

SASS Minimum Ammunition Standards

Ammunition standards for Cowboy Action Shooting were set in the early days to ensure all competitor's loads were in a safe velocity range for shooting at the various types of targets used in Cowboy Action Shooting. Beginning ammunition standards were set at a maximum of 1000 fps for revolver ammunition and 1400 fps for rifle ammunition and a minimum of 650 fps for both rifle and revolver ammunition. During the Territorial Governor Summit of 1999, the minimum standard was deemed arbitrary and was set aside until testing could prove a better solution. After testing, input from various sources, and a study of current trends the Wild Bunch has determined the time has come to re-establish a new minimum standard for ammunition used in Cowboy Action Shooting.

Beginning at END of TRAIL 2008, the minimum standard for ammunition use in State, Regional, National, International, and World Championship Competitions shall be not less than a minimum power factor of 60 and no velocity may be less than 400 fps.

Power factors are simply calculated by multiplying the bullet weight times the velocity and then the resulting number is divided by 1000. Some examples are as follows:

- 100 gr bullet traveling at 600 fps has a power factor of 60: $(100 \times 600) / 1000 = 60.00$
- 77 gr bullet traveling at 800 fps has a power factor of 61.6 $(77 \times 800) / 1000 = 61.60$
- 200 gr bullet traveling at 400 fps has a power factor of 80 $(200 \times 400) / 1000 = 80.00$

Power factors are the simplest and easiest way to maintain a minimum ammunition standard and allow competitors to shoot the weight bullet or velocity they feel comfortable with.

The procedure to check power factors will be random or arbitrary. Only match officials can request to check competitor ammunition. All rules will be spelled out in the SASS ROII materials. If a competitor is checked they will be asked for five rounds preferably from a revolver already loaded at the loading table. One round will have the bullet pulled and weighed. The other four rounds will be fired across a chronograph. The muzzle of the revolver should be raised to 80 degrees and then lowered each time prior to firing through the chronograph. If any one of the four rounds makes the power factor the competitor's loads will be considered as legal. If none of the rounds make the power factor the competitor is given a 30 second penalty for each stage shot from that stage forward. The competitor will also be assessed 30 seconds for all stages to be shot unless the competitor changes ammunition that meets the power standard.

To assist clubs and matches checking power factors Dillon Precision has created a "Chronographing Kit" just for SASS Clubs. It consists of the CED Millennium 2 chronograph, a D-Terminator Digital Scale, and a kinetic bullet Puller (stock #09998), the cost is \$309.00, a 15% discount over ordering each item separately. A tripod can be included with a similar discount.