

**571—15.22(481A) Authorization to use a crossbow for deer and turkey hunting during the bow season by handicapped individuals.**

**15.22(1) Definitions.** For the purpose of this rule:

“*Bow and arrow*” means a compound, recurve, or longbow.

“*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 or electric trigger and a working safety.

“*Handicapped*” means a person possessing a physical impairment of the upper extremities that makes a person physically incapable of shooting a bow and arrow. This includes difficulty in lifting and reaching with arms as well as difficulty in handling and fingering.

**15.22(2) Application for authorization card.** An individual requesting use of a crossbow for hunting deer or turkey must submit an application for an authorization card on forms provided by the department. The application must include a statement signed by the applicant’s physician declaring that the individual is not physically capable of shooting a bow and arrow. The physician shall be a licensed physician, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner. A first-time applicant must submit the authorization card application no later than ten days before the last day of the license application period for the season the person intends to hunt.

**15.22(3) Authorization card—issuance and use.** Approved applicants will be issued a card authorizing the individual to hunt deer and turkey with a crossbow. The authorization card must be carried with the license and on the person while hunting deer and turkey and must be exhibited to a conservation officer upon request.

**15.22(4) Validity and forfeiture of authorization card.** A card authorizing the use of a crossbow for hunting deer and turkey will be valid for as long as the person is incapable of shooting a bow and arrow. If a conservation officer has probable cause to believe the person’s handicapped status has improved, making it possible for the person to shoot a bow and arrow, the department may, upon the officer’s request, require the person to obtain in writing a current physician’s statement. The physician shall be a licensed physician, osteopathic physician, physician assistant, or advanced registered nurse practitioner.

If the person is unable to obtain a current physician’s statement confirming that the person is incapable of shooting a bow and arrow, the department may initiate action to revoke the authorization card pursuant to 571—Chapter 7.

**15.22(5) Restrictions.** Crossbows equipped with pistol grips and designed to be fired with one hand are illegal for taking or attempting to take deer or turkey. All projectiles used in conjunction with a crossbow for deer hunting must be equipped with a broadhead.

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