

Police shooting ranges in Belgium

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Study of the current situation at police shooting ranges in Belgium and newly developed guidelines.



Presentation contents

- Introduction
 - Police department (Federal and Local) in Belgium
 - Shooting and shooting ranges
 - Basic training and refresher training during active career
 - Purpose of firearms training
- Methodology
- Results of 2009 survey
- Health risks at shooting ranges
- Guidelines
- Conclusion



Introduction: Police Departments in Belgium

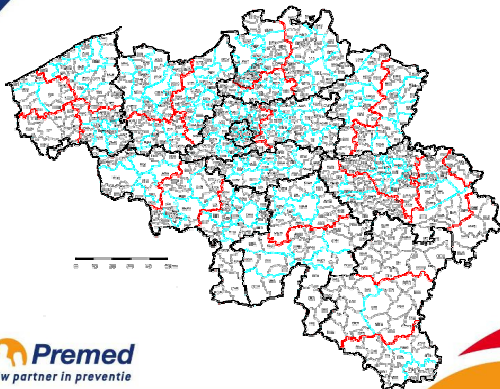
(Act of December 7, 1998, to organize an integrated police service)



Federal Police

Local Police

Introduction: Local Police



Introduction: Federal Police

- Operational area = entire territory of Belgium
- Comprises:
 - The Federal Judicial Police
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Ventilation

Police shooting range:
Ventilation behind

Public shooting range:
Extraction above shooter

Premed
Uw partner in preventie

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Shooting range construction

Premed
Uw partner in preventie

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Shooting range construction

Floor

Material	Percentage
Concrete	45%
Vinyl	27%
Wood	9%
treated concrete	8%
Other	11%

Roofing

Material	Percentage
Concrete	34%
Plaster	20%
Wood	6%
Metal	24%
Others	16%

Walls

Material	Percentage
Wood	15%
Breeze blocks	19%
Others	66%

Premed
Uw partner in preventie

Washability

Floor

Category	Percentage
Good	73%
Moderate	22%
Poor	5%

Wall

Category	Percentage
Good	57%
Moderate	28%
Poor	15%

Premed
Uw partner in preventie

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Have measurements already been carried out ?

Service Type	Category	Percentage
External HSW service	Internal HSW service	16%
	Others	8%
Internal HSW service	Internal HSW service	28%
	Others	48%
Federal	Others	8%

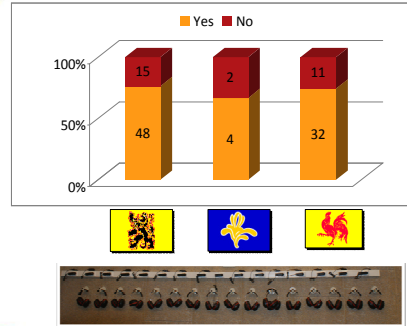
Premed
Uw partner in preventie

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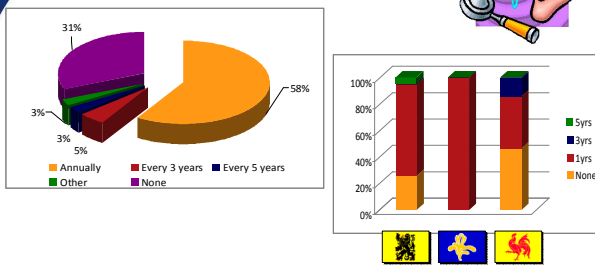
Shooting practices per annum

			
Average number of hours	12	12	2,71
Number of rounds per session	58	40	75

Wearing of eye and ear protectors



Audiometrics



Shooting Range Risks

- ☒ Handling firearms
 - ☒ Gunshot wounds
 - ☒ Risk of hearing loss
 - ☒ Exposure to chemical agents:
 - ☒ Heavy metals
 - ☒ CO, nitrous vapors, etc.
- ☒ Danger of explosion/fire



Shooting Range Guidelines

- ☒ Weapons and ammunition
- ☒ Infrastructure
 - ☒ Safety requirements
 - ☒ Construction and building
- ☒ Health
 - ☒ Health monitoring
 - ☒ Protection of pregnant women
 - ☒ Means of personal protection
 - ☒ First aid



Guidelines: Weapons en ammunition

- ☒ Limitation on types of weapons
- ☒ Limitation on types of ammunition
- ☒ Where other weapons or ammunition chosen

Risk analysis!!
KEEP THE BULLET IN THE SHOOTING RANGE



Guidelines: Infrastructure

- ☒ Walls and ceiling
- ☒ Floor
- ☒ Ventilation system
- ☒ Bullet trap
- ☒ Target zone
- ☒ Emergency doors
- ☒ Emergency infrastructure
- ☒ ...



Health at work: medical examinations

- ☒ Frequency of occupational check-up = annually
- ☒ Legally required when carrying guns
- ☒ Guidelines include advice on
 - ☒ Eyesight
 - ☒ Hearing
 - ☒ Biomonitoring



Medical examination: eyesight

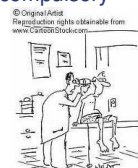
- ☒ Annual
- ☒ According to "Safety function"
- ☒ Eye correction must be used during shooting exercise
- ☒ *Perhaps practical test in the shooting range..*



Medical examination: audiometrics

- ☒ Annual, in conformity with law on exposure to impulse noises
- ☒ Screen all frequencies
- ☒ Wearing ear protection = compulsory
- ☒ Anamnesis

Beware!! Acoustic trauma



Medical examination: biomonitoring

Chemical agents

Lead, zinc, barium, copper, mercury, antimony, aluminium, etc...

Collective protection = most important

Biomonitoring according to:

- Risk Analysis
- Statutory guidelines
- Scientific knowledge



Motherhood protection

All pregnant women are **exempt** from:

- Shooting exercises
- Maintenance of the shooting range

From **the start** of pregnancy

Also during breast feeding



Guidelines: Personal Protection

- Ear protection = compulsory
- Eye protection = compulsory
- Clothing = special for in shooting range
- P3-particle mask for maintenance

Hygiene measures!!



First Aid Guidelines

- First aid box
 - Tourniquet
- First aid training
 - compulsory for all monitors
 - dealing with gunshot wounds
- Acoustic trauma = emergency



Concerns

- Police officers are using privately run shooting ranges
- Many shooting ranges are not in compliance
- After a fire, federal inspection closed some shooting ranges
- Legally required training of police officers has become a problem
- New guidelines still not official
- New training centre and shooting ranges require funding
- Loss of hearing is becoming more and more of a problem
- Annual occupational check up for police officers is still required
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