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# Storage of Coalition and/or Multinational Ammunition and Explosives

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Okay, imagine yourself as the Supervisor of an ammunition supply point (ASP) at a forward operating base (FOB) in some remote corner of the world. Imagine that a foreign allied military detachment comes to you and asks to store their ammunition for their weapons systems in your ASP. Most FOBs have only one ASP and as the alternative of not storing the ammunition in your ASP means they'll store it somewhere else on the FOB, without regard to explosives safety, you should work to grant their request. But what separation is required between foreign allied ammunition and US ammunition? There is a table in DA Pam 385-64 that talks about the required separations between DOD ammo/explosives and Non-DOD ammo/explosives, but that table was designed for ammo plants and depots that might lease an Earth Covered Magazine (ECM) or operating line to a commercial contractor like Acme Fireworks and it is not a good fit to an ASP needing to store allied/coalition ammo.

As a result of continuing field requirements, Army now has a policy addressing this issue. The policy was signed on January 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2011 and can be located at the following link: <https://www.us.army.mil/suite/doc/34030959>

The short answer is the coalition/allied ammunition and explosives will, in most cases, require magazine distance separation from and to US ammunition and explosives. The policy does allow storage in the same cell, in fact, the same storage structure/container, provided the hazard classification procedures of the coalition/allied partner are equivalent to the US hazard classification procedures outlined in TB 700-2, "Department of Defense Ammunition and Explosives Hazard Classification Procedures." Unless you or the representative of the foreign military detachment know if these procedures are equivalent, the policy defaults back to magazine distance separation. So, in most situations this will require the foreign ammunition and explosives to be stored in their own magazine or storage cell which would be separated by magazine distance from other magazines/storage cells.

But what if you don't have an empty magazine or storage cell? The policy makers have foreseen this possibility. In cases where storage in the same cell is absolutely necessary and hazard classification procedure equivalence is not known, storage can be authorized via the Certificate of Risk Acceptance (CoRA) risk management process. Always consider storage compatibility if you must store these items together. If the foreign military detachment cannot provide documentation on explosives weight or compatibility, touch base with Explosives Ordnance Disposal (EOD) who might be able to assist. If you can't get reliable information/assistance, then compare the item to similar US items for hazard classification determination. For purposes of CoRA documentation, reasonable assumptions on net explosives weight per item can be made. If you have absolutely no idea how much NEW could be involved, you can

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be conservative and use the gross weight as the explosives weight.

The policy also addresses separation between storage and operating locations (where ammunition operations like field returns and minor ammunition maintenance might be performed) when allied/coalition ammunition is involved. In this instance, intraline distance is required, which is what we require from our own ammunition storage to an ammunition operation.

Coalition/multinational operations are a new part of U.S. military operations and explosives safety regulations/doctrine are evolving to cover these changes. This is a situation that is tailor made for the risk management process. So, when the foreign military representative wants to store their ammunition in your ASP, there is DA level guidance on what to do. Proper, secure and controlled storage in the ASP is much better and much less risk than unauthorized storage in the life support area (LSA).



## Introduction to Explosives Safety Management for Safety Professionals (AMMO-107-DL)

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The Distributed Learning version of Introduction to Explosives Safety Management for Safety Professionals (AMMO-107-DL) is now available through Army Training Requirements and Resources System (ATRRS). Registration for the course can be accessed via the ATRRS course catalogue search engine (<https://www.atrrs.army.mil/atrrscc/>) or through the Defense Ammunition Center training portal (<http://ammo.okstate.edu/>) and clicking “Online Training” link. A classroom version of the course (AMMO-107) is taught during the Safety Intern Training at the Combat Readiness/Safety Center, Fort Rucker, Alabama.

**All professional safety careerist will be required to complete this training as a part of Career Program 12 requirements.**