



GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS FOR STARTING

GENERIC RISK ASSESSMENTS – STARTING

In the following section you will find general safety guidance and risk assessments which highlight some of the common safety hazards associated with starting and the suggested steps required in order to control the risks.

It should be recognised that any firearm is potentially dangerous and that careless or irresponsible handling can have serious results. Treat every firearm as being loaded until it is safely and clearly demonstrated that there is no ammunition in it, that is to say, the gun is 'proved'. This applies to firearms loaded with blank ammunition and the following guidance should be strictly adhered to.

UKA recommends that every facility and event/competition provider conducts pre event risk assessments and it is important that the following generic risk assessments are not just copied and pasted with your facility/event name added at the top as this would not satisfy the legal requirement and would not protect participants. Every facility is different so you need to think about the hazards and controls relevant to your event and document accordingly. (Click [here](#) for templates and guidance on carrying out a risk assessment).

Even where the hazards are the same, the control measures you adopt may have to be different from those in the examples to meet the particular conditions of your session/venue

HAZARD Handling Firearms

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starter, Athletes, Members of the public, Officials – accidents through use or abuse of equipment

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Whenever handling a firearm, do not touch the trigger.
2. Keep the muzzle pointing downwards and avoid dropping the gun.
3. Never point a firearm, loaded or otherwise, at anyone.
4. Never hold a firearm close to your face.
5. Never indulge in horseplay or joke around with a firearm.
6. Do not allow other people to borrow or examine your firearms.
7. Do not cock the gun until you are ready to commence the starting procedure.
8. Always break open a revolver with care to avoid both used and unused cartridges being ejected in an uncontrolled fashion onto the ground where they can easily be lost.
9. Be aware of obstructions in the barrel, e.g. a cartridge wad, which can result in a blowback or even a bulged barrel if not cleared.
10. Do not tamper with cartridges

11. If a firearm jams, hold it carefully by the grip on your stronger hand, barrel pointing downward. Place the thumb of the other hand on the hammer spur, pressing the hammer back to its full extent and then keep holding it back while pressing the trigger gently with the forefinger of the stronger hand, slowly lowering the hammer into its forward (i.e. 'uncocked') position.

DO NOT ALLOW THE HAMMER TO GO FORWARD QUICKLY: TO DO SO MAY RESULT IN ANY CARTRIDGE IN THE CYLINDER OPPOSITE THE HAMMER BEING FIRED. Once a jammed firearm has been released in this way, it will be possible to open it safely in the normal fashion.

Control measure responsibilities: 1 - 11 Starter

HAZARD Dirty or faulty firearms

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starter - Accidents as a result of badly maintained equipment

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Always clean firearms after use. This is necessary to maintain reliability and also because black powder residues are highly corrosive and will weaken the metal over a period of neglect. Clean the barrel and chambers with hot water, and then scrub them internally with a phosphor bronze brush using gun cleaning oil. After drying with a lint-free cloth on a pull through, the firearm should be lightly oiled, then wrapped in a cloth, and stored in a manner approved by the Constabulary which has issued the Firearm certificate.

Control measure responsibilities: 1 Starter

HAZARD Lack of security for firearms and ammunition

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starter, Athletes, Members of the public, Officials – accidents through use or abuse of equipment

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure the meeting promoter provides reserved car parking as near to the entrance as possible so that the starter walks the minimum distance from the car through areas frequented by the public. (This reserved parking should not be marked 'starter'.)
2. Do not wear a red jacket outside the track, nor use a bag marked starter.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2 Starter

HAZARD Unauthorised handling of firearms.

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Athletes, officials and other personnel in the competition area - accidents through use or abuse of equipment.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. When not in use, keep firearms out of sight in a bag with other personal kit which shall be kept in the owner's possession at all times.

Control measure responsibilities: 1 Starter

HAZARD Starting locations

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Athletes, Officials, Spectators - Accidents /injuries as a result of proximity of starting positions.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Check the locations prior to the start of the meeting and ensure that they are in a safe position and do not conflict with the safety requirements of other events.
2. Liaise with officials in other events before the meeting starts wherever necessary.
3. If safety ropes are adjusted for any purpose, they must be immediately replaced.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2,3 Starter

HAZARD Firing

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Athletes, Starter, Officials and others in the competition area. – Injuries from powder burns or blast.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure that a loud blast is blown on a whistle before the start of each race or heat to indicate to the competitors that the race is about to start and also as a warning to everyone else.
2. Ensure that the starting gun is always fired straight up in to the air and the recall gun down to the ground.
3. Check that the ground in the vicinity is clear and that nobody has approached unnoticed.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2,3 Starter

HAZARD Unauthorised handling of firearms between races

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

FA certificate holder and others in the competition area.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure that firearms are never left on the rostrum or on other exposed and unprotected places.
2. Ensure that firearms are kept out of sight in a bag.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2 Starter

HAZARD Cartridges

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Athletes, Starter, Officials and others in the competition area. – Injuries from powder burns or blast.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure that firearms are loaded carefully and that cartridges are not spilled on to the ground.
2. Ensure that empty cases are not discarded at a meeting and that they are collected up and disposed of as scrap metal or by some other reliable method.
3. Ensure that spent cases are never given away as souvenirs.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2,3 Starter

HAZARD Storage of guns during pre-meeting briefings refreshment intervals and at the conclusion of meetings.

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starter, Athletes, Members of the public, Officials – accidents through use or abuse of equipment.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure that firearms are kept in the starter's possession at all times and that they are not left in a locker or car.

Control measure responsibilities: 1 Starter

HAZARD Noise

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starter, Athletes, Members of the public, Officials – breaches of noise regulations.

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Ensure that with privately loaded ammunition 140Db is not exceeded.
2. Ensure that .45" cartridges are not used indoors and that the volume of a commercially produced 9mm cartridge is the limit.

Control measure responsibilities: 1,2 Starter

HAZARD Wireless False Start Equipment

WHO/HOW AFFECTED:

Starters, Starter's Assistants, Timing Company

CONTROL MEASURES

1. Any audio system should be set at a comfortable position and noise level
2. Transducer system or electronic gun system should have been set to the satisfaction of the starter
3. Position of starter's podium and false start equipment to be agreed prior to start of competition
4. Movement of start blocks and false start equipment when appropriate before and after a heat or final.

Control measure responsibilities:

1,2	Starter, Timing Company
3	Starter, Timing Company, Host Broadcaster, UKA Technical Director
4	Track Team, Starter's Assistants, Timing Company

HAZARD**Cabled False Start Equipment****WHO/HOW AFFECTED:**

Starters, Starter's Assistants, Athletes, Track Team, Host Broadcaster Personnel, Event Presentation Personnel, Timing Company – injury due to tripping hazard or injury due to mishandling of equipment

CONTROL MEASURES

1. All cables should be laid in an orderly manner to each of the start blocks
2. The cables from the start blocks to the console should be laid in an orderly manner and routed to avoid as far as possible the 'normal' pathways of all personnel at the start
3. Cables from the start console to the starters podium should be laid in an orderly manner and secured as necessary to the podium
4. Any audio system should be set at a comfortable position and noise level
5. Transducer system or electronic gun system should have been set to the satisfaction of the starter.
6. Position of starter's podium and false start equipment to be agreed prior to start of competition
7. Movement of start blocks and false start equipment when appropriate before and after a heat or final.

Control measure responsibilities: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5 Starter, Timing Company

1, 2	Athletes, Starter's Assistants
2	Host Broadcaster Personnel, Event Presentation Personnel
6	Starter, Timing Company, Host Broadcaster, UKA Technical Director
7	Track Team, Starter's Assistants, Timing Company