

2/21/2018  
F/S Merle Shepard



## **POSITION STATEMENT ON AIRBOWS**

June 16, 2016

The ATA has been asked by its members as well as by representatives of state wildlife agencies, for the ATA's opinion regarding whether airbows constitute archery equipment. While the ATA certainly recognizes the airbow to be an innovative piece of shooting equipment, the airbow nevertheless lacks the basic components of standard archery equipment (e.g., a string system and limbs). For this reason, the ATA does not consider airbows to be archery equipment.

In addition, the airbow (unlike archery equipment) is not subject to Federal excise tax, the basic funding mechanism for state wildlife agency activities, which means that no portion of the proceeds from airbow purchases contribute to the state wildlife conservation activities supported by Pittman Robertson funds – at least not to the ATA's knowledge. As a consequence, airbows do not appear to be treated as archery equipment by either the Internal Revenue Service or the US Fish and Wildlife Service.

Currently, state wildlife agencies are considering if airbows should be included in hunting seasons and, if so, the seasons in which airbows belong. In general, the ATA leaves the hunting seasons and regulations governing the use of hunting equipment to each state wildlife agency and their hunters. Yet we also strongly support the long standing traditions of fair chase hunting and equal opportunity for all hunters.



## Model TM100 - Trigger Mechanism

Be Adaptive Equipment Model TM100 is a vacuum actuated trigger system that attaches to your trigger guard. Is simple to install on any weapon with a standard trigger guard. The unique design of the mechanism allows it to fire most weapons if placed anywhere inside of the trigger guard. The simplicity of the set up allows the trigger mechanism to be moved from one weapon to another easily and quickly. The TM100 fires the weapon by a very slight suction on the blue tube in the picture which is attached to the control box. The control box is attached to the stock of the weapon with a Velcro cinch strap. The mechanism operates on 12 volt DC power and comes with a pigtail that can be attached to one of the batteries in your power chair or attached to an auxiliary battery.



This will be just for the continental United States and only UPS ground, no special next day air or two day savers. Shipping listed is for continental US only, if you need it shipped somewhere else, contact us for a shipping quote.

Model TM100 - Trigger Mechanism \$318.00 + \$20.00 Shipping

# Airguns/Airbows

## Introduction

An airgun propels projectiles by means of compressed air or other gas, rather than using an explosive charge like a traditional firearm. Regulations surrounding the use of airguns vary significantly from state to state. Based on airgun technology the Airbow – a hybrid hunting product that uses compressed air to fire an arrow – has now been developed. Today’s airguns, and now the Airbow, demonstrate a striking advancement in this technology beyond the BB and pellet guns of yesteryear. Many of the products available on the market today fire larger caliber projectiles (or arrows, in the case of the Airbow) and now offer shooters an expanded kill range with a product that is capable of harvesting big game animals.<sup>383</sup>

## History

Airgun technology dates to the earliest days of the United States. Lewis and Clark famously utilized a .46 caliber air rifle in their expedition following the Louisiana Purchase in 1804.<sup>384</sup> Today, large bore airguns can harvest the most popular game species, but are presently legal in only eight states for whitetail deer and other large game.<sup>385</sup>

In January of 2016, Crosman introduced the Benjamin Pioneer Airbow, which fires 375 grain arrows at 450 feet per second and 160 foot pounds of energy.<sup>386</sup> Comparatively, most common modern crossbows fire bolts up to 425 feet per second and up to 110 foot pounds of energy.<sup>387</sup> Currently the Airbow is legal for big game hunting in only seven states.<sup>388</sup>

## Issue

Airbow and airgun legality for hunting use varies by state. Where some limit airgun use based on minimum calibers, velocities and ammunition grain weights based on the game species, other states do not mention airguns at all. This leaves ambiguity in the minds of prospective users and manufacturers, which is why manufacturers often ask prospective users to confirm local regulations in their respective state before trying to hunt with airguns/Airbows.<sup>389</sup> There is no recorded attempt, thus far, to legalize Airbows in archery-only seasons, and the Archery Trade Association has released a position that states that Airbows are not archery equipment.<sup>390</sup>

## Points of Interest

- Today’s modern air powered hunting rifles and Airbows are powered by air pressurized to 3,000 pounds per square inch (PSI) generating the energy exceeding that which is generally regarded as the minimum required for taking large game inside 50 yards, out to a maximum of 100 yards.<sup>391</sup>
- Like most handgun bullets, traditional muzzleloader round balls, and arrows tipped with broad heads, airgun pellets/bullets transmit little of the “shock” value on impact that is associated with high velocity “high-powered” rifle projectiles. Thus, clean, quick killing requires either (1) precise shot placement on a vital organ or, (2) sufficient projectile energy to create a wound channel that is large enough - or long enough - to cause fatality through blood loss. Large bore airguns and the Airbow satisfy both criteria.<sup>392</sup>

<sup>383</sup> “Pioneer Airbow”. *Crosman*, last modified February 10, 2017, <http://www.crosman.com/airbow>.

<sup>384</sup> James E. Lankford, et al., “Auditory Risk of Air Rifles”. *National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine*, last modified June 7, 2016, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4896309/>.

<sup>385</sup> “Approved Species for Airgun Hunting”. *Crosman*, accessed June 7, 2017, <http://www.crosman.com/pdf/HuntingRegsChart.pdf>.

<sup>386</sup> “Pioneer Airbow”. *Crosman*, accessed June 7, 2017, <http://www.crosman.com/airguns/airguns-airbow/benjamin-pioneer-airbow>.

<sup>387</sup> “All Crossbows We Have Reviewed”. *Best Crossbow Source*, accessed June 15, 2017, <http://www.bestcrossbowsource.com/crossbows/>.

<sup>388</sup> “Pioneer Airbow”. *Crosman*, last modified February 10, 2017, <http://www.crosman.com/airbow>.

<sup>389</sup> “Pioneer Airbow”. *Crosman*, last modified February 10, 2017, <http://www.crosman.com/airbow>.

<sup>390</sup> “Position Statement on Airbows”. *Archery Trade Association*, last modified July 16, 2016, <https://www.archerytrade.org/news/ata-board-releases-position-statement-on-airbows>.

<sup>391</sup> Jim Chapman, “Hunting with Big-Bore Airguns”. *Grand View Outdoors*, last modified March 27, 2015, <http://www.grandviewoutdoors.com/big-game-hunting/hunting-with-big-bore-airguns/>.

<sup>392</sup> Tom Gaylord, “Hunting with big bore airguns: What to expect”. *Airgun Academy*, last modified February 11, 2015, <http://www.pyramydair.com/blog/2015/02/hunting-with-big-bore-airguns-what-to-expect/>.

- Unlike traditional firearms, airguns and Airbows are considered to be “hearing safe” in that they produce less than 140 dB of sound when fired (the Occupational Safety & Health Administration’s threshold for an impulse noise).<sup>393</sup>
- The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife allows hunters with disabilities to apply for special use permits to hunt with Airbows. Providing such accommodations puts more hunters in the field who may not be able to hunt otherwise.<sup>394</sup>
- Renowned sportsman, Jim Shockey, recently demonstrated the Airbow’s capability in a popular video.<sup>395</sup>

### Language:

The following states have proposed airgun/Airbow legislation using the language below:

- **Delaware HB 157:** “An airbow as described herein may be used for the pursuit, taking and attempted taking (hunting) of deer on privately owned lands and those lands within the State owned by the State of Delaware so designated for this purpose by the Department of Natural Resources and Environmental Control, at its discretion, under the following conditions: (1) An airbow shall be limited to an air gun that propels an arrow at least 18” in length with a minimum speed of 300 feet per second at release, uses an arrow with a sharpened broadhead with metal points and a minimum width of 7/8 inch, and has a working safety if the device is fired by a trigger; (2) An airbow is not an archery device; (3) To be used in place of a shotgun during the shotgun deer season(s).”<sup>396</sup>
- **Illinois IIB 2410:** “Amends the Wildlife Code. Provides that a person may take deer with a .45 caliber or larger air-powered gun. Defines “air-powered gun” as any implement, designed as a gun that will expel a BB or pellet by spring, gas, or air charged from an external high compression power source.”<sup>397</sup>
- **Pennsylvania HB 2081:** “(a) Except as otherwise provided in this title, it is unlawful for any person to hunt or aid, abet, assist or conspire to hunt any game or wildlife through the use of: \* \* \* [(5) Any device operated by air, chemical or gas cylinder by which a projectile of any size or kind can be discharged or propelled.]” This paragraph shall not apply to an airbow used during a firearm season. . . . As used in this section, “airbow” means a device that launches a single projectile arrow through the use of compressed air at a minimum of 400 feet per second.”<sup>398</sup>

### Moving Forward

As advances in technology continue, legislators are generally encouraged to work alongside their state fish and wildlife agency to ensure that the laws and regulations related to new technologies are clearly stated; and, more specifically, to consider the inclusion of Airbows and airguns in their state’s existing firearms seasons. Legislators are further encouraged to support efforts to include large bore airguns (.357 caliber and greater) and Airbows in the American System of Conservation Funding (ASCF – See Pg. 32) by expanding the Pittman-Robertson Act to include excise taxes on these items.

### Contact

For more information regarding this issue, please contact:

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<sup>393</sup> James E. Lankford, et al., “Auditory Risk of Air Rifles”. *National Center for Biotechnology Information, U.S. National Library of Medicine*, last modified June 7, 2016, <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4896309/>.

<sup>394</sup> “Washington State Now Allowing The Airbow For Hunting ~ VIDEO”. *AmmoLand.com Shooting Sports News*, last modified February 20, 2017, <https://www.ammoland.com/2017/02/washington-state-now-allowing-airbow-hunting/#axzz4mSXBtvBE>.

<sup>395</sup> “Game Changer: The Benjamin Pioneer Airbow,” YouTube video, 3:19, posted by “Crosman,” January 4, 2016, <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dwqMkjYjmtw>.

<sup>396</sup> “DE HB157 | 2017-2018 | 149th General Assembly.” May 17, 2017 *LegiScan*, accessed July 20, 2017, <https://legiscan.com/DE/bill/HB157/2017>.

<sup>397</sup> “IL HB2410 | 2017-2018 | 100th General Assembly.” April 28, 2017 *LegiScan*, accessed July 20, 2017, <https://legiscan.com/IL/bill/HB2410/2017>.

<sup>398</sup> “PA HB2081 | 2015-2016 | Regular Session.” May 19, 2016 *LegiScan*, accessed June 21, 2017, <https://legiscan.com/PA/bill/HB2081/2015>.