

The role of the Industry

Testing and Marking

Sporting Firearms

Vito Genco

Safety and reciprocity

- **Sporting Firearms Industry is on the forefront for:**
 - **Safety**
 - **Transparency**
 - **Reciprocity**
 - **Legality**
- **Safety Tests are ensured by third parties like Proof Houses**

Why testing firearms

- Testing of firearms was introduced the first time in London, in 16th century, when it became clear that firearms could not be considered safe for the user until they had undergone suitable testing.
- In 1637 the London Association of Firearms Manufacturers set up the first Proof House with the “right to search and confiscate any arms within 10 miles radius which were found to be untested and dangerous for the users”

Principle of testing

- **High pressure strength test of the barrel in a scientific manner**
- **Instruments and equipment aimed at studying the internal ballistic**
- **Standardization of tests to guarantee safety and their application methods**

Why marking

- **Proof test marks** have become compulsory in order to guarantee firearm's had been tested accordingly to the established standards
- **Experts of European Industries** have been assisting Authorities in Tests preparation
- **Unique marking** has been the foundation for the guarantee that a specific firearm had been tested

Industry and CIP

- Industry has provided expertise to draw rules and standards for testing
- Aim: to guarantee **the safety** of civilian firearms, commercial ammunition and all other equipments operating by means of explosives substances

Marks and Controls

- **Proof-test marks are issued by respective testing Authorities**
- **Permanent International Commission (C.I.P.) is responsible in drafting laws and regulations to assure the uniform testing of firearms, confirmed by proof-test marks.**

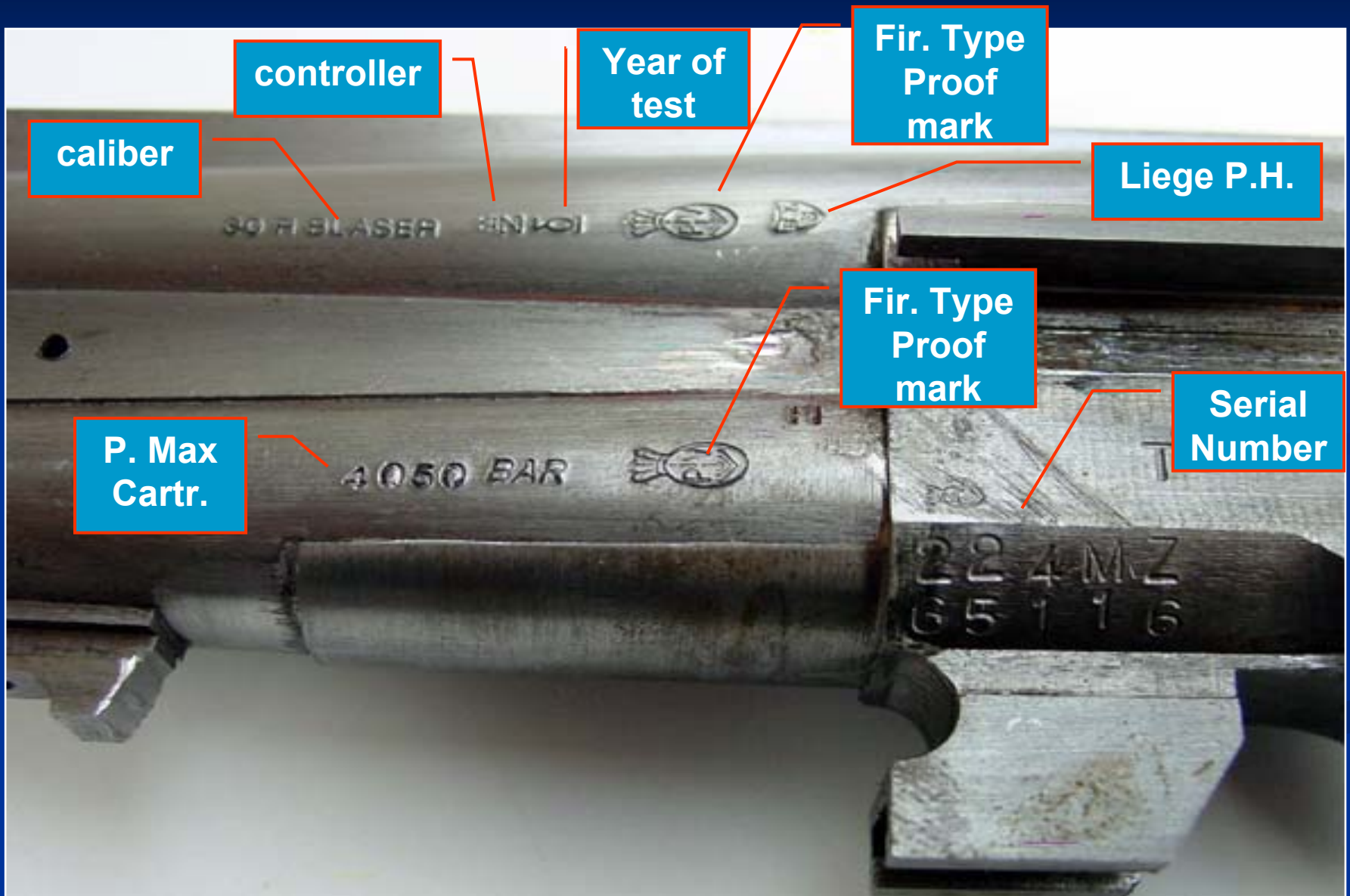
European Industry

- **EU Sporting Firearms Manufacturers are located in CIP member States**
 - **Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Finland, France, Germany, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Hungary, Italy, Slovakian Republic and Spain**

Tests and marking

- **Check before firing** (identification marks):
 - Manufacturers name or trading name or registered trade mark
 - Firearms serial number
 - Caliber
- **Proof firing**
- **Inspection after proof firing**

Marks



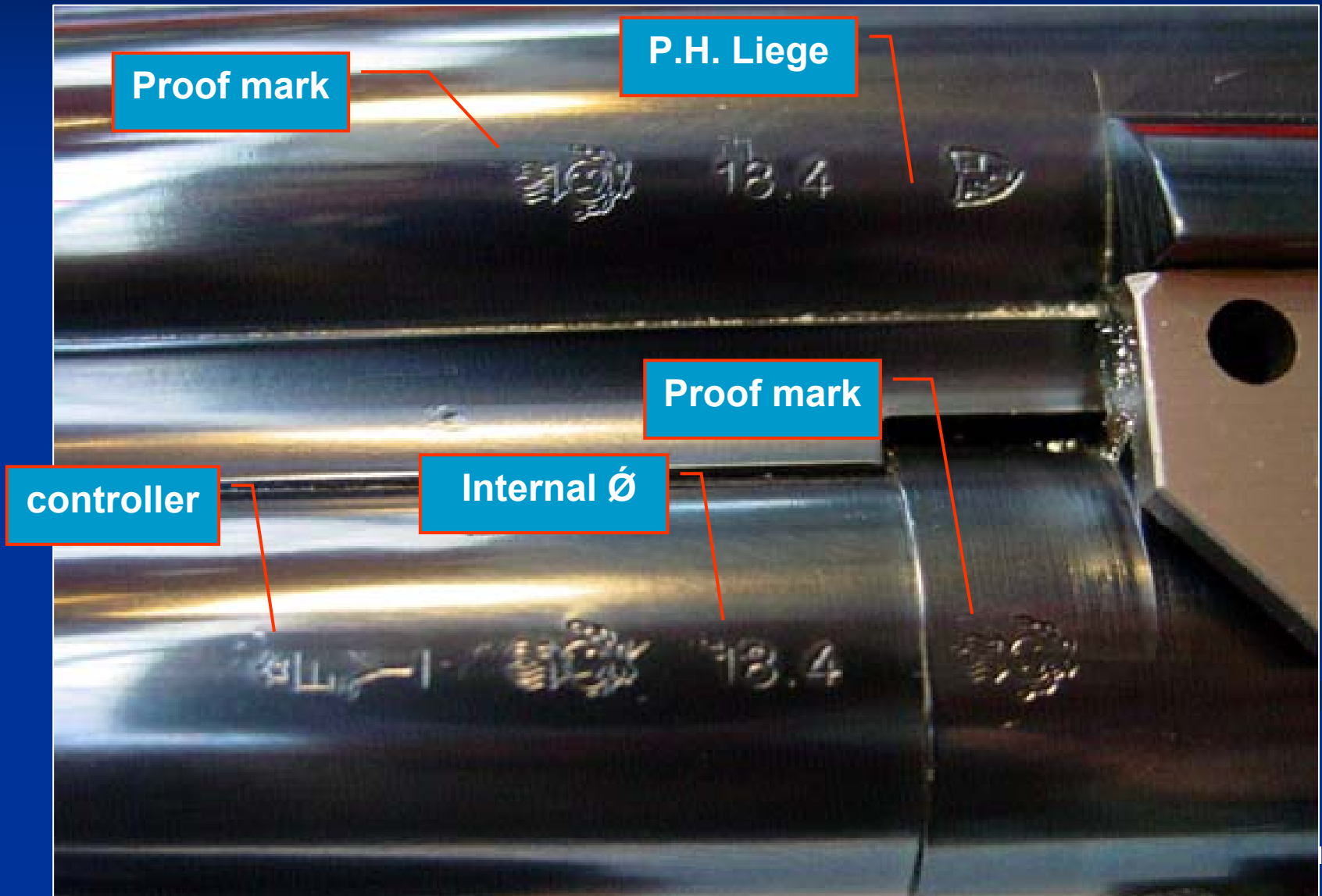
Record keeping

- **Recorded details of firearm:**
 - Test number and date
 - Nature of test firing
 - Feature of firearm's manufacture/person
 - Identification details
 - Reason for rejection (if any)
- **Testing authorities holds records indefinitely**

Identification mark check

- **Firearm identification:**
 - **Name, trade name or registered trade mark**
 - **Serial number**
 - **Calibre according to CIP denomination (for example 12-70, 243 Win)**

Proof-test marks and data over and under firearms



Industry Record keeping

- **All identification data and transfer of each tested firearms are:**
 - **Kept in the manufacturer's registers for 10 years and passed to the Authorities in case of discontinuance of business**

Checks and Tracing

- Checks are easily made on registration (unequivocal, type, history, immediate tracing, statistical analysis of data)
- Prof House records are computerised and represent the first step of the investigative path
- Second step are the manufacturer's records

Checks and Tracing

- **Industry punches:**
 - **Serial number, Manufacturer's mark**
- **If serial number is missing (foreign firearms) Proof House punches a progressive number which is recorded**
- **In this manner, origin and initial history of the firearms can always be reconstructed**
- **Firearms without recognized (CIP) testing marks are considered illegal**

Brussels Convention and European Union

- **EU Directive 91/477 confirms the obligation of CIP testing for transfer of firearms (art. 11. comma 2, point 4)**
- **Member States must perform inspection tests to ensure that an illegal market is not formed**
- **Firearms cannot be transferred without inspection**

Conclusions

- **Testing reaches two aims:**
 - **To ensure that firearms is not dangerous for the consumer**
 - **To control production , trade and circulation of firearms to ensure public order**
- **These constitute the basis of the Directive 91/477 as well as the Brussels Convention and the internal legislation of the countries who form part.**

Thank you