove the magazine by pressing the release latch and pull the magazine out of the gun with the support hand.



3. Take the spare magazine out of the magazine holster, insert it into the gun and strike the bottom of the magazine.



4. Load the gun (load only if the firearm is empty).





#### A.6.9 Identification of main firearms malfunctions

This includes various temporary firearms malfunctions that the shooter can solve during shooting.

If your firearm jams and you cannot clear it, hold your gun pointed at the target and keep your finger removed from the trigger. Shout "jam!", raise your free hand and wait patiently for the commander. Follow the commander's instructions.

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1. Bring the firearm from the shooting position closer to the upper body and turn it in the direction of the ejection port, strike the bottom of the magazine and load the firearm (QR ⇒ A.6.9 Identification of main firearms malfunctions).





2. Ensure the malfunction is resolved.



3. Bring the firearm to the shooting position.



**or**

1. Bring the firearm closer to the upper body and remove the magazine.
2. Turn the gun in the direction of the ejection port and perform three charge movements. Ensure that the malfunction is resolved and insert a new magazine. Load the firearm and bring it to the shooting position.

#### A.6.10 Emptying the chamber

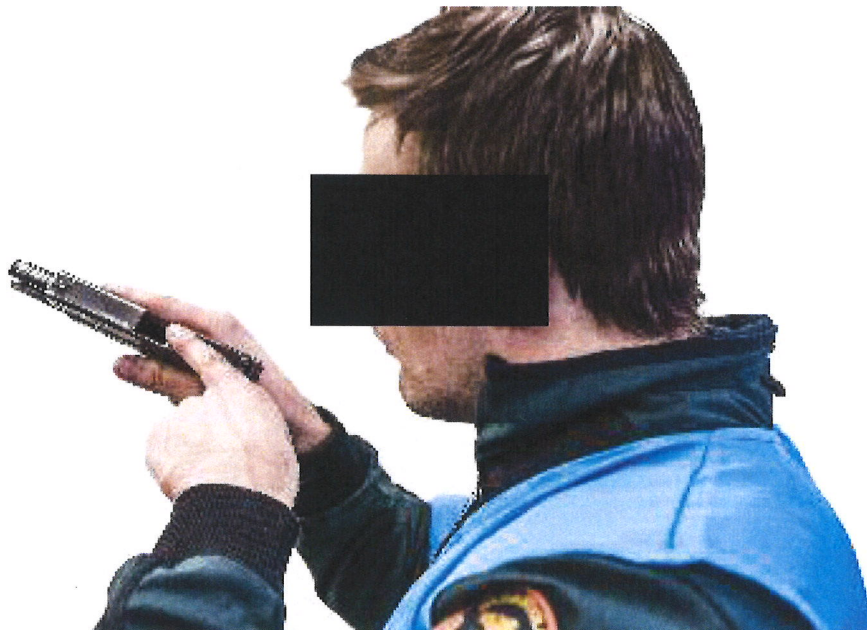
1. Bring the firearm closer to the upper body and remove the magazine.



2. Turn the gun in the direction of the ejection port and grip the slide with your support hand.



3. Pull the slide back and lock it in the rear position. Check that the chamber is empty.



#### A.6.11 Low-ready position

1. Stand in a steady position, the front of your body towards the threat.
2. Keep your firearm near your upper body with the barrel pointing to the target or in a safe direction





#### A.6.12 Holster stand-by, keeping the firearm ready

1. Grasp the handle of the gun and lift it slightly up from the holster.



#### A.6.13 Movement and rotations with a firearm

QR ⇒ A.6.13 Movement; QR ⇒ A.6.13 Rotations 1,2.

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#### Description of Techniques to rotate to the right or left side

1. from the shooting position





2. take the low-ready position and turn your head to identify the origin of the threat



3. turn your body to the direction of the threat



4. take and stabilise your shooting position



**Description of techniques to rotate back:**

1. from the low-ready position
2. turn your head back to identify the origin of the threat