

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, as described in 106.7(1)“*b*,” 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—15.22(481A); and
- (2) By persons over the age of 70 with an antlerless-deer-only license as provided in Iowa Code section 483A.8B.

b. Crossbow means a weapon consisting of a bow mounted transversely on a stock or frame and designed to fire a bolt, arrow, or quarrel by the release of the bow string, which is controlled by a mechanical trigger and a working safety. Crossbows equipped with pistol grips and designed to be fired with one hand are illegal for taking or attempting to take deer. All projectiles used in conjunction with a crossbow for deer hunting must be equipped with a broadhead.

c. No explosive or chemical device may be attached to any arrow, broadhead or bolt.

106.7(2) Regular gun seasons. Only 10-, 12-, 16-, and 20-gauge shotguns shooting single slugs, straight wall cartridge rifles as described in 106.7(2)“*a*” and “*b*,” muzzleloaders as described in 106.7(3), and handguns as described in 106.7(2)“*c*” to “*e*” shall be used to take deer during the regular gun seasons.

a. Legal straight wall cartridge rifle calibers for hunting deer in Iowa must meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Be center-fired;
- (2) Be straight-walled;
- (3) Have a diameter of 0.357 inches to 0.500 inches;
- (4) Have a case length no greater than 1.800 inches; and
- (5) For rimless cartridges, have a case length of no less than 0.850 inches, and for rimmed cartridges, have a case length of no less than 1.285 inches.

b. Notwithstanding 106.7(2)“*a*,” the following calibers are considered legal straight wall cartridge rifle calibers:

- (1) .375 Winchester;
- (2) .444 Marlin; or
- (3) .45-70 Gov’t.

c. Legal centerfire handguns for hunting deer in Iowa must meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Have a 4-inch minimum barrel length;
- (2) Have no shoulder stock or long barrel modifications;
- (3) Be designed to be shot with one hand using a pistol grip and have either:
 1. A cylinder of several chambers brought successively into line with the barrel and discharged with the same hammer; or
 2. A magazine feeding a single chamber integral with the barrel and using either the action of a slide or a bolt action to eject the casing, or having a break action capable of only holding one round.

d. Legal centerfire handgun calibers for hunting deer in Iowa must meet all of the following criteria:

- (1) Be center-fired;
- (2) Be straight-walled;
- (3) Have a diameter of 0.357 inches to 0.500 inches;
- (4) Have a case length no greater than 1.800 inches; and
- (5) For rimless cartridges, have a case length of no less than 0.850 inches, or for rimmed cartridges, have a case length of no less than 1.285 inches.

e. Notwithstanding 106.7(2)“*d*,” the following calibers are considered legal centerfire handgun calibers:

- (1) .375 Winchester;
- (2) .444 Marlin; or

(3) .45-70 Gov't.

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 muzzleloading rifle, muzzleloading pistol, centerfire handgun, crossbow as described in 106.7(1) "b," or bow as described in 106.7(1).

a. Muzzleloading rifles are defined as flintlock or percussion cap lock muzzleloaded rifles and muskets of not less than .44 caliber and not larger than .775 caliber, shooting single projectiles only.

b. Muzzleloading pistols must be .44 caliber or larger, shoot single projectiles only, and have a 4-inch minimum barrel length.

106.7(4) November antlerless-deer-only season. Rescinded IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12.

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

106.7(6) Prohibited weapons and devices. The use of dogs, domestic animals, bait, rifles other than muzzleloaded or straight wall cartridge as provided in 106.7(2), 106.7(3), 106.7(5), and 106.10(5), handguns except as provided in 106.7(2) and 106.7(5), crossbows except as provided in 106.7(1) and 106.7(3), 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(2), 106.7(3), 106.7(5), and 106.10(5). A person in possession of a valid permit to carry weapons may carry a handgun while hunting. However, only handguns as described in 106.7(2) may be used to hunt deer and only when a handgun is a lawful method of take.

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) Hunting from blinds. No person shall use a blind for hunting deer during the regular gun deer seasons as defined in 106.2(2), unless such blind exhibits a solid blaze orange marking which is a minimum of 144 square inches in size and is visible in all directions. Such blaze orange shall be affixed directly on or directly on top of the blind. For the purposes of this subrule, the term "blind" is defined as an enclosure used for concealment while hunting, constructed either wholly or partially from man-made materials, and used by a person who is hunting for the purpose of hiding from sight. A blind is not a naturally occurring landscape feature or an arrangement of natural or agricultural plant material that a hunter uses for concealment. In addition to the requirements in this subrule, hunters using blinds must also satisfy the requirements of wearing blaze orange as prescribed in Iowa Code section 481A.122.

[**ARC 9717B**, IAB 9/7/11, effective 10/12/11; **ARC 0189C**, IAB 7/11/12, effective 8/15/12; **ARC 1562C**, IAB 8/6/14, effective 9/10/14; **ARC 2086C**, IAB 8/5/15, effective 9/9/15; **ARC 3098C**, IAB 6/7/17, effective 7/12/17; **ARC 3831C**, IAB 6/6/18, effective 7/11/18]