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LARGE CAPACITY MAGAZINES: WHAT A MESS OVERVIEW OF FLAWS AND LOOPHOLES

(June 2020)

Rules regarding magazines are spelled out in the *“Regulations Prescribing Certain Firearms and Other Weapons, Components and Parts of Weapons, Accessories, Cartridge Magazines, Ammunition and Projectiles as Prohibited or Restricted”* that fall under [Part 3 of the Criminal Code](#) [84.(1)].

While multifaceted and complex, the 1991 law (Bill C-17) and accompanying regulations essentially imposed a limit of 5 cartridges for long guns and 10 cartridges handguns - with some exceptions. However, in the decades following the introduction of this measure, the exceptions, new interpretations and changes in the market accentuated major flaws in the regulations pertaining to magazine capacity.

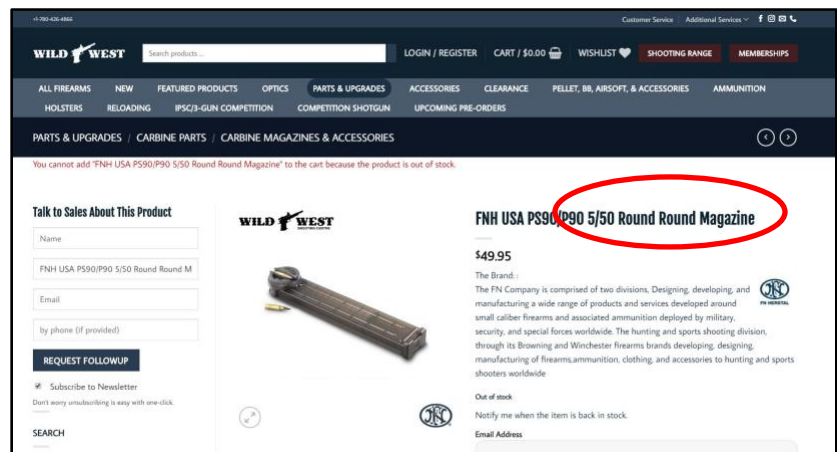
As the details of many mass shootings clearly demonstrate, there are [colossal risks](#) associated with large capacity magazines. The Quebec Mosque killer was able to shoot 48 bullets in less than two minutes with [five 10-bullet clips for his Glock pistol](#). Multiple other cases abound.

PolyRemembers is asking the government to: **1- limit magazine capacity to 5 bullets for *all* guns** (with minimal exceptions, i.e. only for historical firearms and unable to be used with modern guns) **2- ban modifiable magazines** and **3- enforce the ban on 10/22 magazines**.

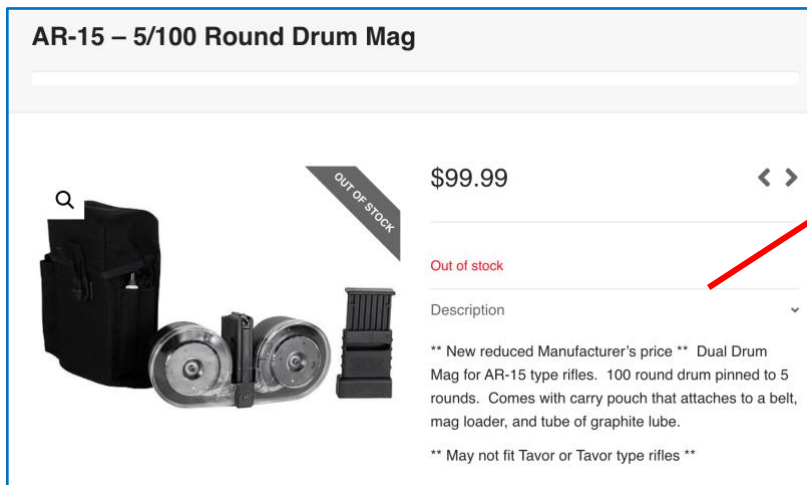
- 1) FLAW NO 1: Current regulations allow magazines designed for more than the legal limits of bullets as long as a device blocks the number of bullets to the legal limit. According to the RCMP however, these modifiable magazines are “readily restorable” to their full capacity.**

Large capacity magazines that surpass the legal limits in terms bullets continue to be sold in Canada, but in order to comply with the law they have a rivet installed that blocks the magazine from holding more than the legal limit (“insertion” or “attachment of a plug, sleeve, rod, pin, flange or similar device”). These are commonly called “pinned magazines”, for example a “5/30 pinned magazine” is a magazine originally designed for 30 rounds but where a rivet prevents more than 5 to be inserted.

This is why one can find 5/50 and 10/31 “pinned” magazines all over the Internet...

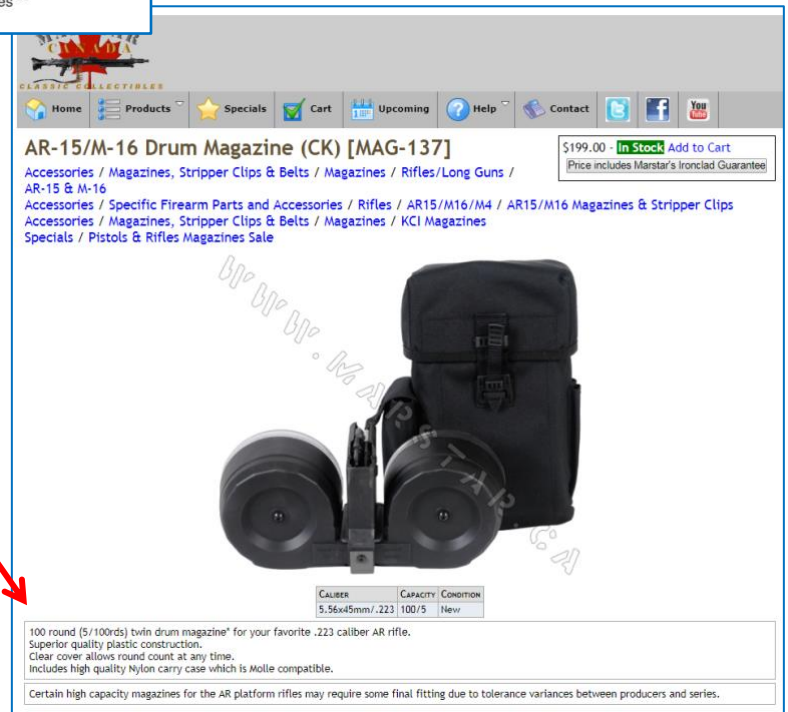


... and even “pinned” 5/100 dual/twin drum magazine:

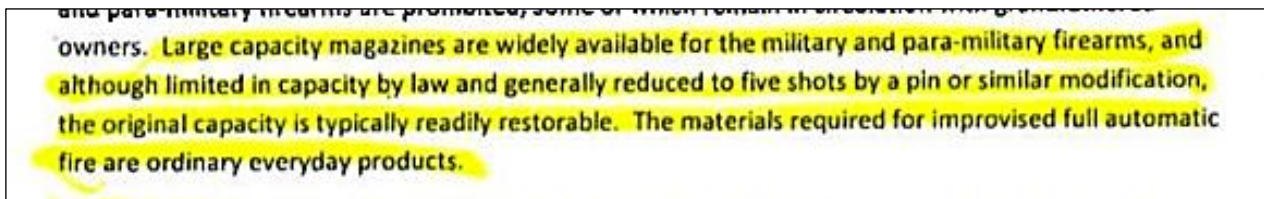


“Description ** New reduced Manufacturer's price ** **Dual Drum Mag for AR-15 type rifles. 100 round drum pinned to 5 rounds.** Comes with carry pouch that attaches to a belt, mag loader, and tube of graphite lube. ** May not fit Tavor or Tavor type rifles **”

“**100 round (5/100rds) twin drum magazine*** for your favorite .223 caliber AR rifle. Superior quality plastic construction. Clear cover allows round count at any time. Includes high quality Nylon carry case which is Molle compatible”



The RCMP found that pinned magazines are “readily restorable” to their full capacity:¹



Indeed, in each of the shootings in Moncton (2014), at the Quebec Mosque (2017) and during the PQ election night celebrations (2012), the perpetrators had modified their magazines so they could hold their original and illegal capacity in terms of the number of bullets:

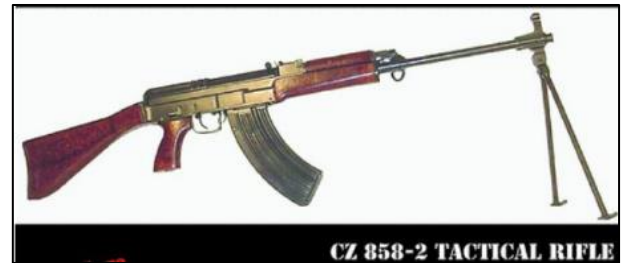
¹ Royal Canadian Mounted Police, *Feasibility and Practicality of Improvised Full Automatic Fire*, 2014.

http://polysesouvent.ca/Documents/RAPP_14_11_28_RCMP_AutomaticFire.pdf ; CBC, *Rifles converted to automatic fire an increasing risk, RCMP internal report warns*, 2016. <http://www.cbc.ca/beta/news/politics/rcmp-rifle-upgrades-semi-automatic-1.3400423>

Justin Bourque [used a legal semi-automatic rifle](#) (a 308 caliber M305) to shoot three RCMP officers in Moncton in June 2014. This weapon is a Chinese semiautomatic version of the American military's M14, a favourite of military weapons collectors. Bourque legally possessed this weapon as well as two magazines originally designed for 20 rounds and sold with a pin to hold no more than 5 cartridges, in keeping with Canadian law. It appears that the pin was removed by Bourque so that the magazines could hold 20 cartridges.



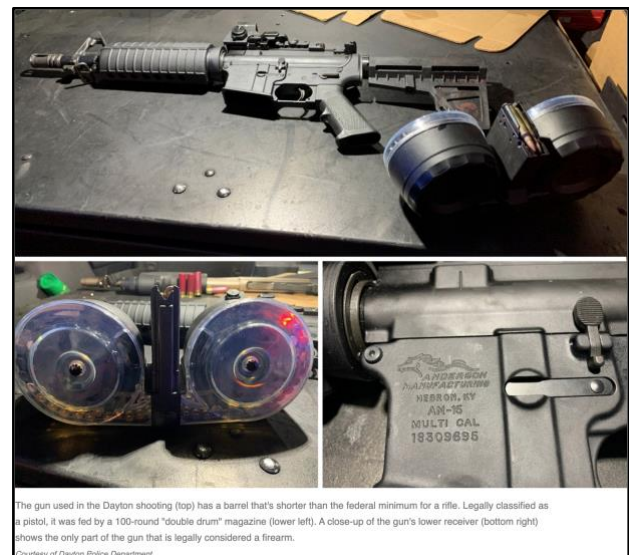
Richard Bain had in his possession [ten legal CZ-858](#), one of which he used with a (modified) 30-round magazine in the attack against Premier Pauline Marois in September 2012. If the weapon had not jammed while trying to shoot a police officer, things would have turned out much worse (one person was killed, stagehand Denis Blanchette). According to an academic expert, the Czech CZ-858 is similar to the AK-47, with only a few differences: the CZ is more powerful but known to be less reliable. This specific model is rendered prohibited by Bill C-71 but existing ones are grandfathered.



Alexandre Bissonnette had a Czech .223 calibre semi-automatic [Small Arms VZ58 Sportster rifle](#) ([pictured here](#)) and [two modified 30-cartridge magazines](#) containing 29 cartridges. He also had a [Glock pistol](#) and [five 10-bullet magazines](#). According to the media reports, he legally owned [at least six guns](#). By a stroke of luck, the VZ58 jammed on the first shot, preventing him from using it further. He subsequently used his handgun, virtually emptying all magazines (48 bullets) and, leaving behind six dead, five wounded and dozens of worshippers including children traumatized for life, left less than two minutes after he entered the Mosque.

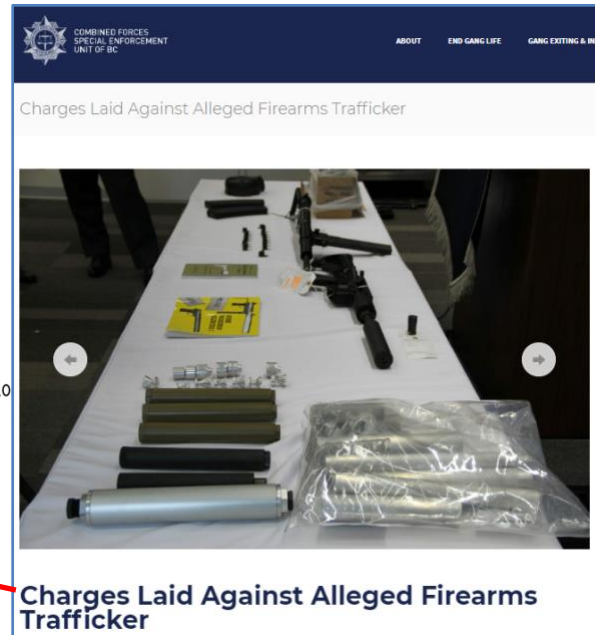


These full-capacity devices carry extreme risks. On August 4, 2019, a mass shooting was carried out [in Dayton, Ohio, United States](#), killing nine people and wound 27 others on a crowded street in the early morning of a Sunday. The 24-year-old gunman fired 41 shots in less than 30 seconds using an AM-15 (a weapon based on the AR-15 which was legal in Canada up until May 1st 2020) with chambered .223 caliber ammunition in a 100-round drum magazine.



Unpinned magazines have also been seen to be trafficked in Canada: In August 2014, a British-Columbia man was arrested and charged with a number of firearms-related charges: police seized numerous firearms and firearms-related prohibited devices including unpinned magazines capable of firing 75, 40 and 32 shots in a row:

- 1 CZ858 fully automatic assault rifle, loaded ("unpinned") 75-round drum magazine, and lo ("unpinned") 40-round magazine
- 1 AR 15 assault rifle (converted to fire fully automatic)
- 1 Sten sub machine gun with 32-round "unpinned" magazine and ammunition
- 32 Glock auto switches (prohibited devices)
- 7 "silencers" (sound suppressors)
- Numerous "unpinned" and "pinned" magazines with ammunition



2) FLAW NO 2: In 2011, under the Conservative government, the RCMP brought forward a new interpretation of the 1991 law: magazines that are not purposely designed for the specific gun in which they fit are exempted from the 1991 5/10 limits.

In March of 2011, while under a Conservative government, the RCMP put forward a new interpretation of these restrictions, acknowledging that this new application of the existing regulations for "a few new products" makes it look like there's been a change in the law:

The magazine regulations have been in force since 1993. However, in recent years, new cartridge magazines have been introduced which have resulted in novel situations as it concerns the application of the Regulations. There has been no change to the Regulations. Nonetheless, the application of the existing Regulations to a few new products has given the appearance of a change in the law. This has been particularly evident in the case of cartridge magazines designed or manufactured for more than one type of firearm.

The RCMP bulletin went on to explain that the limits only apply to magazines inserted in firearms for which that magazine is designed, and not other models that happen to accommodate them.²

That right: semi-automatic long gun X can be equipped with a magazine with more than five cartridges, provided that the magazine was designed for gun Y — even if gun Y is prohibited in Canada, and even though the magazine contains 10 rounds or more. The RCMP confirmed to a reporter that it is considered legal to use a magazine filled with 15 cartridges (5.56 caliber) designed for a "Beowulf" rifle (50 caliber), a prohibited weapon in Canada, in a semi-automatic rifle as long as that rifle is not a

² "The maximum permitted capacity of a magazine is determined by the kind of firearm it is designed or manufactured for use in and not the kind of firearm it might actually be used in. As a consequence, the maximum permitted capacity remains the same regardless of which firearm it might be used in. Example: The Marlin model 45 (Camp Carbine) rifle chambered for 45 Auto caliber uses magazines designed and manufactured for the Colt 1911 handgun, therefore the seven round and eight round capacities are permitted". Royal Canadian Mounted Police, Maximum Permitted Magazine Capacity — Special Bulletin for Businesses No. 72, 2011.

http://polysesouvient.ca/Documents/BULL_11_03_23_RCMP_MaximumPermittedMagazineCapacity.pdf

Beowulf.³ Such a configuration is illegal in at least six U.S. states. (A few years later, in 2015, [it was revealed](#) that the RCMP had decided to block the importation of un-pinned .50 Beowulf magazine - as they considered them prohibited devices – but, [as the gun lobby says](#), “the impact of this situation is unclear.”)

In any case, the 5/10 limits were universally accepted for years without such a ridiculous and nonsensical interpretation. John Dixon, senior policy adviser on gun control in then-Justice Minister Kim Campbell’s office when the laws were being designed, [said about the new interpretation](#)⁴: “None of us dreamt of such a loophole. Period. Nobody was thinking about anything like this.” An official at the firearm program’s call centre in Miramichi, N.B., said the bulletin was “causing some confusion as it goes against everything they have been communicating for some time.”

The coroner who investigated the 2006 Dawson shooting said this loophole allowed the shooter to use a legal 10-bullet magazine for his long gun (Beretta CX4 Storm) instead of a 5-bullet one, suggesting this could have made a difference.

Par ailleurs, selon la Loi canadienne, la capacité maximale des chargeurs conçus pour une arme d'épaule semi-automatique à percussion centrale, telle que la carabine Beretta CX4 Storm, est de cinq cartouches. C'est donc dire que le chargeur original de dix cartouches souvent vendu avec l'arme est illégal à moins d'avoir été modifié pour ne plus pouvoir contenir que cinq cartouches. Toutefois, par une curieuse logique twistée, le chargeur de dix cartouches vendu pour le pistolet Beretta et qui est parfaitement adapté à la carabine CX4 Storm peut, lui, être utilisé de façon parfaitement légale pour la carabine. C'est le message véhiculé par le *Bulletin spécial à l'intention des entreprises* n° 55 du 18 janvier 2006⁶. En fait, ce n'est pas après le chargeur que la *Loi sur les armes à feu* ou ses règlements d'application en ont mais après l'estampe *CX4 Storm* qui se trouve sur ledit chargeur. Un tel règlement ne manque pas d'étonner. Ou bien on permet le chargeur de dix balles ou bien on l'interdit carrément. En théorie, un chargeur de cinq balles aurait fait moins de victimes. Ainsi, on peut penser que, sur le trottoir, Kimveer Gill aurait fait la moitié moins de victimes avec cinq balles plutôt que les dix que contenait son chargeur. Toutefois, dans la pratique, on me dit que remplacer un chargeur est une affaire de secondes comme l'a démontré Kimveer Gill lorsqu'il vient s'adosser contre les machines distributrices.

Je note néanmoins qu'après avoir vidé son chargeur sur le trottoir, monsieur Gill n'a pas réussi à le recharger pendant qu'il se déplaçait et qu'il a dû s'arrêter pour le faire. Or, s'il avait eu la possibilité de rester en mouvement et de continuer à se déplacer, le tireur aurait pu faire beaucoup plus de dégâts. J'en déduis donc qu'un chargeur à cinq balles ralentit quand même un peu la vitesse de tir.

³ “As for the second question, a spokesperson for the federal Justice Department confirmed to Global News that using a Beowulf magazine as a higher-capacity magazine for a lighter-calibre semi-automatic rifle is legal.”, *Global News*, June 11, 2013. <http://globalnews.ca/news/619165/packing-heat-how-gun-law-loopholes-tripled-canadas-rifle-magazine-limits/>

⁴ John Dixon, Senior policy adviser to Kim Campbell, “I think it’s nuts, and I’m shocked to hear it,” said Dixon, who helped craft these laws 20-plus years ago. “What the hell is Parliament doing?”, “Packing heat: How gun law loopholes tripled Canada’s rifle magazine limits”, *Global News*, June 11, 2013. <http://globalnews.ca/news/619165/packing-heat-how-gun-law-loopholes-tripled-canadas-rifle-magazine-limits/>; “That’s news to John Dixon, senior policy adviser on gun control in then-Justice Minister Kim Campbell’s office when the laws were being designed. “None of us dreamt of such a loophole. Period,” he says. “Nobody was thinking about anything like this.” “RCMP says magazine loophole was intended; law’s author disagrees”, *Global News*, Jan. 28, 2014. <http://globalnews.ca/news/1043355/rcmp-wrong-on-rifle-magazine-loopholes-back-story-campbell-advisor-argues/>

3) FLAW NO 3: There are no limits for magazines designed for rimfire ammunition used in guns that are not semi-automatic handguns.

Magazines that were originally manufactured for use in a firearm that is designed to use rimfire cartridges are exempt, as long as they can't also be used in a semi-automatic handgun. However, if a magazine can be used in a semi-automatic handgun, then the limit becomes automatically 10 — and this applies even for a gun that is non-restricted.

Rimfire ammunition refers to a type of metallic firearm cartridges, where a gun's firing pin strikes and crushes the base's rim to ignite the primer. The rimfire .22LR (Long Rifle) cartridge is by far the most common ammunition in the world today, but other rimfire ammunition exists.



The **RCMP has warned** that though less powerful than other types of ammunition, the 10/22 cartridges are lethal and particularly dangerous when combined with a large-capacity magazine:

Magazines up to 110 shot capacity are available. Although the 22LR cartridge is less powerful than most, it is nonetheless lethal, and combined with high capacity magazines, presents a public safety hazard and an officer safety concern when responding to incidents involving these magazines.

Home / Magazines / Butler Creek Magazine, Savage A17 17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire (HMR), 25 Rounds, Polymer Black, BCA1725



Butler Creek Magazine, Savage A17 17 Hornady Magnum Rimfire (HMR), 25 Rounds, Polymer Black, BCA1725

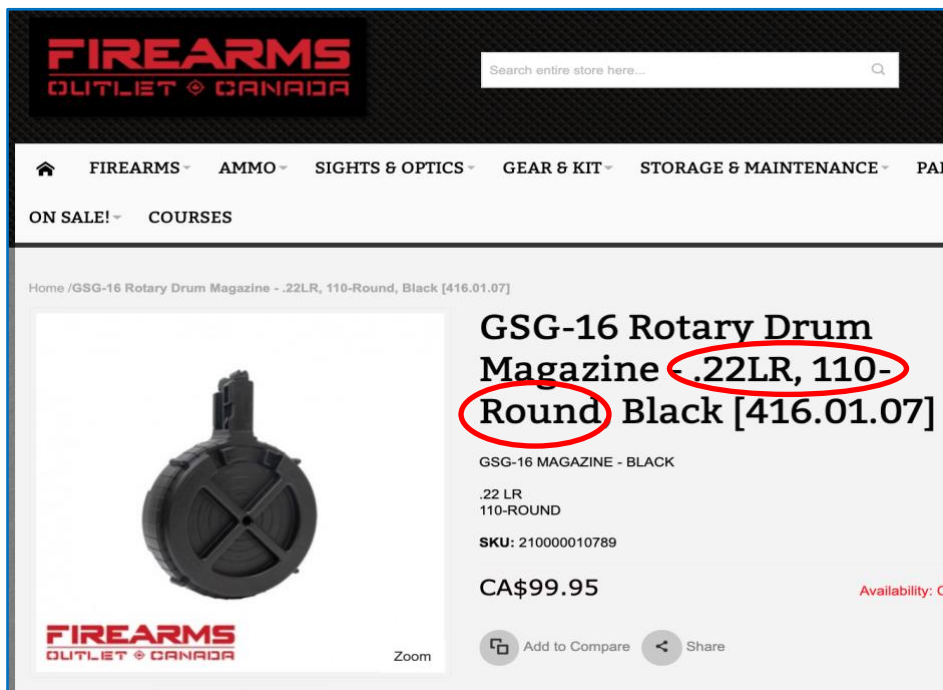
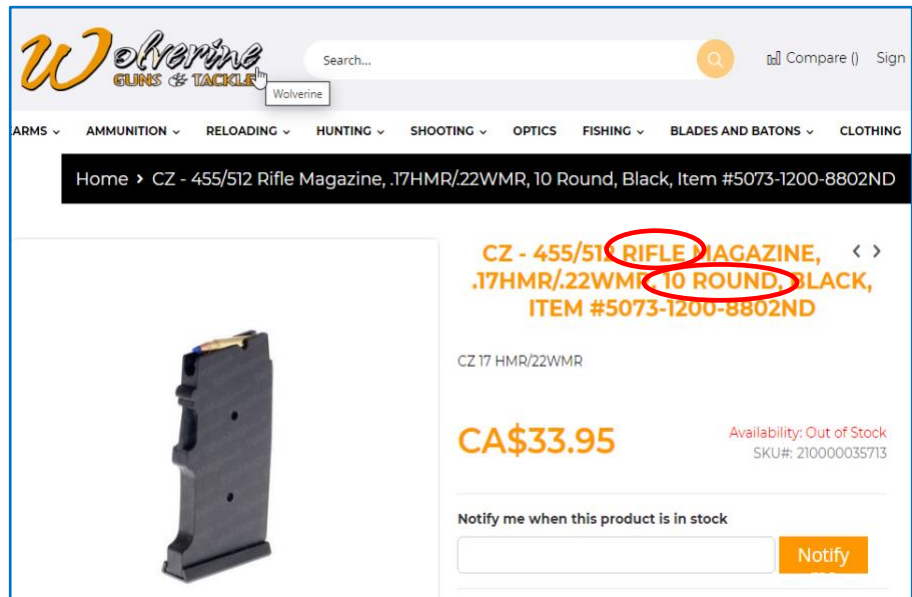
SKU: MAGAZINES:051525017257
Brand: Butler Creek

Condition: New
Model #: BCA1725

This item is currently out of stock. Please enter your e-mail below and click subscribe to be notified when it is back in stock.

Available for Purchase: No, Currently Out of Stock

\$39.99



"GSG-16 Rotary Drum Magazine - .22LR, 110-Round, Black [416.01.07]
GSG-16 MAGAZINE - BLACK .22 LR 110-ROUND"

4) FLAW NO 4: There is a lack of enforcement regarding the prohibited 10/22 magazines

The most common type of .22 cartridge magazine is the one originally designed for the Ruger brand 10/20 rifle and charger pistols, also available in clones made by other manufacturers. These magazines are commonly manufactured to hold more than 10 cartridges, such as 25, 50 and 110.

Because the magazines are interchangeable between long guns and handguns, they are supposed to be limited at 10 rounds. A [2016 memo from the RCMP](#) states that 10/22 magazines exceeding 10 rounds were always deemed prohibited, but for some reason they continued to be imported and sold in Canada — by “unqualified businesses” — for years.

According to media reports, tens of thousands of these prohibited large-capacity magazines remain in the hands of Canada's gun owners. The combination of their popularity, their prohibited status not being broadly or thoroughly communicated, the hope of overturning their prohibited classification by one gun lobby group via an attempted but ultimately abandoned lawsuit and, especially, the lack of meaningful enforcement all likely resulted in the current situation.

Worse, manufacturers continue to openly sell illegal over-capacity magazines, as shown in these ads (below), seen online in June 2020, including 100 round drums.

Here are some current ads for illegal over-capacity magazines seen on the Internet in June 2020:

Ruger® BX-25™ Magazine

- Presents cartridges at a 30° angle, perfect for the 10/22 rifle
- Constant-force stainless steel spring
- Self-lubricating anti-tilt follower

This genuine Ruger 25-round 10/22® magazine is enhanced with high-performance features. Its stainless steel feed lips present cartridges into the action at a 30° angle – precisely the angle the legendary 10/22 semiautomatic rifle prefers. For extra consistency, it has a constant-force stainless steel spring and a self-lubricating anti-tilt follower. Two-screw disassembly allows for easy cleaning. Works in any factory-original .22 LR 10/22 rifle, 77/22® rifle, SR-22® rifle and 22 Charger™ Pistol.

Regular Price: \$37.99

Qty: 1 Item: IK-230925
Backorderable

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View All Restrictions That May Apply.

FREESHIPPING TO STORE • EVERYDAY Some exclusions apply. You will be notified at checkout. [Learn More](#)

Check In-Store Availability:

Choose State Choose Store

"This genuine Ruger 25-round 10/22® magazine is enhanced with high-performance features."

"Our famous Butler Creek Hot Lips Smoke Banana Firearm Magazine in 25-round versions for your 10/22"

Butler Creek Hot Lips Smoke Banana Firearm Magazine, 25 Rounds

★★★★☆ (1) 1-8175-2471-8

\$26.99

0 in stock at Montreal Bellechasse, QC (as of 12:59 AM)

This product is discontinued in your store.