



Standard Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Powder Gun Projectiles and Propellants¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F590; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ε) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This consumer safety specification covers projectiles and propellants manufactured for use with non-powder guns intended for target shooting, educational, and recreational purposes and is to be used in conjunction with Consumer Safety Specification F589. Non-powder guns are commonly identified as BB guns, air guns, or pellet guns.

1.2 The projectiles and propellants covered by this consumer safety specification are BB cal, .177 cal (4.5 mm), .22 cal (5.5 mm), and .25 cal (6.4 mm) air gun shot of various materials; .177 cal (4.5 mm), 5 mm, .22 cal (5.5 mm), .25 cal (6.4 mm) pellets and .177 cal (4.5 mm), 5 mm, .22 cal (5.5 mm), and .25 cal (6.4 mm) darts and propellants identified as 8 and 12-g type CO₂ cylinders with both small and standard-sized necks as well as refillable CO₂ or compressed air cylinders and reservoirs.

1.3 This consumer safety specification does not cover propellants such as dichlorodifluoromethane or projectiles that are propelled by a combustible release of energy; non-powder gun projectiles used with products identified as blow guns, sling shots, cork guns, toy guns, or archery cross bows and other such devices; projectiles designed for adult use in obsolete non-powder guns, custom-made non-powder guns, and non-powder guns designed for and used by law enforcement, scientific, veterinary or military use; paint ball markers, ammunition for airsoft/softair guns and shot used with shotguns in the firearm classification. Test methods for refilling cylinders do not purport to address all of the safety issues, if any, associated with the safe handling and transfilling of small cylinders. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations, such as but not limited to DOT, CGA and OSHA, prior to use.

1.4 The following precautionary caveat pertains only to the test method portion, Section 7, of this specification: *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns,*

if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 ASTM Standards:²

F589 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Powder Guns
F2030 Specification for Paintball Cylinder Burst Disk Assemblies

3. Terminology

3.1 Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:

Projectiles

3.1.1 *air-gun dart*—a .177 cal, 5 mm, .22 cal, or .25 cal non-powder gun projectile having a pointed configuration on one end and tufts on the other (see Fig. 1).

3.1.1.1 *tuft*—the material that is added to the body of a dart.

3.1.2 *air-gun shot*—a BB, .177, .22-cal, or .25 cal ball-shaped, non-powder gun projectile made primarily of lead, lead alloy, or steel (see Fig. 2).

3.1.2.1 *air-gun shot, lead*—a shot made of lead or lead alloy which may or may not have a protective finish.

3.1.2.2 *air-gun shot, lead-coated*—a shot made of steel that has a thin, uniform coating of lead or lead alloy. It may or may not have a protective finish.

3.1.2.3 *air-gun shot, steel*—a shot made of steel that is coated with a protective finish.

3.1.2.4 *dimension across flats*—the diameter of an air-gun shot, as measured across the flats.

3.1.2.5 *maximum spherical diameter*—the largest diameter of an air-gun shot, as measured with a ring gage.

3.1.3 *caliber*—the nomenclature used to indicate the bore size of a non-powder gun and the compatible projectile intended for use with that bore size.

3.1.4 *non-powder gun projectile*—a projectile that is designed for and intended to be discharged from a non-powder gun.

¹ This consumer safety specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F15 on Consumer Products and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F15.06 on Safety Standards for Non-Powder Gun Products.

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² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.