

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)

Amendment 1.1.1

Throughout, replace ‘Verbal explanation, written description and / or, presentation’ with

Verbal explanation, written description, or online test if available.

Frontispiece. After Version 1.1: 2022 add

For amendments and updates, refer to
<https://vickersmg.blog/product/safe-use-of-small-arms-the-vickers-machine-gun/>



Introduction. Page 2: Insert after ‘...supervised firing demonstration.’

The QR code on each page links to an instructional video to that Element. This is available through subscription to the online element of the course.

Contents. Page 5: Insert at end:

Appendix 4 – Weapons Handling Tests 96

Element 1.3. Page 10: Insert after ‘the Authority Holder must be informed and a full report made.’

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)

Additional reporting forms may be required depending on the circumstances. For example if the weapon has been subject to Ministry of Defence Non-Service Pattern Light Weapon inspection, a record of it may be made on the history sheet. If the organisation has its own record keeping, this should be completed as well – the VMGCRA uses an Asset Movement Record for all its items.

Element 1.4. Page 12: Insert before ‘The learner can demonstrate this by:’

The relevant WHTs can be found in Appendix 4 of this book.

Element 1.5. Page 13: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Element 1.6. Page 14:

Replace ‘8 to 12’ with

9 to 14

Insert after ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

or online test if available.

Element 2.1. Page 15: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1.

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)

Element 2.5. Page 26: Insert after ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

or online test if available.

Element 2.7. Page 34: Insert after ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

or online test if available.

Element 3.1. Page 35: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Element 4.1. Page 43: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Element 4.2. Page 44: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 2

Element 4.3. Page 48: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 3

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)

Element 4.4. Page 50: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 4

Element 4.5. Page 51: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 4 or online test if available.

Element 4.6. Page 52: Insert after ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

or online test where available.

Element 5.1. Page 55: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Element 5.3. Page 63: Insert after ‘Fourth Position’

NOTE: If the No 1 or No 2 reasonably believes that there is no alternative reason for this position stoppage than defective ammunition (meaning a hangfire), they must WAIT 30 seconds prior to carrying out the immediate action drill described below.

The No 2 should be continually checking the ammunition belt as it is fed into the gun to identify any empty pockets. If an empty pocket is present, then the wait of 30 seconds is not needed.

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)

Element 5.4. Page 64: Insert after ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

or online test where available.

Element 6.1. Page 66: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Element 6.3. Page 73: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 5

Element 6.4. Page 74: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 5

Element 6.5. Page 75: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 5

Element 7.1. Page 76: Replace ‘Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)’

Weapons Handling Test 1

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)

Element 7.4. Page 84: Replace 'Demonstration (drill purposes or moving parts deactivated suitable)'

Weapons Handling Test 5

Element 7.5. Page 85: Insert after 'Before firing'

If the firing requires water-cooling of the barrel (point 4 below), then the barrel must be 'packed' correctly. This can be done using greased twine as a replacement for the asbestos barrel packing originally issued (other substitutes are available such as 'o' rings).

To prepare the twine, use high-temperature resistant grease and coat liberally using gloved fingers. Any multi-strand twine should be reduced to the smallest manageable thread.



The length of twine required will depend on the diameter used (6 to 8 inches is typical).

First wrap the twine into the groove at the rear of the barrel, in front of the chamber. This should be wrapped tightly and to a point where it is flush with the shape of the barrel. The barrel can be inserted into the gun. If it fits, but is not tight, it will likely leak and should be re-

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)

done. If it does not fit, then remove small amounts of the length of twine until it is a tight fit. Add additional grease, or oil, as required.



After the rear groove is filled, the front packing can be put in place. Assemble the gun completely with the exception of the muzzle attachment and cup. Remove the muzzle gland. Tightly coil sufficient (circa 4 inches of greased twine around the barrel then push back into the recess between the barrel casing and the barrel with a screwdriver. Screw on the muzzle gland and it will push the packing home and should tighten, with a little resistance, against the face of the barrel casing.



The barrel is now packed and the recoiling portions can be weighed. Any adjustments should be made before filling the casing with water. If the casing leaks when filled with water, drips may occur for a few

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)
minutes while the packing may swell slightly. Any dripping should stop but if it does not after about two minutes, the packing must be redone.

Appendix 1 – Normal Safety Precautions

Page 90, Point 1: Insert after ‘traverse’

or adjust elevation

Page 92, Point 7: Replace ‘Open Top Cover’ with

Pull back the crank and hold to rear, or rest extractor horns on breech casing cams.

Page 92, Point 8: Replace ‘Pull back the crank and check extractor face is clear of rounds.’ With

Open Top Cover

Page 92, Point 9: Replace ‘Check barrel is clear of rounds’ with

Check extractor face and barrel chamber are clear of rounds or detritus.

After Page 95, insert:

Appendix 4 – Weapons Handling Tests

To be carried out to demonstrate the competency of an individual. These should be completed at least annually but more regularly if the individual does not regularly use the weapon.

Test 1 – Safety

The individual must demonstrate, and narrate, the completion of the Normal Safety Precautions on a

Handle

Use

Competent

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)

Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I) – a deactivated example is suitable if the weapon functions sufficiently.

On being instructed to carry out the Normal Safety Precautions, the individual should complete them, narrating their actions using the correct terminology and following the sequence of actions shown in Appendix I of this book.

To successfully pass this test, the individual must complete the Normal Safety Precautions. They may be permitted some errors in sequence if they do not present a safety risk. For example, the opening and closing of the bottom cover at the beginning and end of the process may occur out of sequence as long as it does not prevent the rest of the process being completed. Furthermore, slight errors in terminology may be permitted as long as the individual is clear in their meaning.

Safety fails (0 permitted):

- Failing to open the bottom cover prior to cranking the action.
- Touching, pressing or otherwise physically contacting the thumbpiece or safety catch prior or during the visual inspection.

Procedural fails (2 permitted)

- Failing to close the bottom cover after firing the action.
- The individual's fingers are in the incorrect positions when firing off the action.
- Points 12, 13 or 14 out of sequence.

Test 2 – Load, Make Ready, Fire

The individual must demonstrate the safe loading of the Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I). It requires a functional weapon and a belt of drill rounds.

Handle

Use

Competent

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)

The weapon should be assembled on the tripod with the belt in a belt box to the right of the gun prior to conducting the test. A No 2 may be present but the No 1 is being tested.

On the command 'Load' the individual must Load the weapon in accordance with Element 4.2 of this book.

On the command 'Make Ready' the individual must Make Ready the weapon in accordance with Element 4.2 of this book.

The assessor will issue a Fire Control Order, using an artificial or natural aiming mark as available, and the individual will then lay the gun on that mark with the range adjusted to the issued order.

Safety fails (0 permitted):

- The gun is not correctly laid on the range and mark indicated.
- The drill is not followed correctly.

Procedural fails (2 permitted):

- The individual's fingers are in the incorrect positions when firing off the action.

Test 3 – Make Safe

Handle

The individual must demonstrate making safe the Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I). It requires a functional weapon and a belt of drill rounds.

Use

Competent

The weapon should be in the 'Made Ready' state prior to conducting the test. A No 2 may be present but the No 1 is being tested.

Safety fails (0 permitted):

- The drill is not followed correctly.

Procedural fails (2 permitted):

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I)

- The individual's fingers are in the incorrect positions when firing off the action.

Test 4 – Unload

Handle

The individual must demonstrate the safe unloading of the Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I). It requires a functional weapon and a belt of drill rounds.

Use

Competent

The weapon should be in the 'Made Ready' state prior to conducting the test. A No 2 may be present but the No 1 is being tested.

On the command 'Unload' the individual must Unload the weapon in accordance with Element 4.4 of this book.

Safety fails (0 permitted):

- The drill is not followed correctly.

Procedural fails (2 permitted):

- The individual's fingers are in the incorrect positions when firing off the action.
- The individual follows the Unload drill with an immediate 'Show Clear' or conducts the Normal Safety Precautions.

Test 5 – Stripping, Cleaning and Assembling

Handle

The individual must demonstrate, and narrate, the complete stripping, cleaning and assembling of the Vickers Machine Gun (Mark I). It requires a functional weapon and a spare parts case with sufficient tools as described in Element 7.3.

Use

Competent

The weapon should be mounted on the tripod prior to conducting the test, with the spare parts case to its side.

The gun must be stripped in the correct order as described in Element 6.3 and the parts laid out. As the individual is stripping the gun, they

Safe Use of Small Arms – Vickers Machine Gun (Mark 1)
should narrate the process using the correct terminology for any parts they handle and the tools they are using. The assessor should question the individual if their narration is not forthcoming.

Upon successful completion of the gun being stripped, it should be cleaned to a suitable standard. The individual may identify points for further cleaning if time doesn't allow it to be done during the test.

Once the gun has been stripped, the individual should strip the lock and feedblock and narrate those processes.

The lock and feedblock must be assembled prior to commencing the assembly of the gun.

At the end of the assembly they must confirm the operation of the weapon in line with Element 6.5.

Safety fails (0 permitted):

- The individual places any part of their hands, fingers, etc in any position that would cause them harm (such as a finger or thumb between the tumbler and side levers of the lock).
- Fail to confirm the operation of the weapon.
- The individual inserts the lock spring without the firing pin forward.

Procedural fails (2 permitted):

- The individual's fingers are in the incorrect positions when firing off the action.
- Each occasion the assessor has to assist the individual in any aspect of the stripping, cleaning or assembling is considered a separate error.
- Each error in terminology is considered a separate error.