

NONTOXIC SHOT REGULATIONS FOR HUNTING WATERFOWL AND COOTS IN THE U.S

Current as of Apr 11, 2015

BACKGROUND

The ban on the use of lead shot for hunting waterfowl was phased-in starting with the 1987-88 hunting season. The ban became nationwide in 1991. Nontoxic shot regulations apply only to waterfowl, defined as the family Anatidae (ducks, geese, [including brant], and swans) and coots. Nontoxic shot is defined as any shot type that does not cause sickness and death when ingested by migratory birds.

APPROVED SHOT TYPES

The shot types that are approved as nontoxic for waterfowl hunting in the U.S. are the following.

Approved shot type*	Percent Composition by Weight	Field Testing Device**
Bismuth-tin	97 bismuth, and 3 tin	Hot Shot®***
Iron (steel)	iron and carbon	Magnet or Hot Shot®
Iron-tungsten	any proportion of tungsten, and ≥ 1 iron	Magnet or Hot Shot®
Iron-tungsten-nickel	≥ 1 iron, any proportion of tungsten, and up to 40 nickel	Magnet or Hot Shot®
Copper-clad iron	84 to 56.59 iron core, with copper cladding up to 44.1 of the shot mass	Magnet or Hot Shot®
Tungsten-bronze	51.1 tungsten, 44.4 copper, 3.9 tin, and 0.6 iron, or 60 tungsten, 35.1 copper, 3.9 tin, and 1 iron	Rare Earth Magnet
Tungsten-iron-copper-nickel	40–76 tungsten, 10–37 iron, 9–16 copper, and 5–7 nickel	Hot Shot® or Rare Earth Magnet
Tungsten-matrix	95.9 tungsten, 4.1 polymer	Hot Shot®
Tungsten-polymer	95.5 tungsten, 4.5 Nylon 6 or 11	Hot Shot®
Tungsten-tin-iron	any proportions of tungsten and tin, and ≥ 1 iron	Magnet or Hot Shot®
Tungsten-tin-bismuth	any proportions of tungsten, tin, and bismuth	Rare Earth Magnet
Tungsten-tin-iron-nickel	65 tungsten, 21.8 tin, 10.4 iron, and 2.8 nickel	Magnet
Tungsten-iron-polymer	41.5–95.2 tungsten, 1.5–52.0 iron, and 3.5–8.0 fluoropolymer	Rare Earth Magnet or Hot Shot®

* Coatings of copper, nickel, tin, zinc, zinc chloride, zinc chrome, and fluoropolymers on

approved nontoxic shot types also are approved.

** The information in the "Field Testing Device" column is strictly informational, not regulatory.

*** The "HOT*SHOT" field testing device is from Stream Systems of Concord, CA.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Further information on lead poisoning in waterfowl can be found at the following web site:

<http://www.npwrc.usgs.gov/resource/othrdata/pbpoison/pbpoison.htm#contents>