

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY



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December 4, 2006

Via Electronic Mail

To Minnesota PPA Approved Business Organizations:

I have learned that Commissioner Michael Campion has received complaints that some Minnesota Personal Protection Act instructors are permitting shooting qualification exercises to be conducted with other than authentic firearms. Instructors are utilizing simulated training aids that include pellet guns, BB guns, laser simulators, primer-only rounds, or other less-than-actual-shooting substitutes in lieu of actual firearms.

Minnesota state statute 624.714, subdivision 2a, b2, specifies that a permit to carry class must include "successful completion of an actual shooting qualification exercise". PPA instructors and the Approved Business Organizations that certify instructors are in violation of this statute and risk decertification unless this practice of using simulated training aids is discontinued.

Please be aware that there is not a prohibition from using training aids to better prepare and educate students; however, training aids do not replace the requirement for the student to complete an actual shooting qualification exercise.

If you have questions about this issue, please contact me.

Thank you for your cooperation.

Sincerely,

Jeffrey Luther
Special Agent in Charge