

Tracking Federal Regulatory Initiatives

Regulatory Affairs

VOL. 3, No. 31

August 23, 1997

Circulate to:	HIGHLIGHTS
1.	<p>Approved Regulations</p> <p>Ban on lead shot for hunting migratory birds approved along waterways for September 1, 1997; national ban postponed two years, to September, 1999. . . 1-2</p>
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Pre-Published and Approved With comments or changes	Statutory Authority & Regulatory Plan Listing
<p>Migratory Birds Regulations, amendment (SOR/97-400, OIC 1997-1109)</p> <p>The amendment will broaden the prohibition against the possession and use of any shot other than non-toxic shot for the purpose of hunting migratory game birds, except for the hunting of three species of migratory upland game birds: woodcock, band-tailed pigeons and mourning doves, starting in September.</p> <p>The prohibition, aimed at lead shot in shotgun shells, will cover hunting of the migratory birds in areas within 200 metres of any watercourse or water body effective September 1, 1997 and throughout Canada on and after September 1, 1999.</p> <p>Lead shot has been prohibited for hunting most migratory game birds in all National Wildlife Areas since September, 1996. This process had began in 1990 with the creation of a number of non-toxic shot zones for the hunting of waterfowl, in cooperation with the provinces.</p> <p>The proposal to extend the prohibition was prepublished in the Canada Gazette, Part 1, on April 26, 1997 (see <i>Regulatory Affairs</i>, Vol. 3, No. 15, April 26, 1997). Since then, a fourth type of non-toxic shot (tungsten-polymer shot) has been added to the regulations as an approved alternative to lead shot.</p>	<p><i>Migratory Birds Convention Act, 1994</i>, section 12</p> <p>EC/9-10-L</p> <p>To be published in Canada Gazette September 3, 1997</p>

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Banning the use of lead shot will reduce the release of lead into the environment by some 800 tonnes annually. Lead ingestion by migratory birds and their predators has been demonstrated to have serious harmful effects through primary and secondary poisoning. Denmark and the Netherlands have banned the use of lead shot for all hunting; a number of other countries, including Finland, Australia, Mexico, Sweden and Switzerland, have established non-toxic zones; and the United States, which shares its migratory birds with Canada, imposed a nation-wide ban on the use of lead shot for waterfowl hunting since 1991.

The most significant concern raised during the latest round of consultations concerned the original proposed implementation date of September 1997 for the Canada-wide prohibition of the use of lead shot. A significant number of provinces and hunting organizations said they thought the lead shot ban was proceeding too rapidly. On the other hand, some provinces and most environmental non-governmental organizations supported the 1997 national ban.

As a result of the concerns, the national ban has been deferred until September, 1999.

The "non-toxic" shots listed in the amended Regulations (subsection 2(1)) are:

- bismuth shot (at least 96% bismuth, not more than 4% tin and not more than 1% of any other element);
- steel shot (at least 98% iron and not more than 1% of any other element);
- tungsten-iron shot (at least 45% iron, not more than 55% tungsten, and not more than 1% of any other element); and
- tungsten polymer shot (at least 50% tungsten, not more than 47% iron, not more than 47% bismuth, not more than 4% tin, not more than 2% copper, not more than 2% nickel, not more than 5% in aggregate of polymerized trans alkenes and ionically-binding (cis) polyvinyl resins, and not more than 1% of any other element).

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ISSN 1201-0716

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