

# SALW Guide

Global distribution and visual  
identification




















## Sierra Leone

Country report

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

# Weapons Distribution

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

AK-47 / AKM		MP PPSH 41	
AK-74		RPD	
Carl Gustav recoilless rifle		RPG 7	
DShk		RPK	
FN FAL		Simonov SKS	
FN Herstal FN MAG		Sterling MP L2A3	
FN High Power		Strela (SA-7 / SA-14)	
Lee-Enfield SMLE		Tokarev TT-30/TT-33	
Makarov PM			

## 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 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 variations. The weapons are used by all former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. They can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, rotating bolt with 2 lugs
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	870 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	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 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 variations. The weapons are used by all former Warsaw Pact countries, and they are in service with numerous armed forces, both regular and irregular. They can be found in many countries in Asia and Africa.

<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



## 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.

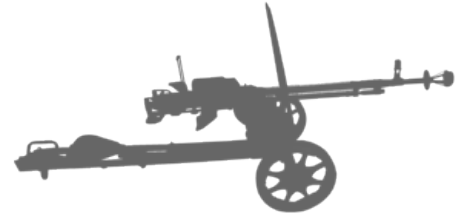


<b>Category</b>	<i>Recoilless Guns/Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Recoilless launch
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Length</b>	1130 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	hinged breech

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

## 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.



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



## FN FAL

The FN FAL (Fusil Automatique Leger - Light Automatic Rifle) is one of the most famous and widespread military rifle designs of the 20th century. It can be found in both the 7.62 NATO and, very rarely, the 5.56 NATO versions. The furniture may be wood, metal or plastic. There are various barrel lengths. In the UK (L1A1), Canadian, Indian and Dutch versions, there is no automatic fire mode. The gas system is fitted with a gas regulator, so that it could be easily adjusted for various environment conditions, or cut off completely, so that rifle grenades could be safely launched from the barrel.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Assault Rifles</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, tilting breechblock, select-fire or semi-automatic only
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

<b>Length</b>	1100 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

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

## 7.62 x 51mm / .308 Winchester

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



## 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 High Power

The High Power is one of the most widely used military pistols of all time, having been used by the armed forces of over 50 countries.

The pistol is often referred to as an HP (for "Hi Power" or "High Power") or as a GP (for the French term, "Grande Puissance").

Technically, the High Power pistol, also known as Browning HP 35, GP 35 or Model 1935, is a recoil operated, locked breech pistol. It

uses linkless barrel to slide locking invented by Browning. The

trigger is single action, with external hammer. Original HPs featured frame mounted safety at the left side of the frame, that locks both sear and slide. Modern versions, since Mark II, also featured ambidextrous safety levers, that are also more comfortable to operate.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Short recoil operated, locked breech, single action
<b>Cartridge</b>	.40 S&W 9mm Parabellum (9 x 19mm)
<b>Length</b>	200 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	Box magazine

The following ammunition can be used by the **FN High Power**:

### .40 S&W

Bullet diameter	10.2 mm
Case length	21.6 mm
Overall length	28.8 mm



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

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



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



## 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>
<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



## MP 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.



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

The following ammunition can be used by the **MP 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.



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



## Simonov SKS

The SKS is a self-loading weapon. 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. The charging handle is attached to the right side of the bolt carrier and moves when the gun is fired. The safety switch is located inside the trigger guard. The early model 50 weapons are shorter and are usually found without a bayonet. In general, the SKS is an excellent all-around weapon that offers a slightly longer range and better accuracy than the Kalashnikov AK-47, but, for military use, it lacks the magazine capacity and selective-fire capabilities. 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>Rifles &amp; Carbines</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Gas operated, tilting bolt
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 39mm
<b>Length</b>	1020 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	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



## Sterling MP L2A3

Sterling submachine guns were widely manufactured for export. More than 70 countries purchased various quantities of Sterling submachine guns. 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 9x19 ammunition.

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

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

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

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

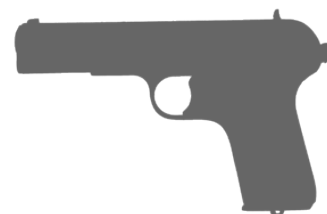


<b>Category</b>	<i>Portable Launcher of Anti-aircraft Missile Systems</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	MANPAD
<b>Cartridge</b>	
<b>Feeding</b>	front-loaded

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.



<b>Category</b>	<i>Self-Loading Pistols &amp; Revolvers</i>
<b>Operating system</b>	Short recoil operated, closed breech, single action, semi-automatic
<b>Cartridge</b>	7.62 x 25mm Tokarev
<b>Length</b>	194 mm
<b>Feeding</b>	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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<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**

<b>Source (sample)</b>	<b>Type of source</b>	<b>Medium of delivery</b>
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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