



Press release G36

31. March 2015

Further comments with regard to negative reports on the G 36 rifle and the press statement by the German Minister of Defence dated 30th March.

We have been a reliable partner for the German Armed Forces for more than 50 years. The G 36 has been in use for nearly 20 years and has proven itself in more than 35 countries worldwide in numerous operations. We are dismayed by the statements issued by the Ministry of Defence with regard to the G 36 rifle. In particular, we sincerely regret that the ministry did not seek discussions with Heckler & Koch prior to the last public statement with farreaching consequences for our technical reputation.

Heckler & Koch would like to clarify the following points:

- 1) All G 36 rifles of the German Armed Forces comply with the so called "Technical Supply Specification" as established by the German Armed Forces, which conclusively standardize and document the technical performance specifications of the G 36 rifle as part of the supply contract.
- 2) Our compliance with the stated requirements of these specifications is independently confirmed by the quality control centre of the German Armed Forces with the acceptance of each of the 178,000 G 36 rifles used by the soldiers of the German Armed Forces. To date, there have been no defects noted and therefore, any discussions regarding warranty for defects are neither factual, nor appropriate.
- 3) Press reports suggest that the German Armed Forces appear to have developed a new test criteria during the past 6 months, without consulting with, or including Heckler & Koch in the discussion of the new testing to be conducted or the results obtained.
- 4) To date, no office within the German Armed Forces or ministry have contacted, or even informed, Heckler & Koch, of any issues where the G 36 has failed to meet its specifications, although the company has offered an open dialog at all times.
- 5) Over the past few years, individual parties within the German Armed Forces have time and again claimed that new user scenarios had been developed from operations and it is in these scenarios that issues have been observed. Should this be the case, then these altered use scenarios may themselves be creating issues. As there are presently a number of indicators that the use parameters applicable to our product have been changed, arbitrarily, it is suggested that this is the area



where a mutual dialog could best serve our forces and allies. Heckler & Koch remains ready and willing to engage in these discussions to resolve once and for all these reports and concerns.

- 6) It is a fact that there is no standardized test method at NATO level, let alone an assessment criterion, for the accuracy of hand weapons:
 - a) when overheated after repeated firing;
 - b) at extremely high ambient temperatures;
 - c) for extreme differences in ambient temperature or other climatic fluctuations; and
 - d) during exposure to sun.

- 7) To the knowledge of Heckler & Koch, these NATO-wide undefined criteria are also so far unknown at a national level in the German Armed Forces. The only exception being in the spring of 2012, when the so called "Realistic Combat Firing Cycle" (EBZ) was standardized for the first time, and in which the G 36 rifle, once again, was proven to meet, or exceed, the specified accuracy requirements.

- 8) Heckler & Koch is compelled to state that we were, at best, informed incompletely, always with delay, and as a rule not involved by the German Armed Forces in clarifying any of the recent issues claimed against the G 36 rifle, nor the investigations to substantiate them.

The continued questioning of the technical suitability of the G 36 rifle stands in stark blatant contrast of the worldwide reality of G 36 operations over nearly 20 years.

In the general debate about the equipment of the German Armed Forces, the systematic proceedings against Heckler & Koch cannot be explained against this background and the company reserves its right to conduct its own investigation.

Press office