

Battle Re-enactment Code of Conduct

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Issue 4

This code of conduct, applicable to battle re-enactments taking place during the Overlord Military Spectacular, should be considered as the bare minimum guidance for the safety management of the event.

It is to ensure the complete safety of all re-enactors, public and show marshals, where blank firing weapons, small explosive devices, and vehicles are used.

Legislation

The main legal requirements for the use and possession of replicas and deactivated weapons in events are

Health and Safety at Work Act 1974

Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations, 1999.

Firearms Act (particularly 1968)

Also relevant are the HSE information sheets

No. 17 Stunts, fights, and other potentially hazardous production activities

No. 20 Management of firearms and other weapons in productions.
See appendix A & B.

Definitions

For the purpose of this code the following definitions are used

- **Weapon** is any object that is designed for the purpose of inflicting bodily harm including bayonets and knives.
- **Replica weapon** is a prop designed to look like a weapon, which depending on the construction may be capable of bodily harm.
- **Deactivated weapon** is one in which mechanisms have been removed or permanently disabled and has been certified as deactivated by a proof house.
- **Weapons expert or competent person** is someone who has the necessary knowledge and experience and training to advise on the use of the weapon.
- **Armourer** is a Registered Firearms Dealer, or their agent, or a member of the armed forces allocated to the task by their commander. Holding licences for firearms or shotguns does not qualify the person to be an armourer.

Health and Safety

The responsibility for health and safety rests with the Re-enactment Manager i.e. the person, belonging to the re-enactment group, who is in charge of planning and controlling the mock battle re-enactment sequence.

His safety responsibilities include but are not limited to

- Public and re-enactor safety
- Planning and directing mock battle actions safely
- Ensuring all relevant information, including battle plans, are made aware to all concerned in the mock battle.
- Controls, as identified in the risk assessment, are in place and are acted upon.
- Arranging safety briefings, and arrangements for emergencies.
- Ensuring all licences and public liability insurances are current.

The re-enactment manager must also ensure that all re-enactors

- Are competent and hold the proper licence.
- Are fully briefed on the mock battle plan.
- Are aware of the dangers involved in acting in the mock battle.
- Has a written assessment of the risks of the weapon and identified the controls needed

Safety Measures

Firearms

Every weapon must be treated as a lethal weapon, must be under the direct control, and only handled by, the certificate holder. It must be securely stored when not in use. It must never be directly pointed at another person. Pyrotechnics and blank firing replicas may only be handled and transported by those who hold the appropriate licences and certificates.

Ammunition

Blank ammunition can inflict serious injury over a great distance, care, in relation to the public and other re-enactors, must be taken when fired. The mock battle needs detailing showing the battle and firing sequences. Explosive and smoke sequences should be well planned to avoid conflict with other re-enactors, and the location of each device must be marked in accordance with the battle plan.

Faults and Misfires

If a weapon develops a fault, it must be treated as loaded and safely withdrawn from use. A fully trained and competent person must correct the fault and certify that the weapon is safe to be used again.

Vehicles

All vehicles used in the mock battle, inside the arena, must be driven by a competent, licensed driver, with an observer. Both personnel must be fully briefed on the battle sequences, and keep to the specified route in the battle plan.

A speed limit of 10MPH must be adhered to.

The vehicle must stop when re-enactors exit the vehicle. Great care should be exercised around obstacles and the driver and observer must be vigilant for re-enactors who are prone on the ground and may be camouflaged or hidden from view.

Public Safety

All mock battle sequences must take place well inside the display area, away from the public. If any props or vehicles are involved, again care needs to be taken to ensure the safety of all concerned.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment must be undertaken and documented. All re-enactors and marshals should be conversant with the control measures, which must be implemented. All sequences must be rehearsed to improve safety.