



PISTOL NEWS



New cost-saving Targets now available from SAPF offices

During the past few months, the SAPF office has been advised by several of their suppliers of rising costs that affect almost all of the consumables used by clubs and provinces to support our shooting sport.

The biggest problem has been the withdrawal by the local papermills of several grades of paper that the SAPF has been using to print our targets. This has meant that the SAPF has had to test new grades of paper, and there have also been new costs imposed.

This has involved the EXCO in obtaining and printing sample targets, and testing them before selecting what they hoped would be an ideal replacement paper grade.

As Murphy is always involved in printing, some of the paper grades have been less than successful once more than trial sheets are provided, and the actual paper received has sometimes differed from the trial sheets.

The nett effect has also been to see target costs rising over the past year, which clubs will have noticed as old supplies have been depleted and new target supplies have been introduced.

With SAPPI selling their papermills in South Africa to a private conglomerate a few years ago, existing stocks of paper grades that served as target grade papers have been totally depleted, and the new owners of the papermill have restructured and re-planned all their production.

The result is new paper grades and new sheet sizes, and this has had a definitive impact on the printing of all ISSF targets, and a parallel impact on NPA and PPC targets as well.

In an effort to contain the rising cost of targets, the SAPF office had sought to scale their purchases realistically, and the EXCO has had to take a longer term view of targets stocks.

Three things have therefore happened, being:

- a. Target stock levels have been adjusted, to accommodate increased paper prices imposed by the local paper merchants;
- b. New size targets have been created; and
- c. The SAPF have approached all provinces to combine their target purchases in the future to try and generate bulk-buying discounts.

Of course most SAPF clubs have revolving stocks of targets, and they replenish these at their own time and at their own discretion, but this has generated haphazard buying patterns that do not necessarily match any other club or any other province's purchases in the overall.



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To achieve a bulk-buying opportunity, the SAPF has sent out a request to all the provinces to try and centralise and co-ordinate their target purchases, which very often revolve around when any province is hosting a provincial championships.

We will monitor the responses we receive from the provinces and keep our clubs advised of changes to the SAPF's stock levels as time goes by.

In the interim, the SAPF EXCO has introduced two new sizes of ISSF targets, and these are based on the best available paper sizes and paper types presently available.

Firstly, the SAPF now stocks Centre-only versions of the 25-M/50-M target that is used for Sport, Standard, Centrefire and Free pistol.

The new 50-M centres fit perfectly onto the rings of the full size 50-M target, but only cover the 6-ring or higher.

Shooters can use clear or brown tape, or a stitching gun to secure the centre in position on a previously used 50-M target with no side-effects whatsoever.

The cost saving is substantial – the new 50-M centres cost just R1,00 each, compared to the cost of a new full-size 50-M target, which is about R5,00 each.



*South African
Shooting Sport Confederation*



Full size 50-M and 50-Yard targets have also had to change to accommodate the new paper sizes provided by the papermills – the old targets were 550mm x 550mm square.

The latest version of the full size 50-Yard and the 50-M target retains the original ring dimensions, but the physical target size has been reduced to 510mm x 510mm, which does not affect the scoring rings, but it may affect how targets fit your steel frames, if backing boards are not being used.

The SAPF EXCO sincerely recommends that clubs encourage their members to buy 50-M centres instead of full size 50-M targets, and then simply patch any shots that land outside the new black centre only replacement targets.

On the PPC side, the SAPF have tested and successfully introduced in the Gauteng region new A4-size and A5-size PPC Centres.

The A4-size PPC centre replaces the 8,9, 10 and X-ring area, whilst the A5-size Centres replaces just the 10 and X-ring area up to the “9” figure.

These new PPC centres represent a significant cost saving for PPC shooters, reducing the need to buy PPC centres from about R5,00 each to just R1 or R2 each.

A similar size change to the Service Pistol Centre has meant that the SAPF could maintain this target's price at about R5,00 each, compared to over R8,30 for full-size Service Pistol targets.

Naturally your club may add a small premium to cover the cost of holding target stocks, which could be a significant drain on club funds if targets lie in their stock room for months before being used.

Please refer to the photos provided to see the new targets - please use the centres instead of full size targets for all club practices and even for leagues, whilst we recognise that any club or provincial championships would be best served by the use on new full size targets.

The paper grade issue has also impacted on our air pistol targets stocks, but since the SAPF offices still has several months supply of the older type of paper targets, new air pistol targets stocks will most likely only come into use in the new year.

Finally, a new reduced size Olympic Rapid Fire target is being tested, and this is intended for 10-M practicing.

We will advise if our testing of this reduced size target is successful, since it would allow for low cost practicing with your air pistol in the future.

If any clubs or provinces should have any suggestions or recommendations to make regarding targets, patches or any other consumable items, please do not hesitate in contacting the SAPF offices.

Best wishes in Shooting

Shaun Kennedy Vice – President



Here's the new full size 50-M target overlaid on an old size 50-M target.



Here's the new PPC Centres next to each other:

*PPC Centre at left
PPC A5-Size and
A4-size below that.*



Here's 3 of the new 50-M Centres overlaid on a full size 50-M target.



Here's 3 of the new ORP reduced size targets on top of a full size ORP target.