CIP, London & Birmingham Proof House's Barrel Proof Symbols Equivalency Table
For Use with Steel Shot Ammunition

CIP/UK	STANDARD	SUPERIOR	STEEL (HIGH PERFORMANCE)
London 2020	CIP N NP	CIP S NP	CIP NP
Birmingham 2020	CIP N BNP	CIP S BNP	CIP BNP
London 2006	NP STD	NP SUP	NP SUP
Birmingham 2006	BNP STD	BNP SUP	BNP SUP
London 1989	NP 850 BAR	NP 1200 BAR	
Birmingham 1989	BNP 850 BAR	BNP 1200 BAR	
London 1954	NP 3 TONS PER □"	NP 4 TONS PER □"	
Birmingham 1954	BNP 3 TONS PER □"	BNP 4 TONS PER □"	

Please note the British Proof Authority will not give guidance on pre-1954 marks and recommends re-proof of such arms.

Use of Steel Shot Ammunition

There is much confusion over what steel ammunition can and can't be used with shotguns bearing both CIP proof marks and historic national proof marks, or "proof symbols" as we prefer to refer to them. We will attempt to explain in the simplest terms possible what ammunition may be used with the relevant proof symbol.

It must be understood there are two types of steel ammunition, Standard Steel & High Performance Steel.

Standard Steel ammunition can be used with any shotgun *(other than Damascus/twist barrelled guns)*, in good order, bearing any of the above CIP, London or Birmingham symbols, provided the ammunition is of the correct length for the chamber and the barrel choking is less than half choke. Ammunition packaging should denote that the ammunition is Standard Steel. However, if at all unsure whether your ammunition is Standard Steel, please consult the manufacturer. If you're unsure whether your shotgun is suitable for use with Standard Steel ammunition please contact a competent gun dealer, gunsmith or the British Proof Authority for advice, this may involve the submission of your shotgun for inspection.

High Performance Steel ammunition can only be used with shotguns bearing a CIP fleur de Lys mark, as represented in the above table. The ammunition should be of the correct length for the chamber. The CIP recommends less or equal to half choke in relation to a given shot diameter for the Bore, please see the table below for clarification.

Bore	Maximum Recommended Choke Restriction	Shot Diameters
10 & 12 bore	Half choke or less	For shot larger than 4mm (> 4mm)
16 bore	Half choke or less	For shot larger than 3.5mm (> 3.5mm)
20 bore	Half choke or less	For shot larger than 3.25mm (> 3.25mm)
28 bore	Half choke or less	For shot larger than 3mm (> 3mm)
.410 bore	Half choke or less	For shot larger than 2.5mm (> 2.5mm)

Ammunition packaging should denote that the ammunition is High Performance Steel. However, if unsure whether your ammunition is High Performance Steel, please consult the manufacturer. If unsure whether your shotgun is suitable for use with High Performance Steel ammunition please contact a competent gun dealer, gunsmith or the British Proof Authority for advice, this may involve the submission of your shotgun for inspection.

Samuel Perry 002.