

# WEAPONS HANDLING & ARMOURY OPERATIONS

## BASIC RISK ASSESSMENT GUIDE FOR ALL PERSONNEL

This guide covers the main hazards you will face when handling weapons and working in the armoury. **Read it. Know it. Follow it.** If you are unsure about anything, **ask your Team Leader or Armourer.**

#	HAZARD	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	WHAT YOU DO
1	<b>Negligent discharge</b>	Weapon fires accidentally. Someone is killed or seriously hurt.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Treat every weapon as loaded</li> <li>✓ Clear and check at every handover</li> <li>✓ Follow the SOPs – no shortcuts</li> </ul>
2	<b>Unauthorised access</b>	Someone who should not be there gets into the armoury. Theft, misuse, legal breach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Armoury locked when unattended</li> <li>✓ Only authorised persons – no exceptions</li> <li>✓ Log every entry</li> </ul>
3	<b>Manual handling injuries</b>	Heavy weapons cases and ammo boxes. Back strain, crushed fingers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Lift properly – bend your knees</li> <li>✓ Two-person lift for heavy cases</li> <li>✓ Keep walkways clear</li> </ul>
4	<b>Falling objects</b>	Weapons or ammo boxes fall off racks during rough seas. Head and body injuries.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Heavy items stored low</li> <li>✓ Racks checked and secured before sailing</li> <li>✓ Restraints on all weapon and ammo boxes</li> </ul>
5	<b>Fire in armoury</b>	Electrical fault or spark near ammunition. Explosion, burns, toxic fumes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ No smoking anywhere near the armoury</li> <li>✓ Report any electrical faults immediately</li> <li>✓ Know the armoury fire drill</li> </ul>
6	<b>Ammunition mismanagement</b>	Wrong ammo stored together, damaged rounds, incorrect count. Misfires, detonation, legal breach.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Ammo types separated and labelled</li> <li>✓ Daily count – report any discrepancy immediately</li> <li>✓ Damaged or suspect rounds quarantined</li> </ul>
7	<b>Chemical exposure – cleaning</b>	Solvents and lubricants during weapons cleaning. Skin burns, breathing problems, eye injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Wear gloves and eye protection when cleaning</li> <li>✓ Ventilation must be adequate</li> <li>✓ Know the first aid for each chemical</li> </ul>
8	<b>Mechanical injury – stripping</b>	Springs, pins, and small parts fly out during weapons stripping. Cuts, eye injury.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Weapons cleared before stripping – always</li> <li>✓ Work on a proper bench with good lighting</li> <li>✓ Eye protection available and used</li> </ul>

#	HAZARD	WHAT CAN HAPPEN	WHAT YOU DO
9	<b>Heat stress in armoury</b>	Enclosed space, poor ventilation, hot climate. Dizziness, dehydration, heat stroke.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Open the door for airflow when secure</li> <li>✓ Drink water regularly</li> <li>✓ Take breaks in a cooler area</li> </ul>
10	<b>Lost or unaccounted weapons</b>	Weapons count does not match. Legal disaster, loss of operating licence.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Daily serial number check against register</li> <li>✓ Joint count at every handover between armourers</li> <li>✓ Report discrepancies immediately – no delay</li> </ul>
11	<b>Lone working</b>	Working alone with weapons. No help if something goes wrong.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Check in regularly with your team</li> <li>✓ Communication device on you at all times</li> <li>✓ Buddy system for high-risk tasks</li> </ul>
12	<b>Client interference</b>	Client crew enters armoury area. Distraction, unsafe contact with weapons.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>✓ Authorised persons sign clearly displayed</li> <li>✓ Door secured when you step out</li> <li>✓ Report and log any unauthorised entry</li> </ul>

**🛑 STOP WORK – YOU HAVE THE RIGHT**

If you believe a weapons handling situation is not safe, you must stop and speak up.

**No one will be punished for raising a safety concern.**

**Full risk assessment:** SM/HSE/RA/004 – Weapons Handling & Armoury Operations v1.0

**Related SOPs:** Weapons Handling & Armoury SOP | SM/HSE/PRO/001 – Hazard ID & Risk Assessment

**Questions?** Contact the Group Compliance Director or QHSE Manager

**YOUR WATCH. OUR STANDARD.**

Assess. Report. Deliver.