

PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT[661]

Adopted and Filed

Rulemaking related to disposition of seized and forfeited weapons and ammunition

The Public Safety Department hereby rescinds Chapter 95, “Disposition of Seized and Forfeited Weapons and Ammunition,” Iowa Administrative Code, and adopts a new Chapter 95 with the same title.

Legal Authority for Rulemaking

This rulemaking is adopted under the authority provided in Iowa Code section 809A.17.

State or Federal Law Implemented

This rulemaking implements, in whole or in part, Iowa Code sections 809.21 and 809A.17.

Purpose and Summary

Pursuant to Executive Order 10, the Department hereby rescinds Chapter 95 and adopts a new chapter in lieu thereof. The chapter outlines the disposition of seized and forfeited weapons and ammunition that are deposited with the Department.

Public Comment and Changes to Rulemaking

Notice of Intended Action for this rulemaking was published in the Iowa Administrative Bulletin on September 2, 2026, as **ARC 0533D**. A public hearing was held on the following date(s):

- September 22, 2026
- September 23, 2026

No one attended the public hearings.

Two comments were received via electronic mail opposing the destruction of handguns. Nearly all handguns used in crimes are test-fired and the spent shell casings are then entered into the National Integrated Ballistics Information Network (NIBIN). Reselling handguns whose spent shell casings have been entered into NIBIN could cause investigative confusion should they later be used in the commission of a new crime. NIBIN does not include the entry of shell casings from long guns. As a result, no changes from the Notice have been made.

Adoption of Rulemaking

This rulemaking was adopted by the Department on October 7, 2026.

Fiscal Impact

This rulemaking has no fiscal impact to the State of Iowa.

Jobs Impact

After analysis and review of this rulemaking, no impact on jobs has been found.

Waivers

Any person who believes that the application of the discretionary provisions of this rulemaking would result in hardship or injustice to that person may petition the Department for a waiver of the discretionary provisions, if any, pursuant to 7—Chapter 2504.

Review by Administrative Rules Review Committee

The Administrative Rules Review Committee, a bipartisan legislative committee which oversees rulemaking by executive branch agencies, may, on its own motion or on written request by any individual or group, review this rulemaking at its [regular monthly meeting](#) or at a special meeting. The Committee's meetings are open to the public, and interested persons may be heard as provided in Iowa Code section 17A.8(6).

Effective Date

This rulemaking will become effective on December 2, 2026.

The following rulemaking action is adopted:

ITEM 1. Rescind 661—Chapter 95 and adopt the following **new** chapter in lieu thereof:

CHAPTER 95

DISPOSITION OF SEIZED AND FORFEITED WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION

661—95.1(809,809A) Definitions. The following definitions apply to the rules in this chapter:

“Ammunition reference file” means the physical collection of ammunition received, collected and maintained by the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory for testing and evaluation purposes.

“Firearms inventory” means a listing of firearms received, collected, maintained, and disposed of by the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory and of transactions regarding firearms completed by the laboratory. Firearms in the temporary custody of the laboratory for evidentiary examination are not included in the firearms inventory.

“Firearms reference file” means the physical collection of firearms received, collected and maintained by the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory for comparison and identification purposes.

661—95.2(809,809A) Ammunition and firearms. The division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory shall examine and evaluate all firearms and ammunition submitted to the laboratory pursuant to Iowa Code section 809A.17. All firearms submitted to the laboratory shall be evaluated and disposed of as provided in Iowa Code sections 809.21 and 809A.17 and these rules. Any ammunition submitted to the laboratory may be entered into the laboratory's ammunition reference file and may be utilized by the laboratory for testing and evaluation purposes.

661—95.3(809,809A) Firearms inventory. There is established a continuous firearms inventory in the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory. All firearms transactions covered by any of the provisions noted herein, other than receipts and returns of weapons for evidentiary examination, shall be recorded as and made a part of the continuous firearms inventory. Each individual entry in the inventory shall be maintained for a period of no less than 20 years. Inventory entries that refer to firearms retained in the firearms reference file shall be maintained permanently.

661—95.4(809,809A) Deposit of firearms in the firearms reference file. There is established a division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory firearms reference file. Firearms submitted to the laboratory, other than firearms submitted solely for evidentiary examination, shall be evaluated as to their possible worth for testing and evaluation purposes. Any firearms deemed useful for such purposes shall be deposited in the firearms reference file.

661—95.5(809,809A) Disposition of firearms (interstate). Any firearm in the possession of the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory pursuant to Iowa Code section 809A.17 that is not entered into the firearms reference file pursuant to the provisions of rule 661—95.4(809,809A) and

that the commissioner of public safety deems appropriate for distribution to other crime laboratories may be offered to them.

661—95.6(809A) Transfer of rifles and shotguns to the department of natural resources. Any rifle or shotgun in the possession of the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory pursuant to Iowa Code section 809A.17 that is not entered in the firearms reference file pursuant to rule 661—95.4(809,809A) or distributed to another crime laboratory pursuant to rule 661—95.5(809,809A) may be transferred to the department of natural resources for disposition pursuant to the rules of that department.

661—95.7(809,809A) Disposition of firearms (intrastate). Any firearm not entered in the firearms reference file pursuant to rule 661—95.4(809,809A) and still in the possession of the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory pursuant to Iowa Code section 809A.17, subsequent to the procedures set out in rules 661—95.5(809,809A) and 661—95.6(809A), shall be evaluated for usefulness to Iowa law enforcement agencies. Any firearm that is deemed suitable for law enforcement purposes may be distributed to an Iowa law enforcement agency that has made a request for such firearm. This distribution shall be made in accordance with the reasonable needs of the requesting agency as determined by the commissioner of public safety. Any firearm received by a law enforcement agency pursuant to this rule is for the internal use of the receiving agency and cannot be resold or otherwise distributed outside of the receiving agency, other than to be returned to the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory.

661—95.8(809,809A) Final disposition and destruction of firearms. All firearms in the possession of the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory pursuant to Iowa Code section 809A.17 that are not disposed of by the procedures provided in rules 661—95.2(809,809A) through 661—95.7(809,809A) shall be destroyed and documented as such. Destruction shall be accomplished by grinding and chopping at a scrap metal facility or meltdown at a suitable foundry operation. All destruction shall be supervised and conducted by the staff of the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory.

661—95.9(809,809A) Disposition of explosives. Any law enforcement agency in possession of forfeited explosives shall contact the arson and explosives bureau of the fire marshal division for instructions and shall follow the instructions received from the fire marshal division for the disposition of the forfeited explosives.

661—95.10(809,809A) Disposition of weapons other than firearms and explosives. Any law enforcement agency in the possession of a forfeited weapon other than a firearm, ammunition, or explosives may contact the division of criminal investigation criminalistics laboratory for instructions regarding the disposition of the forfeited weapons.

These rules are intended to implement Iowa Code sections 809.21 and 809A.17.

[Filed 10/8/26, effective 12/2/26]

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EDITOR'S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 10/28/26.