

571—106.7(481A) Method of take. Permitted weapons and devices vary according to the type of season.

106.7(1) Bow season. Only longbow, compound or recurve bows shooting broadhead arrows are permitted during the bow season. Arrows must be at least 18 inches long.

a. Crossbows may be used during the bow season in the following two situations:

(1) By persons with certain afflictions of the upper body as provided in 571—15.5(481A); and

(2) By persons over the age of 70 with an antlerless-deer-only license as provided in Iowa Code section 483A.8A.

b. No explosive or chemical devices may be attached to the arrow, broadhead or bolt (if used with a crossbow).

106.7(2) Regular gun seasons. Only 10-, 12-, 16- and 20-gauge shotguns shooting single slugs and muzzleloaders and handguns as described in 106.7(3) will be permitted for taking deer during the regular gun seasons.

106.7(3) Muzzleloader seasons. Only muzzleloading rifles and muzzleloading pistols will be permitted for taking deer during the early muzzleloader season. During the late muzzleloader season, deer may be taken with a muzzleloader, centerfire handgun, or bow as described in 106.7(1). Muzzleloading rifles are defined as flintlock or percussion cap lock muzzleloaded rifles and muskets of not less than .44 and not larger than .775 caliber, shooting single projectiles only. Centerfire handguns must be .357 caliber or larger shooting straight-walled cartridges propelling an expanding-type bullet (no full-metal jacket) and complying with all other requirements provided in Iowa Code section 481A.48. Legal handgun calibers are listed on the department of natural resources list of Acceptable Handgun Calibers for Hunting Deer in Iowa. Revolvers, pistols and black powder handguns must have a 4-inch minimum barrel length. There can be no shoulder stock or long-barrel modifications to handguns. Muzzleloading handguns must be .44 caliber or larger, shooting single projectiles only.

106.7(4) November antlerless-deer-only season. Bows, shotguns, muzzleloaders and handguns as described in this rule may be used.

106.7(5) January antlerless-deer-only season. Bows, shotguns, muzzleloaders and handguns as described in this rule may be used during the January antlerless-deer-only season. Centerfire rifles .24 caliber or larger may be used in the southern two tiers of counties.

106.7(6) Prohibited weapons and devices. The use of dogs, domestic animals, bait, rifles other than muzzleloaded or as provided in 106.7(5), handguns except as provided in 106.7(3), crossbows except as provided in 106.7(1), automobiles, aircraft, or any mechanical conveyance or device, including electronic calls, is prohibited, except that paraplegics and single or double amputees of the legs may hunt from any stationary motor-driven land conveyance. “Bait” means grain, fruit, vegetables, nuts, hay, salt, mineral blocks, or any other natural food materials; commercial products containing natural food materials; or by-products of such materials transported to or placed in an area for the intent of attracting wildlife. Bait does not include food placed during normal agricultural activities. “Paraplegic” means an individual with paralysis of the lower half of the body with involvement of both legs, usually due to disease of or injury to the spinal cord. It shall be unlawful for a person, while hunting deer, to carry or have in possession a rifle except as provided in 106.7(3) and 106.7(5). It shall be unlawful for a person hunting with a bow license to carry a handgun unless that person also has a valid deer hunting license and an unfilled transportation tag that permits a handgun to be used to take deer.

106.7(7) Discharge of firearms from roadway. No person shall discharge a rifle, including a muzzleloading rifle or musket, or a handgun from a highway while deer hunting. In addition, no person shall discharge a shotgun shooting slugs from a highway north of U.S. Highway 30. A “highway” means the way between property lines open to the public for vehicle traffic, including the road ditch, as defined in Iowa Code section 321.1(78).

106.7(8) Ground blinds. No person shall use a ground blind for hunting deer during the regular gun deer seasons unless such blind exhibits a solid blaze orange marking visible in all directions with a minimum height of 12 inches and a minimum width of 12 inches. As used in this subrule, “ground blind” means a constructed place of concealment used for the purpose of hiding a person who is hunting from sight. A ground blind is not a naturally occurring feature that a hunter merely uses for concealment.