

SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual
identification









Namibia






Country report

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

Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM	
AK-74	
Browning M 2	
Lee-Enfield SMLE	
Mosin-Nagant Rifle Mod. 1891	
RPK	

Simonov SKS	
Sten gun	
Sterling L2A3	
UZI	
Webley Mk. IV	

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



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.



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



Lee-Enfield SMLE

Rifles manufactured in the USA may have "UNITED STATES PROPERTY" on the left side of the receiver. Some of the Indian-made weapons can be found using 7.62 NATO caliber. The Lee-Enfield family of rifles is the oldest bolt-action rifle design still in official service. Lee-Enfield rifles are used by reserve forces and police forces in many Commonwealth countries, particularly Canada, where they are the main rifle issued to the Canadian Rangers, and India, where the Lee-Enfield is widely issued to reserve military units and police forces. Many Afghan participants in the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan were armed with Lee-Enfields (a common rifle in the Middle East and South Asia).



Category	<i>Rifles & Carbines</i>
Operating system	Manually operated, rotating bolt
Cartridge	7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British
Length	1130 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Lee-Enfield SMLE**:

7.7 x 56mm R / .303 British

Bullet diameter	7.9 mm
Case length	56.4 mm
Overall length	78.1 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



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
Case length	38.7 mm
Overall length	56 mm



Sten gun

Prior to 1941 UK was keen to produce a own submachine gun as an alternative Rate of fire 550 450 550 600 rounds per minute to the US-Thompson submachine gun. Royal Small Arms Factory, Enfield designed the STEN gun. In the beginning, unreliable but extremely cheap and easy to produce. After further development, the guns of 1942 and beyond were, in general, highly effective weapons. In Germany, the STEN models "Potsdam" and "Neumünster" were manufactured during WW II. In late 1944, the Mauser works in Germany secretly started manufacturing copies of British Mk II Sten, apparently for diversion and sabotage purposes. These weapons were intended to duplicate the British original as closely as possible, right down to the markings. Also, during WW II some resistance groups in German-occupied countries (DNK, FRA, NOR, POL) produced significant numbers of Stens.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	895 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sten gun**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

Bullet diameter	9 mm
Case length	19.15 mm

Overall length	29.69 mm
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Sterling L2A3

Sterling submachine guns , were purchased in more than 70 countries. However, it must be noted that these weapons were rather popular among British troops because of their relatively compact size, adequate firepower and accuracy and good reliability. Special "high power, submachine-gun only" ammunition was procured by British army for Sterling submachine guns. This ammunition was absolutely safe in Sterling submachine guns, but can cause extensive wear to many 9mm pistols designed for commercial 9x19mm ammunition.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, select-fire, fires from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	481 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **Sterling L2A3**:

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



UZI

The UZI and the Czechoslovakian series Sa 23 to Sa 26 were the first weapons to use a telescoping bolt design, in which the bolt wraps around the breech end of the barrel. This allows the barrel to be moved far back into the receiver and the magazine to be housed in the pistol grip, allowing for a heavier, slower-firing bolt in a shorter, better-balanced weapon. The pistol grip is fitted with a grip safety, making it difficult to fire accidentally. There were built further variants, also as Military variants, such as Mini Uzi, Micro Uzi and Uzi Pistol. Mini- and Micro-Uzi submachine guns were produced either in open-bolt or closed-bolt versions. The Uzi was also copied respectively cloned and spread around the whole world.



Category	<i>Submachine Guns</i>
Operating system	Blowback-operated, fired from open bolt
Cartridge	9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
Length	470 mm
Feeding	Box magazine

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

9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)

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



Webley Mk. IV

The Webley Mk. IV was a standard issue service pistol for the armed forces of the United Kingdom and British Empire and Commonwealth for over 70 Years. All Webley top-beak revolvers featured two piece frame, which hinges ("breaks") down at the forward low end for ejection and loading. The ejector is actuated automatically when the frame is broken open, simultaneously removing all six cases from the cylinder.

The cartridges then can be inserted by hand. In the case of revolver being rechambered for .45ACP round, half- moon clips are used to load the gun (two clips, each for 3 rounds).



Category	<i>Self-Loading Pistols & Revolvers</i>
Operating system	Double action revolver
Cartridge	.455 British Service
Length	286 mm
Feeding	Cylinder

The following ammunition can be used by the **Webley Mk. IV**:

.455 British Service

Bullet diameter	11.5 mm
Case length	19.6 mm
Overall length	31.2 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

<p>Written</p>	<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>
<p>Oral</p>	<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>
<p>Visual</p>	<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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