



SOUTHERN AFRICA ARMS & AMMUNITION COLLECTORS ASSOCIATION

KwaZulu Natal Chapter

Accreditation No 1300073

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COMMON MISTAKES MADE BY APPLICANTS FOR CERTIFICATES OF COLLECTABILITY

- 1) There are new COC forms available with updated details to be used from now on. These may be identified by the Sir Duncan Road address and the colour logo on the top left hand side.
- 2) The most important attribute to consider in any application for a Certificate of Collectability (COC) is that the COC for a particular firearm must be in accordance with the member's declared Field of Interest, Theme and Sub-theme for his or her collection. A "Field" has been described as an "area with defined edges."
- 3) The guidelines for making an application for a COC have been agreed between our national body and the Central Firearms Registry (CFR) and are therefore mandatory. Any COC that does not reflect the national guidelines or could be rejected by the CFR as not conforming with Section 17 of the Act as amended, is not acceptable.

These guidelines are available on the SAAACA KZN website.

- 4) As an example of a common mistake : A member whose declared Field of Interest is in rifles and shotguns applies for a COC for a .45 ACP pistol, with no mention of collecting pistols in his or her Field of Interest. Our Review Sub-committee therefore cannot accept any such COC and must reject it.
- 5) As it is a requirement of this process (already agreed at a national level with the CFR) that this Association maintains records of members' Fields of Interest and Themes, then our KZN Chapter will use new COC applications as a means of confirming or updating our member database accordingly.
- 6) The manner in which Exco are dealing with COC's has changed from last year in part due to the failure of our postal system. We have gone electronic. The COC Review Sub-committee requires that a COC application is submitted via e-mail to the Secretary in a good quality, PDF colour format.

Once the Secretary confirms that the payment has been made for the COC and that the member is in good standing ie. subs paid and Annual Declaration submitted, the COC is then circulated to the COC Review Sub-committee for consideration. Any changes that are required are then referred back to the applicant by the Convener of



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the Sub-committee for the applicant to amend their application and return it to the Convener.

- 7) Once the compliant COC application is received in quality color PDF format, it will then be e-mailed to the Chairman for his signature. Once it has been printed and signed by the Chairman, in a quality that is acceptable as an original, the applicant may either collect same from the Chairman or use the Post Net overnight courier service, presently R100, to have the completed Certificate sent to the applicant. This may then be attached to the applicant's SAPS application.
- 8) Please note that one needs to be careful that a scanned copy does not come through "crooked" or "skewed" as it then becomes a poor quality copy and not acceptable for endorsement by the Review Sub-committee.

It is an established principle that any firearms licence application is "Owned" by the applicant and the onus is on him or her to get it right.

The COC fee for New Applications is R100 and Renewals is R 50.00.

- 9) Regarding the actual content of a COC application it is unacceptable that a number of members simply copy and paste wording direct from the Internet, oft-times without editing or shortening the content so as to be specific to the firearm.
- 10) For example, when they are supposed to be discussing the collectible attributes of an arm (Historical, Technical, Scientific, Educational, Cultural), they talk about European arms factories having been burnt down or damaged during WW2 and tractors and farming implements also being produced, or submit pages on the characteristics of the ammunition, information that is irrelevant and that has nothing to do regarding the production or collectable significance of the firearm.
- 11) The editing by the applicant needs to delete any blue hyperlinks or references to Wikipedia. The application should perhaps even have the font changed. Certainly the typing should be in black font so as not to be obviously copied direct from the web.

Certified collectors are supposed by the CFR and our own SAAACA organisation to have a great depth of knowledge of their arms supported by personal research. Internet research, if it is used at all, should be modified, edited of irrelevant peripheral information and kept short and relevant to the firearm in question.



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Such editing editing will also shorten the application considerably, eliminating waffle which neither the Reviewing Sub-committee nor the CFR will have to wade through.

- 12) Where subparagraphs in the COC master form are not applicable, we no longer write "Not applicable in this application". Our current system is to delete any unused, numbered headings, such as "Educational" or "Cultural" or "Commemorative" or "Artistic" et cetera and re-number the headings that are used. In other words, if "Investment" was numbered 4.7 but is now 4.4, then re-number it to reflect 4.4!

Leaving blanks incompleted in the form gives one the impression that you have not completed everything required in the application.

- 13) Similarly : There are tables in the master form for other firearms relevant to the applicant's Field of Interest. Delete any unused rows.
- 14) Where there are "red type" instructions, in brackets, such as an instruction, for example to delete an inapplicable paragraph, such "red type" instructions should be also be deleted.
- 15) Section 6 of the COC application form states that if any field does not apply then delete entirely. For example Section says qualifications in terms of regulation 15 Cat A and B applications only. If it is not a Cat A and B application then delete the entire clause.
- 16) With regard to the References section, it is very important that applications reflect that the member hasn't simply just "copied and pasted" information from the Internet, but that he or she has done broader research relating to the firearm.
- 17) Included in the Guidelines is an indication firearm under consideration has value, even if it's only a few thousand Rand, so it is important that the application makes reference to the fact that the firearm has value and an approximate amount and is therefore worthy of collection.
- 18) Paragraph 8 is the signature paragraph. We require that this paragraph stays intact and accordingly is kept as a full page entry, ie. the last page of the COC application.

So as not to split this signature paragraph into two pages, even if there is some space after Paragraph 7 References, the entire Paragraph 8 Declaration and signatures, should be moved to the final page.