
SUPPRESSOR CLASSIFICATION

INTRODUCTION

The *Criminal Code of Canada* (CCC) does not provide a definition of a suppressor however Section 84 of the CCC provides the definition that pertains to suppressors as a prohibited device. A prohibited device is “a device or contrivance designed or intended to muffle or stop the sound or report of a firearm”. It should be noted that the design element is the primary determining factor when evaluating whether or not a device is a prohibited device. The device’s ability to attenuate the sound of a gunshot merely provides additional supporting data.

EXAMINATION

Suspected Suppressor Examination

- The examination may include the following:
- Identifying the make, model and calibre
- Documenting the construction/design
- Identifying the components and determining if these are typical of those used in the manufacturing of suppressors
- Determining whether there is a suitable firearm that the device may be attached to
- Determining the effectiveness of the suspected suppressor
- Classification of the item with respect to the Criminal Code of Canada

INTERPRETATION

For classification of a suspected suppressor, possible conclusions are:

- The Item X device is a “Prohibited Device” as defined in Section 84 of the Criminal Code of Canada.
- The Item X device is not a “Prohibited Device” as defined in Section 84 of the Criminal Code of Canada.

GLOSSARY

Baffles Components used to restrain the flow of gas generated during the discharge of a firearm, or to prevent the spreading of sound in a particular direction.

Bleed holes Holes drilled in the barrel of a firearm which permit gases to escape into a chamber or chambers, thereby decreasing the ballistic pressure and reducing the velocity of a bullet to a subsonic speed. May also be referred to as port holes or gas ports.

Expansion Chamber A contained area for gases to be restrained and expand.

Report A combination of sounds produced by the discharge of a firearm, including but not limited to mechanical noise, sonic crack, and muzzle blast.

Sound level meter A device used for acoustic measurements.

Suppressor A device attached to or integral with the barrel of a firearm, that is designed to reduce the sound of discharge by decreasing the velocity of escaping gases but maintaining a bullet’s high velocity.

May also be referred to as a “Silencer” however this term is a misnomer as the device does not silence sound, but functions more to suppress the sound.