

PLEASE NOTE: This page is intended to serve as a guide for members of the Brandenburger Schuetzenverein-Chicago, only. As it is updated only periodically this guide may not conform to current law. Members are obligated to be acquainted with and comply with all laws and ordinances. *Italics* and **Bold** provided by BSV as a courtesy.

720 ILCS 5/24.8 (Air Rifles-**Defined**):

Air rifle means and includes *any air gun, air pistol, spring gun, spring pistol, BB gun, paint ball gun, pellet gun* or any implement that is not a firearm which impels a breakable paint ball containing washable marking colors or, *a pellet constructed of hard plastic, steel, lead or other hard materials with a force that reasonably is expected to cause bodily harm.*

What is not a Firearm-why is that Important to me?

In Illinois transactions of devices classified as Firearms require both parties to possess a valid FOID Card. It also requires the completion of certain Federal Documents, and the involvement of someone possessing a Federal Firearms License (FFL). Finally, there may also be local restrictions on the shipment, and even the ownership of “Firearms” So, are our air rifles, firearms under law?

State of Illinois Statutes

430 ILCS 65/1.1 (What is *NOT* a Firearm)

Any pneumatic gun, spring gun, paint ball gun or BB gun which expels a singular, globular projectile *not exceeding .18 inch in diameter* or which *has a maximum muzzle velocity of 700 FPS.*

In short, *certain air rifles **are** treated as firearms* in Illinois if they are considered either large bore or high velocity. For your convenience the following notes will provide you with a guideline of air rifles permitted for use by the BSV-Chicago.

Note 1: The guns permitted for use at the BSV-Chicago are only those which discharge .177 caliber, soft lead pellets, only. NO other types of pellets are authorized and are specifically banned by BSV-Chicago.

Note 2: The guns permitted for use at the BSV-Chicago are restricted to having a FPS of less than 650. The general range of the guns currently employed varies from between 530-650 FPS. Remember that the Olympic Standard is also a maximum velocity of 650 FPS

A representative sample of air rifles currently employed at the BSV-Chicago.

FWB 300: No greater than 630 FPS, depending on pellet weight. .177 Cal

FWB 600: Ranging between 540-590 FPS, depending on pellet weight. .177 Cal

FWB 800: No greater than 574 FPS. .177 Cal

Walther LG 300: 570 FPS. .177 Cal

AR 20: 557 FPS Max Velocity. .177 Cal

Remember too that any effort by a member to alter the velocity of any air gun beyond that of the original manufacturers specification is strictly forbidden by the BSV-Chicago.

So, in conclusion, if you are using an unaltered Air Rifle that is compliant with the standards of the BSV-Chicago. You are NOT considered to have a Firearm, by Illinois State Law.

720 ILCS 5/24.8-3 (Possession of an Air Rifle, **under 13 years of age**)

Permissive possession of an air rifle by a person under 13 years of age is lawful to have in his possession, when

(2) Used by the person and he/she is a duly enrolled member of any club, team or society organized for educational purposes and maintaining as part of its facilities or having written permission to use an indoor or outdoor rifle range under the supervision, guidance and instruction of a responsible adult and then only if the air rifle is actually being used in connection with the activities of the club, team or society under the supervision of a responsible adult; OR

(3) Used in or any private grounds or residence under the circumstances when the air rifle is fired, discharged or operated in a manner as not to endanger persons or property and then only if it is used in a manner as to prevent the projectile from passing over any grounds or space outside the limits of the grounds or residence.

720 ILCS 5/24.8-4 (**Permissive Sales**)

(2) To be shipped out of state; or

(3) *To be used at a target range in accordance with 24.8-3...*

Further information

Cook County Ordinances: (**Firearm Defined**)

Firearm means any **pistol**, revolver, rifle, **shotgun**, machine **gun**, assault **weapon** or other device that fits within the **definition** of "**firearm**" contained in the Illinois **Firearm** Owners Identification Card Act (430 ILCS 65/1.1 et seq.).

Therefore it appears that Cook County uses the same definition for firearm as is used in the ILCS. At this time a search relative to specific Air Rifle ordinances in the Cook County database was fruitless and is ongoing. That does not mean that they do not exist, however.

City of Chicago Ordinance: **(Firearm defined)**

Firearm means, by whatever name known, which is designed or restored to propel a projectile or projectile by means of the action of any explosion or escape of gas provided that such term shall not include

- (1) Any pneumatic gun, spring gun, paintball gun, or BB gun which either expels a singular globular projectile *not exceeding .18 of an inch* in diameter and which has a *maximum muzzle velocity of less than 700 FPS* or breakable paint balls containing washable marking colors.