

# SALW Guide

## Global distribution and visual identification



## Latvia

### Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

AGS-17		HK G3	
AK-74		HK G36	
Browning M 2		Makarov PM	
Carl Gustav recoilless rifle		Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891	
Dragunov SVD		PK	
FIM-92 Stinger		RPG 7	
FN Herstal FN MAG		RPK	
FN MINIMI		Saab AT4	
Glock 17			

## 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.

## AGS-17

The AGS-17 grenade launcher was first developed in the 1930s, but due to the Second World War, a first prototype was only completed in 1969. The production of the AGS-17 started in 1971 and ceased in 1989, but numerous units and variants are still in use today. The weapon gained prominence when it was widely operated by Soviet troops in the war in Afghanistan in the 1980s. The AGS-17 and its successor, the AGS-30, may be used by infantry, though they are often mounted on helicopters and other vehicles.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Hand-held under-barrel and Mounted Grenade Launchers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	blow-back, selective-fire
<b>Cartridge</b>	30x29 mm
<b>Length</b>	840 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	metal link belt with 29 rds

The following ammunition can be used by the **AGS-17**:

### 30x29 mm

Bullet diameter	30 mm
Case length	29 mm
Overall length	-



## 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.

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



## Browning M 2

The Browning .50 caliber machine gun has been used extensively as a vehicle weapon and for aircraft armament. The M2 fires from a closed bolt, operated on the short recoil principle. Nearly 5 million items were produced.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Fires from a short bolt, operated on the short recoil principle
<b>Cartridge</b>	12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)
<b>Length</b>	1650 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **Browning M 2**:

## 12.7 x 99 mm NATO (.50BMG)

Bullet diameter	13 mm
Case length	99 mm
Overall length	138 mm

NO IMAGE

## Carl Gustav recoilless rifle

The Carl Gustav can be fired from the standing, kneeling, sitting or prone positions. A bipod may be attached in front of the shoulder piece. An operating handle called a "Venturi lock" is used to move the hinged breech to one side for reloading. The weapon is normally operated by a two-man crew, one carrying and firing the weapon, the other carrying ammunition and reloading.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Recoilless Guns/Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Recoilless launch
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Length</b>	1130 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	hinged breech

The following ammunition can be used by the **Carl Gustav recoilless rifle**:

## 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.

<b>Category</b>	<i>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, short stroke, rotating bolt, semi-automatic

<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 54mm R
<b>Length</b>	1225 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	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



## FIM-92 Stinger

Its combat debut occurred during the Falklands War. The Stinger was also used by the Afghan Mujahedeen, the Hamas and the UNITA. The Central Intelligence Agency supplied nearly 500 Stingers (some sources claim 1,500-2,000) to the Mujahedeen in Afghanistan. After the 1989 Soviet withdrawal from Afghanistan, the United States attempted to buy back the Stinger missiles, with a 55 million dollar program to buy back around 300 missiles. The U.S. government collected most of the Stingers it had delivered, but some of them found their way into Iran, Qatar and North Korea.



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

The following ammunition can be used by the **FIM-92 Stinger**:

## FN Herstal FN MAG

The Belgian FN MAG (Mitrailleuse d'Appui Général, meaning general-purpose machine gun) entered into production in 1958. It is one of the most widespread machine gun designs and is used in more than 90



countries around the globe. It is still manufactured in Belgium and produced under license in several countries including Argentina, Egypt, the US and the UK. It can be carried by infantry and is usually fired while mounted on a tripod.

<b>Category</b>	<i>Heavy Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	1260 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	disintegrating metal link belt

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN Herstal FN MAG**:

## 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



## FN MINIMI

The development of the Belgian FN Herstal MINIMI began in the early 1960s, but it did not enter into production until 1982. Since then, the MINIMI light machine gun has been in service in more than 35 countries including in the armies of the US and the UK. The gas-operated MINIMI is one of the most widely used guns in its class and caliber. It is usually belt fed and fired from a bipod, but it can also be fed by magazine and mounted on a tripod.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Light Machine Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, automatic only
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	1040 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	disintegrating metal link belt or box magazine (M16 type)

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN MINIMI**:

## 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



## 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



## Glock 17

Several modified versions of the Glock 17 have also been introduced. The Glock 17C incorporated slots cut in the barrel and slide to compensate for muzzle rise and recoil. The Glock 17L incorporates a longer slide and extended barrel. Initially, the Glock 17L had three holes in the top of the barrel and a corresponding slot in the slide; however, later production pistols lack the holes in the barrel. The Glock 17MB is a version with ambidextrous magazine catch. Glock pistols are designed with three independent safety mechanisms to prevent accidental discharge. The system, designated "Safe Action" by Glock, consists of an external integrated trigger safety and two automatic internal safeties: a firing pin safety and a drop safety. The external safety is a small inner lever contained in the trigger.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	short recoil-operated, locked breech
<b>Cartridge</b>	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	186 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Glock 17**:

### 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



## HK G3

The G3 constructed from Heckler & Koch (H&K) in cooperation with a Spanish agency Centro de Estudios Técnicos de Materiales Especiale (CETME) in the beginning Model A & B, after further development, West German Army (Bundeswehr) implemented this rifle. The furniture can be wood or plastic. The plastic stock may be green, sand or black. There is also a collapsing stock. The rifle is hammer fired and has a trigger mechanism with a 3-position fire selector switch that is also the manual safety toggle that secures the weapon from accidentally discharging.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Roller-delayed blowback
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester
<b>Length</b>	1023 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK G3**:

### 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

Bullet diameter	7.82 mm
Case length	51.18 mm
Overall length	69.85 mm



## HK G36

The G36 was developed in the 1990s and adopted by several armed forces, e.g. the German Bundeswehr and the Spanish Armed Forces. It is gas-operated and employs a rotating bolt and multi-lug locking system, in contrast to traditional Heckler & Koch delayed roller-locked bolt systems. The butt-stock folds to the right. In 2012, reports about overheating G36 rifles in Afghanistan surfaced which affected the G36's accuracy. In April 2015, the German Ministry of Defence decided that the G36 would be phased out.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	gas, selective-fire
<b>Cartridge</b>	5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington
<b>Length</b>	1002 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	detachable, polymer box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **HK G36**:

### 5.56 x 45mm / .223 Remington

Bullet diameter	5.7 mm
Case length	44.7 mm
Overall length	57.4 mm



## 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.



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



## 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.



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



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



## 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.

<b>Category</b>	<i>Portable Anti-tank Guns</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Recoilless launch + rocket booster
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Length</b>	650 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	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.



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



## Saab AT4

The Saab Bofors Dynamics AT4 entered into production in Sweden in the early 1980s and is still being produced today. It is a single-shot recoilless weapon and one of the most common light anti-tank weapons in the world. It is preloaded and after firing, the AT4 cannot be reloaded. The AT4's main disadvantage is that it creates a considerable back blast.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-tank Missile and Rocket Systems</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	recoilless, one-man-portable
<b>Cartridge</b>	

The following ammunition can be used by the **Saab AT4**:

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