

Written evidence submitted by Mr. Gian A. Ameri (OWB123)

Pertaining to Clause 28(1)(2) and 29(1)(2) of the Offensive Weapons Bill

Executive Summary

- Evidence is provided to the Committee from Czech Small Arms, s.r.o., stating that the M.A.R.S. vz.58 rifle rate of fire is **3 times slower** than a semi-automatic rifle.
- The M.A.R.S. vz.58 rifle is comparable to and not faster than, other conventional rifles.
- No reasonable evidence has been produced by the Home Office to support re-classifying these rifles.

1. I would like to thank the Committee for considering this evidence from Czech Small Arms (CSA), s.r.o., who are a major international manufacturer based in the Czech Republic. The M.A.R.S rifle is based on the Vz58 rifle produced by CSA.
2. CSA have found the M.A.R.S. vz.58 rifle mechanically unable to fire more than 2 rounds per second [Annex A]. This is at least 3 times slower than a semi-automatic rifle (which have been banned in the UK since 1997).
3. This cyclic rate of fire is comparable to, but not faster than, other conventional rifles widely available in the U.K. such as bolt action, lever release, straight pull or SMLE actions [Annex A].
4. At a minimum, this evidence calls into question the subjective use of the term "rapid fire" by the Home Office, who have not provided any firm evidence to support their proposal.
5. The M.A.R.S vz.58 was designed to comply fully with current U.K. law and was not designed to exploit any perceived "loopholes". This rifle has already been approved by the Home Office for over 3 years. It is in use by many law abiding target shooters including the disabled, and has not been used in any criminal or terrorist activity.
6. There is no justification for a ban and Clause 28(1)(2) and 29(1)(2) should be removed entirely from the Bill, or to the very least the M.A.R.S. vz.58 should be exempted from any such ban.
7. I'd like to add a personal statement and my background also for your consideration. I have been a sport shooter for approximately 42 years and I have extensive training and experience in both Section 1 and Section 5 firearms, including the M.A.R.S. vz.58. I am a member of several U.K. Home Office approved Clubs. I have no connection to the supply side of the military or civilian arms industry, including in respect to the manufacturer of the M.A.R.S. vz.58, other than as a private individual and customer and end-user. I can confirm I also personally tested the cyclic rate of fire of the M.A.R.S. vz.58 and it is impossible for me from this rifle to produce a cyclic rate of fire greater than 2 rounds per second. This is well below what I can achieve on semi-automatic firearms (the M.A.R.S. vz.58 is at least 3 times slower) and not faster than what I can achieve on conventional

bolt action rifle. In my experience, at its maximum cyclic rate of fire the M.A.R.S. vz.58 due to its heavy bolt and particular type of action is highly inaccurate relative to other semi-automatic firearms and other actions, including bolt action rifles. Due to age I have increasing recurring health problems to my shooting hand requiring repeat medical treatment with cortisone injections and acupuncture and the M.A.R.S. vz.58 allows me to continue to practice the sport without incurring further health injuries and aggravating pain to my right hand. Please, I'd like to be able to continue to use the M.A.R.S. vz.58 in the U.K. as a civilian sports rifle.

Yours sincerely,

Gian A. Ameri

July 2018

Annex A

1. Certificate from Czech Small Arms
2. CSA test results 1 performed by Military Technical Institute of Armament and Ammunition (<http://www.vtusp.cz/en/vtuvm>)
3. CSA test results 2 performed by Military Technical Institute of Armament and Ammunition (<http://www.vtusp.cz/en/vtuvm>)



7th of December, 2017

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Dear Sir, Madame,

This is to certify, that we tested the cyclical rate of fire of the M.A.R.S. Vz.58 Sporter and we found it mechanically unable to fire more than 2 rounds in 1 second. Compared to a semi-automatic firearm, the M.A.R.S. Vz.58 cyclical rate of fire is approximately 3 times slower than that of a semi-automatic firearm action where a semi-automatic firearm would be capable to fire 5 rounds or more in 1 second, this largely depending on how fast the shooter can pull, reset, and then pull the trigger again. The cyclical rate of fire of the M.A.R.S. Vz.58 is comparable, but definitely not faster than that which can be achieved with other firearm actions such as bolt action, straight pull, lever action, SMLE actions... (i.e. not automatic or semi-automatic actions) and, therefore, the M.A.R.S. Vz.58 cannot be rationally described as more or less dangerous as a result of its design.

Yours sincerely,



Czech Small Arms, s.r.o.
Jablůnka 651, 756 23
Česká republika

IČO: 28586859
DIČ: CZ28586859
info@csa.co.cz|www.csa.co.cz



Tomas Quis

Director General

09.07.18 9:34

eb9043

str:1

Protokol o mĚření (druh: G)

DATUM 09.07.18 SERIE 009043 RAN 30
 ZmĚřitel Polasek Jaromir
 B z e [1] 1.500 m [2] 1.000 m
 [3] 7.000 m [4] 25.000 m
 Vmin 15.000 m/s Vmax 1100.000 m/s
 Kmin 33.000 ran/min Kmax 1200.000 ran/min
 Hmotnost stĚly: 3.600 g R ě: 5.56 mm
 Pozn ěmka: Czech Small Arms samonabijeci puska
 Sa vz.58 Sporter 223 Remington v.c.:5601510c
 mereni kadence c.4 SB Vlasim 5.56x45mm 3.6g

Minimum	923.08	0.00	86.58
Maximum	959.69	0.00	112.79
Rozpmt	36.61	0.00	26.21
Pr-mmr	944.12	0.00	106.57
StandartnĚ odchyľka	9.45	0.00	5.88
Pravdapod. odchyľka	6.38	0.00	3.96

	rychlost [m/s]		kadence [ran/min]	chyba
1	945.18	.	.	*
2	935.75	.	92.35	
3	949.37	.	102.91	
4	946.37	.	105.47	
5	943.40	.	104.23	
6	929.94	.	107.37	
7	955.41	.	104.54	
8	948.77	.	111.70	
9	951.78	.	104.69	
10	955.41	.	112.16	
11	956.63	.	106.55	
12	946.37	.	112.56	
13	951.78	.	109.68	
14	936.91	.	110.00	
15	929.37	.	108.62	
16	923.08	.	109.64	
17	940.44	.	111.55	
18	956.63	.	105.69	
19	946.97	.	110.81	
20	941.62	.	105.34	
21	.	*	2398.27	* 2
22	943.40	.	112.79	
23	931.68	.	104.54	
24	935.75	.	86.58	
25	950.57	.	108.64	
26	944.58	.	106.38	
27	946.37	.	103.18	
28	.	*	2403.36	* 2
29	959.69	.	112.55	
30	932.26	.	106.76	

-- serie: 009043

Vojanský technický ústav, s.p.
 odstĚpný zĚvod VTÚVĚM
 DlouhĚ 300
 763 21 StĚvĚin
 IČ: 242 72 525 DIČ: CZ24272523
 -02-

VONTĚSEL

Authorized translation from the Czech language

Tlumočnická doložka
Interpreter's Clause

Jako tlumočnick jazyka anglického jmenovaný rozhodnutím Krajského soudu v Ostravě ze dne 12.10.1999, č.j. Spr 2879/99, stvrzuji, že překlad souhlasí s textem připojené listiny. V překladu jsem provedl tyto opravy / *Being in the capacity of the sworn interpreter for the English language, established by the Decision of the Regional Court in Ostrava of October 12th, 1999, File No.: 2879/99, I hereby confirm that the translation is in conformity with the attached document. I have made the following corrections in the translation:*

.....
Tlumočnický úkon je zapsán pod poř.č. / *The act of interpreting has been entered under the Ordinal No.:*

.....
v tlumočnickém deníku / *in the interpreter's log book,*
V Lužné dne / *Done at Lužná on this:* 11.7.2018

.....
Podpis tlumočnicka / *Interpreter's signature*



09.07.18 9:34

eb9043

Page: 1

Protocol on measurement (kind: G)

DATE 09.07.18

SERIES 009043

ROUNDS 30

Measured by Mr. Jaromír Polášek

B distance [1] 1.500 m [2] 1.000 m
 [3] 7.500 m [4] 25.000 m

V_{min} 15.000 m/s V_{max} 1,100.000 m/s
 K_{min} 33.000 rounds/min K_{max} 1,200.000 rounds/min
 Projectile weight: 3,600 g R'e: 5.56 mm

Note: Czech Small Arms self-loading rifle
 Sa vz.58 Sporter, .223 Remington, Prod.No.: 5601510C,
 Rate of fire measurement No. 4, SB Vlašim, 5.56 mm, 3.6 g

Minimum	923.08	0.00	86.58
Maximum	959.69	0.00	112.79
Variance	36.61	0.00	26.21
Mean value	944.12	0.00	106.57
Standard deviation	9.45	0.00	5.88
Probable deviation	6.38	0.00	3.96

	Speed [m/s]	Rate of fire [rounds/min]	Measurement error
1	945.18	.	*
2	935.75	.	92.35
3	949.37	.	102.91
4	946.37	.	105.47
5	943.40	.	104.23
6	929.94	.	107.37
7	955.41	.	104.54
8	948.77	.	111.70
9	951.78	.	104.69
10	955.41	.	112.16
11	956.63	.	106.55
12	946.37	.	112.56
13	951.78	.	109.68
14	936.91	.	110.00
15	929.37	.	108.62
16	923.08	.	109.64
17	940.44	.	111.55
18	956.63	.	105.69
19	946.97	.	110.81
20	941.62	.	105.34
21	*	2,398.27 *	2
22	943.40	.	112.79
23	931.68	.	104.54
24	935.75	.	86.58
25	950.57	.	108.64
26	944.58	.	106.38
27	946.37	.	103.18
28	*	2,403.36 *	2
29	959.69	.	112.55
30	932.26	.	106.76

-- Series: 009043

Page 1

Signature: VOJTÍŠEK



Page 1 of 2

Vojenský technický ústav, s.p.
 oddělení zbraň VTÚVM
 Dlouhá 300
 763 21 Slavčín
 IČ: 242 72 523 DIČ: CZ24272523

09.07.18 9:30

eb9042

str:1

Protokol o m[en]e (druh: G)

DATUM 09.07.18 SERIE 009042 RAN 30
 Zm[en]il Polasek Jaromir
 B ze [1] 1.500 m [2] 1.000 m
 [3] 7.000 m [4] 25.000 m
 Vmin 15.000 m/s Vmax 1100.000 m/s
 Kmin 33.000 ran/min Kmax 1200.000 ran/min
 Hmotnost st[ele]y: 3.600 g R'e: 5.56 mm
 Pozn mka: Czech Small Arms samonabijeci puska
 Sa vz.58 Sporter 223 Remington v.c.:5601510C
 mereni kadence c.3 SB vlasim 5.56x45mm 3.6g

Minimum	923.65	0.00	48.02
Maximum	955.41	0.00	124.43
Rozpmt	31.76	0.00	76.41
Pr-mm	940.11	0.00	102.77
Standartn[í] odchylka	7.81	0.00	16.63
Pravdapod. odchylka	5.27	0.00	11.22

	rychlost [m/s]	kadence [ran/min]	chyba
1	938.09	.	*
2	935.16	.	101.83
3	939.85	.	123.81
4	946.37	.	124.43
5	929.37	.	122.64
6	952.38	.	115.88
7	945.78	.	116.10
8	951.17	.	117.03
9	945.78	.	117.62
10	932.84	.	114.94
11	941.62	.	115.88
12	934.58	.	112.88
13	936.91	.	108.11
14	949.97	.	106.74
15	938.09	.	101.34
16	938.67	.	108.07
17	928.22	.	102.30
18	935.16	.	104.00
19	943.99	.	101.42
20	943.40	.	102.92
21	948.77	.	97.54
22	938.67	.	98.59
23	934.00	.	65.73
24	955.41	.	94.94
25	935.75	.	90.68
26	945.78	.	97.33
27	927.64	.	92.60
28	923.65	.	90.02
29	940.44	.	86.98
30	945.78	.	48.02

-- serie: 009042

VTU

Vojenský technický ústav, s.p.
 odstřepný závod VTUVM
 Dlouhá 300
 763 21 Slavčín
 IČ: 242 72 523 DIČ: CZ24272523
 -02-

Proposed solution

The proposed solution is based on the... (faint text)

The proposed solution is based on the... (faint text)

The proposed solution is based on the... (faint text)

The proposed solution is based on the... (faint text)



Authorized translation from the Czech language

Tlumočnická doložka
Interpreter's Clause

Jako tlumočnick jazyka anglického jmenovaný rozhodnutím Krajského soudu v Ostravě ze dne 12.10.1999, č.j. Spr 2879/99, stvrzuji, že překlad souhlasí s textem připojené listiny. V překladu jsem provedl tyto opravy / *Being in the capacity of the sworn interpreter for the English language, established by the Decision of the Regional Court in Ostrava of October 12th, 1999, File No.: 2879/99, I hereby confirm that the translation is in conformity with the attached document. I have made the following corrections in the translation:*

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V Lužné dne / *Done at Lužná on this:* 11. 7. 2018

.....
Podpis tlumočnicka / *Interpreter's signature*



eb9042

09.07.18 9:30

Page: 1

Protocol on measurement (kind: G)

DATE 09.07.18 SERIES 009042 ROUNDS 30

Measured by Mr. Jaromír Polášek

B distance [1] 1.500 m [2] 1.000 m
 [3] 7.500 m [4] 25.000 m
 V_{min} 15.000 m/s V_{max} 1,100.000 m/s
 k_{min} 33.000 rounds/min k_{max} 1,200.000 rounds/min
 Projectile weight: 3 600 g R'e: 5.56 mm

Note: Czech Small Arms self-loading rifle
 Sa vz.58 Sporter, .223 Remington, Prod.No.: 5601510C,
 Rate of fire measurement No. 3, SB Vlašim, 5.56 mm, 3.6 g

Minimum	923.65	0.00	48.02
Maximum	955.41	0.00	124.43
Variance	31.76	0.00	76.41
Mean value	940.11	0.00	102.77
Standard deviation	7.81	0.00	16.63
Probable deviation	5.27	0.00	11.22

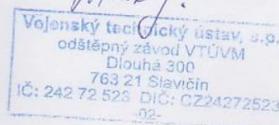
	Speed [m/s]	Rate of fire [rounds/min]	Measurement error
1	938.09	.	*
2	935.16	.	101.83
3	939.85	.	123.81
4	946.37	.	124.43
5	929.37	.	122.64
6	952.38	.	115.88
7	945.78	.	116.10
8	951.17	.	117.03
9	945.78	.	117.62
10	932.84	.	114.94
11	941.62	.	115.88
12	934.58	.	112.88
13	936.91	.	108.11
14	949.97	.	106.74
15	938.09	.	101.34
16	938.67	.	108.07
17	928.22	.	102.30
18	935.16	.	104.00
19	943.99	.	101.42
20	943.40	.	102.92
21	948.77	.	97.54
22	938.67	.	98.59
23	934.00	.	65.73
24	955.41	.	94.94
25	935.75	.	90.68
26	945.78	.	97.33
27	927.64	.	92.60
28	923.65	.	90.02
29	940.44	.	86.98
30	945.78	.	48.02

-- Series: 009042

Page 1

Signature: VTÚ

Page 1 of 2



No. 909584 PRAHA 18-07-2018

SEEN



J. Holubová
J. Holubová



VYŠŠÍ OVĚŘENÍ (LEGALISATION)

Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí České republiky /
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

tato veřejná listina byla podepsána / this public document has been signed by
J. Holubová

ve funkci / acting in the capacity of

úřednice

opatřena razítkem / bears the seal/stamp of

Hospodářská komora České republiky

**PRAVOST PŘEDCHOZÍHO PODPISU
A ÚŘEDNÍ PEČETI SE POTVRZUJE**

**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THE AUTHENTICITY
OF THE PRECEDING SIGNATURE
AND OFFICIAL STAMP**



v Praze / in Prague

dne / the 18.07.2018

číslo legalizace / legalisation N°

5919 / 2018 - L

pečet/razítko / seal/stamp

ověřující osoba / certified by:
Zuzana Horálková

FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF THE SEAL AND
SIGNATURE OF *Ms. Zuzana Horálková*

THIS *19* DAY OF *July* *2018*

AT THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE
BRITISH EMBASSY AT PRAGUE



Jenna Walker

909583

PRAHA 18-07-2018

No. _____

SEEN



Holubová
J. Holubová

vyšší ověření (LEGALISATION)

Ministerstvo zahraničních věcí České republiky /
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Czech Republic

tato veřejná listina byla podepsána / this public document has been signed by
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**THIS IS TO CERTIFY THE AUTHENTICITY
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AND OFFICIAL STAMP**

v Praze / in Prague dne / the 18.07.2018
číslo legalizace / legalisation N° 5920 / 2018 - L
pečeť/razítko / seal/stamp ověřující osoba / certified by:
Zuzana Horáková *Zuzana Horáková*



FOR THE LEGALIZATION OF THE SEAL AND
SIGNATURE OF *Mrs. Zuzana Horáková*

THIS 19 DAY OF July 2018
AT THE CONSULAR SECTION OF THE
BRITISH EMBASSY AT PRAGUE



Anna Walker