

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual identification















Belarus















Country report

<https://salw-guide.bicc.de>

Weapons Distribution

The following list shows the weapons which can be found in *Belarus* and whether there is data on who holds these weapons:

AK-47 / AKM		
AK-74		
DShk		
Dragunov SVD		
HK MP5		
IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)		
Makarov PM		
Mauser K98		
Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891		

PK		
PPSH 41		
RPD		
RPG 2		
RPG 7		
RPK		
Simonov SKS		
Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)		
Tokarev TT-30/TT-33		

Explanation of symbols



Country of origin



Licensed production



Production without a licence



Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by Governmental agencies.



Non-Government: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is held by non-Governmental armed groups.



Unspecified: Sources indicate that this type of weapon is found in the country, but do not specify whether it is held by Governmental agencies or non-Governmental armed groups.

It is entirely possible to have a combination of tags beside each country. For example, if country X is tagged with a G and a U, it means that at least one source of data identifies Governmental agencies as holders of weapon type Y, and at least one other source confirms the presence of the weapon in country X without specifying who holds it.

Note: This application is a living, non-comprehensive database, relying to a great extent on active contributions (provision and/or validation of data and information) by either SALW experts from the military and international renowned think tanks or by national and regional focal points of small arms control entities.

AK-47 / AKM

The AK 47 (Designed 1946-1948) is best described as a hybrid of previous rifle technology innovations: the trigger, double locking lugs and unlocking raceway of the M1 Garand/M1 carbine, the safety mechanism of the John Browning designed Remington Model 8 rifle, and the gas system and layout of the Sturmgewehr 44. There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.



Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	870 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-47 / AKM**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



AK-74

The AK 74 (Designed 1974) is an adaptation of the 7.62mm AKM assault rifle and features several important design improvements. These modifications were primarily the result of converting the rifle to the intermediate-caliber 5.45x39mm cartridge, in fact, some early models are reported to have been converted AKMs, with the barrel re-sleeved to



5.45x39mm. The result is a more accurate and reliable rifle than the AKM. The AK-74 and AKM share an approximate 50% parts commonality (interchangeable are most often pins, springs and screws). There are many variants. The weapons are used by the former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are still in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The model and its variants remain the most popular and widely used rifles in the world because of its reliability under harsh conditions, low production costs.

Category	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
Cartridge	5.45 x 39mm
Length	943 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **AK-74**:

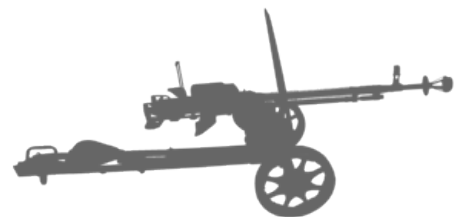
5.45 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	5.6 mm
Case length	39.82 mm
Overall length	57 mm



DShk

The DShk was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, belt fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	12.7 x 108 mm
Length	1625 mm
Feeding	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **DShk**:

12.7 x 108 mm

Bullet diameter	12.98 mm
Case length	108 mm
Overall length	147.5 mm



Dragunov SVD

The Dragunov SVD uses a short-stroke gas piston and the gas chamber has a two-position manual gas regulator. Barrels locked by rotating bolt with three lugs. The safety is somewhat reminiscent in its appearance to that of Kalashnikov AK-Assault rifles, although the internal design of the trigger unit is different, and there is no provisions for full automatic fire. The trigger unit is assembled on a separate removable base that also incorporates a trigger guard. It is used by all former Warsaw Pact countries, and it is in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. The Yugoslavian model "Zastava Model 76" has a solid, non-skeletonized stock, and is chambered in 7.92x57mm.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, short stroke, rotating bolt, semi-automatic
Cartridge	7.62 x 54mm R
Length	1225 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Dragunov SVD**:

7.62 x 54mm R

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	53.72 mm
Overall length	77.16 mm



HK MP5

Though the Heckler & Koch MP5 was designed in the 1960s, it is still one of the most widely deployed sub-machine guns and has been developed into a family with numerous variants.

The gun features either a fixed or a sliding (telescoping) butt-stock. The original MP5 offers a choice of single shot or automatic fire,

whereas later models received a burst-fire device, allowing two or three-round-bursts each time the trigger is operated. Current models remain in (licensed) production in several countries, though The China North Industries Corporation, officially abbreviated as Norinco, manufactures an unlicensed copy, the NR08.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	delayed-blowback; selective-fire
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	680 mm
Feeding	detachable box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK MP5**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm
Overall length	29.69 mm



IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)

The main differences between the SA-18, the SA-16 and its predecessor Strela-3 (SA-14) included an optional

“Identification Friend or Foe”-system to prevent firing on friendly aircraft, an automatic lead and super elevation to simplify shooting and reduce minimum firing range, a slightly larger rocket, reduced drag and better guidance system extend maximum range and improve performance

against fast and maneuverable targets, an improved lethality on target achieved by a combination of delayed impact fusing, terminal maneuver to hit the fuselage rather than jet



nozzle, an additional charge to set off the remaining rocket fuel (if any) on impact, an improved resistance to infrared countermeasure, and slightly improved seeker sensitivity. Several guerrilla and terrorist organizations are also known to have Iglas.

Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
Operating system	MANPAD
Cartridge	
Feeding	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **IGLA (SA-16 / SA-18)**:

Makarov PM

The PM has a free-floating firing pin, with no firing pin spring or firing pin block. This allows for the possibility of accidentally firing if the pistol is dropped on its muzzle. It is a simple and sound design, which is considered to be one of the best compact self-defense pistols of its time. While not extremely accurate and lethal at ranges beyond 15-20 meters, it is still a formidable and reliable self-defense weapon. In the former Yugoslavia, the Makarov was produced under license as a commercial export-only version also in caliber 9x17mm (.380 ACP) and 7.65x17mm.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Blowback operated, double action
Cartridge	9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)
Length	161 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Makarov PM**:

9mm Makarov (9.2 x 18mm)

Bullet diameter	9.27 mm
Case length	18.1 mm
Overall length	25 mm



Mauser K98

There are many variants of this weapon, and it has been widely copied. K98k is a bolt-action rifle chambered for the 7.92×57mm Mauser cartridge. It remained the primary German service rifle until the end of the war in 1945. Millions were captured by the Soviets at the conclusion of World War II and were widely distributed as military aid. The Karabiner 98k therefore continues to appear in conflicts across the world as they are taken out of storage during times of strife. A number of non-European nations used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle as well as a few guerrilla organizations to help establish new nation-states. One example was Israel who used the Mauser Karabiner 98k rifle from the late 1940s until the 1970s. During the 1990s, the Yugoslavian Karabiner 98k rifles and the Yugoslavian M48 and M48A rifles were used alongside modern automatic and semi-automatic rifles by all the warring factions of the Yugoslav wars.



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.92x57 mm (8x57 IS)
Length	1110 mm
Feeding	Internal magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Mauser K98**:

7.92x57 mm (8x57 IS)

Bullet diameter	8.08 mm
Case length	57 mm
Overall length	82 mm



Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891

This Russian “3-line” caliber (.30, 7,62mm) rifle existed in several variations and was several times adopted and modernized. Copies of this rifle were manufactured in different countries, like China, Hungary and Poland. Some of these were sporterized and converted to various calibers. Large numbers of these weapons were imported into both



France and USA. The model 91/44 is shorter and has an attached bayonet. It was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.

Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 54mm R
Length	1306 mm
Feeding	Internal magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891**:

7.62 x 54mm R

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	53.72 mm
Overall length	77.16 mm



PK

The PK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries and can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, air cooled, belt fed weapon with a quick-detachable barrel
Cartridge	7.62 x 54mm R
Length	1173 mm
Feeding	(Boxed) belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **PK**:

7.62 x 54mm R

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	53.72 mm
Overall length	77.16 mm



PPSH 41

The PPSH 41 was one of major infantry weapons of the Soviet troops during the World war 2. Retired from Soviet Army service soon after the WW2, the PPSH was widely exported to some pro-Soviet countries around the world, including China, Vietnam and many African countries. It was an effective, but somewhat crude weapon, reliable in combat but not without certain flaws. It has an excessive rate of fire, and its drums were uncomfortable to carry and prone to feed problems once the spring is weakened. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa. Nearly 6 million items were produced.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev
Length	843 mm
Feeding	Drum magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **PPSH 41**:

7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	25 mm
Overall length	34 mm



RPD

The RPD (Ruchnoy Pulemet Degtyarova - Degtyarov Light MG) was one of the first weapons designed to fire a new, intermediate cartridge 7.62x39mm. During its service life, the weapon was modernized several times.

The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, full auto only
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1037 mm
Feeding	Boxed belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPD**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



RPG 2

The RPG 2 design is based on the German Panzerfaust anti-tank weapon developed during World War II. It was made under license by many companies in many countries (e.g. the B-40 in Vietnam), it was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch / non rocket booster
Cartridge	

Length	650 mm
Feeding	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 2**:

RPG 7

The RPG 7 was made under license by many companies in many countries, it was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
Operating system	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
Cartridge	
Length	650 mm
Feeding	front-loaded, manual reload

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPG 7**:

RPK

The RPK was made under license by many companies in many countries. It was exported to many countries, and it can be found all over the world because the gun is used in many conflicts. The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, magazine fed, air cooled, selective fire
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1040 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **RPK**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



Simonov SKS

SKS is a self-loading Carabine. It utilizes a short-stroke gas piston with its own return spring, and a tilting bolt locking, where a bolt tips down to lock onto the floor of the receiver. Charging handle is attached to the right side of the bolt carrier and moves when gun is fired. Safety switch is located inside the trigger guard. The early model 50



weapons are shorter and are usually found without the bayonet. The SKS was an extremely reliable, simple constructed weapon with two unique distinguishing characteristics: a permanently attached folding bayonet, and a hinged non-detachable magazine. However, it was incapable of fully automatic fire and limited by its ten round magazine capacity, and was rendered obsolescent by the introduction of the AK-47 in the 1950s. The SKS was only briefly a standard infantry weapon in front-line units of the Soviet Armed Forces before being replaced by the AK-47 . The weapon was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa. The SKS remains popular on the civilian market as a hunting and marksmanship arm in many countries, including the United States and Canada.

Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Gas operated, tilting bolt
Cartridge	7.62 x 39mm
Length	1020 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Simonov SKS**:

7.62 x 39mm

Bullet diameter	7.92 mm
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Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)

The missile launcher system consists of the green missile launch tube containing the missile, a grip stock and a cylindrical thermal battery. The launch tube is reloadable at depot, but missile rounds are delivered to fire units in their launch tubes. The device can be reloaded up to five times. The Strela and its variants have been widely used in nearly every regional conflict since 1968.



Category	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
Operating system	MANPAD
Cartridge	
Feeding	front-loaded

The following ammunition can be used by the **Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)**:

Tokarev TT-30/TT-33

The TT looks like the Browning FN 1903, and the mechanism is similar to the Colt M1911. In Hungary, the TT was modified and produced for export to Egypt in caliber 9mm and with a safety lock. For its time, the Tokarev TT was a formidable weapon, with good penetration and effective range. It was of good reliability and easy to maintain. What it lacked most, was the manual safety and its grip shape was not too comfortable. It was in service with several armed forces, both regular and irregular, and it can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Short recoil operated, closed breech, single action, semi-automatic

Cartridge	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev
Length	194 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Tokarev TT-30/TT-33**:

7.62 x 25mm Tokarev

Bullet diameter	7.8 mm
Case length	25 mm
Overall length	34 mm



Tagging of Sources

We believe that our Guide should be as transparent as possible without endangering the confidentiality of our sources. Rather than name the exact source for each unit of data, we have created tags so that users can at least know whether the data comes from a primary or secondary source, and by which medium it can or has been found. All incoming data is validated and then tagged by the project team at BICC before it enters our database.

Sources are tagged according to the following criteria:

1. Primary Sources:

These are presentations of facts. They are proof of an SALW event (e.g. a transfer, sighting, misuse, etc.) because the source was created at the time of the event itself. Primary sources are usually original documents such as transfer authorizations, firearms legislation, or academic journals presenting results of a study on SALW holdings in a particular country, for example. However, they can also be information offered by a person with direct knowledge of an SALW event or who has documented an SALW event at the time that it happened.

2. Secondary Sources:

These are interpretations or evaluation of facts. Secondary sources contain commentary and analysis of SALW events that are documented in primary sources.

Sources are also tagged according to the dominant medium of delivery:

A. Written - the source is based on written words.

B. Oral - the source is based on spoken words.

C. Visual - the source is based on seen events or optical images.

These criteria make our tags two-dimensional. While the process of classifying sources is a primarily subjective one, the project team at BICC has developed the following table to serve as an example of possible sources within each category.

Table: Examples of sources on SALW distribution

	Primary	Secondary
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Written	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Fact books • Weapons Transfer authorizations • End-user certificates • Transcripts of interviews, legal proceedings, speeches/ presentations, meetings, conferences or symposia • Newspaper articles • Written correspondence (e.g. letters, emails, text messages, etc.) • Blogs • Peer-reviewed journal articles • Treaties, constitution, laws • Records of organizations (e.g. annual reports) • Surveys, questionnaires <p>Etc...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wikipedia • Literature reviews • Training or safety manuals on gun control, ammunition, physical stockpile security management) • Minutes of meetings, conferences, symposia • Indexes (e.g. Global Militarization Index) • Newspaper articles <p>Etc.</p>
Oral	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Interviews with experts, including radio or telephone • Legal proceedings • Speeches or interventions by experts or national representatives in government or international meetings <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Speeches, panel presentations, etc. on data provided by experts <p>Etc...</p>
Visual	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Artifacts (e.g. the weapons themselves, ammunition) • Photographs of weapons, ammunition, etc. • Videos (e.g. YouTube, those recorded by mobile phone) • Television documentaries, news reports <p>Etc ...</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • PowerPoint presentations on results found by experts <p>Etc...</p>

Table: Example tags

Source (sample)	Type of source	Medium of delivery
IHS Jane's Weapons Infantry (2015-2016)	primary	written
Panel discussion of weapons use of non-state armed groups	secondary	oral
Documentary on paramilitaries in Colombia	primary	visual

About the Guide

The Interactive Guide on **Small Arms and Light Weapons** is an open access tool, designed to build knowledge on how to identify different types, makes and models of commonly used SALW in organized violence; to collect data on the global and country-specific spread of these SALW; and to describe some of their visual and technical specifications.

The guide is not an exhaustive list of all SALW that are used around the world.

Global SALW control relies on, among other things, data and knowledge of the weapons themselves. Our aim is that the Guide will be used to support national reporting duties on SALW holdings; facilitate and ameliorate the collection of data on SALW; and increase general knowledge of global distribution of SALW.

The interactive Guide was developed by **BICC** in close cooperation with the **Bundeswehr Verification Center** (BwVC), and with the generous support of the *Federal Foreign Office, Germany*.

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