



Standard Specification for Airsoft Gun Warnings¹

This standard is issued under the fixed designation F2654; the number immediately following the designation indicates the year of original adoption or, in the case of revision, the year of last revision. A number in parentheses indicates the year of last reapproval. A superscript epsilon (ϵ) indicates an editorial change since the last revision or reapproval.

1. Scope

1.1 This specification covers airsoft guns, air soft guns, or soft air guns, or any combination thereof, which propel a low energy air gun projectile, as defined in 3.1.2 and meeting the requirements in Specification F2748. These devices are also known as low energy air guns (LEAG).

1.2 *Limitations*—This specification does not cover the following categories of gun products: Products covered by Specifications F589 (non-powder guns), F2272 (paintball markers), F2573 (toy products), and F2574 (non-recreational guns such as those used by law enforcement, scientific, or military agencies).

1.3 The values stated in SI units are to be regarded as the standard. The values given in parentheses are for information only.

1.4 *This standard does not purport to address all of the safety concerns, if any, associated with its use. It is the responsibility of the user of this standard to establish appropriate safety and health practices and determine the applicability of regulatory limitations prior to use.*

2. Referenced Documents

2.1 *ASTM Standards*:²

F589 Consumer Safety Specification for Non-Powder Guns

F2272 Specification for Paintball Markers

F2573 Specification for Low Velocity Resilient Material Projectile

F2574 Specification for Low Velocity Projectile Marker

F2679 Specification for 6 mm Projectiles Used with Airsoft Guns

F2748 Specification for Airsoft Guns

3. Terminology

3.1 *Definitions of Terms Specific to This Standard:*

¹ This specification is under the jurisdiction of ASTM Committee F08 on Sports Equipment, Playing Surfaces, and Facilities and is the direct responsibility of Subcommittee F08.27 on Airsoft.

Current edition approved June 1, 2016. Published June 2016. Originally approved in 2007. Last previous edition approved in 2015 as F2654 – 15. DOI: 10.1520/F2654-16.

² For referenced ASTM standards, visit the ASTM website, www.astm.org, or contact ASTM Customer Service at service@astm.org. For *Annual Book of ASTM Standards* volume information, refer to the standard's Document Summary page on the ASTM website.

3.1.1 *airsoft gun, n*—commonly referred to as airsoft gun, air soft gun, or soft air gun, or any combination thereof, or a low energy air gun (LEAG), refers to a device specifically designed to expel a projectile as described in Specification F2679, by the release of energy by compressed air, compressed gas, mechanical springs, battery, or a combination thereof.

3.1.2 *airsoft gun projectile, n*—is spherical, 6 mm (.24 cal) in diameter, non-metallic and non-liquid filled projectile to be used in an airsoft gun meeting the requirements in Specification F2679.

4. Significance and Use

4.1 This specification addresses the appropriate warnings and instructions that are to be provided for literature, labels, packages, and procedures for safe use of airsoft guns.

5. Conformance

5.1 Airsoft guns shall not, either by label or other means, indicate conformance with this specification unless they conform with the applicable requirements contained herein.

6. General Requirements

6.1 *Literature*—Literature shall be provided with each airsoft gun and shall include, as applicable, the instructions and cautionary statements specified in Section 7.

6.2 *Packaging*—Packaging shall be labeled in a prominent and conspicuous manner in accordance with the provisions of Section 7.

7. Instructions, Labeling, and Marking

7.1 *General*—Packaging and literature for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a cautionary statement as prescribed in this specification.

7.2 Safety disclaimers shall not be used which dilute or negate the effectiveness of the warnings provided for in these instructions, labeling, and marking requirements.

7.3 *Packaging:*

7.3.1 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a cautionary statement. The statement shall be placed prominently on the package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs.

7.3.2 Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a

suitable contrasting background. The statement may be in a combination of upper and lower case letters of a size not less than 8-point type. The letters in the signal word shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the cautionary statement. The signal word shall be in upper case letters and preceded by a safety alert symbol. It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point shall be orange. The cautionary statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the cautionary statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, and so forth, the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.3 The cautionary statement on packaging of all airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall convey the following information at a minimum:

7.3.3.1 A signal word “WARNING.”

7.3.3.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.3.3.3 A warning that misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye.

7.3.3.4 A warning that eye protection designed for airsoft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range.

7.3.3.5 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.3.3.6 The following cautionary statement may be used:
⚠ WARNING—This is not a toy. Misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye. Eye protection designed for air soft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range. Read the owner’s manual before using.

7.3.3.7 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a recommendation that a person be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

7.3.3.8 The packaging must contain a warning that adult supervision is required.

7.3.3.9 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain a warning not to misuse the gun and that brandishing it in public or changing the coloration and markings to make it look more like a firearm may confuse people and may be a crime.

7.3.3.10 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall contain an advisory that the end user of this product should be aware of all requirements imposed by applicable U.S. federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and administrative policies related to airsoft equipment or use of said equipment.

7.3.3.11 Information shall be provided which identifies the type of propellant or energy source intended for use in the airsoft gun.

7.3.4 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall show conspicuously the name and address of the manufacturer, the distributor, or the dealer.

7.3.5 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall be clearly marked with the following: a description of the type of airsoft gun enclosed in the package, the model number of the airsoft gun, and the caliber of the airsoft gun.

7.3.6 Packaging for airsoft guns with energy under two joule must include a statement of maximum velocity, determined using a .12 or .20 gram, or both, projectile.

7.3.7 If an airsoft gun with energy under two joule is customarily sold without the packaging that would normally contain the information required in 7.3.1 – 7.3.6, the information required in these sections shall be placed on the airsoft gun itself, either on a label or hangtag that meets the same requirements for content, prominence, and visibility at the time of sale.

7.3.8 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain a cautionary statement. The statement shall be placed prominently on the package and set distinctively apart from other wording or designs.

7.3.9 Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement may be in a combination of upper and lower case letters of a size not less than 8-point type. The letters in the signal word shall be least 50 % larger than the letters in the other words in the cautionary statement. The signal word shall be in upper case letters and preceded by a safety alert symbol. It is composed of an equilateral triangle surrounding an exclamation mark. The base of the safety alert symbol shall be on the same horizontal line as the base of the letters of the signal word. The height of the safety alert symbol shall equal or exceed the signal word height. The signal word shall be in black letters on an orange background. The solid triangle of the safety alert symbol shall be black and the exclamation point shall be orange. The cautionary statement shall have either black lettering on a white background or white lettering on a black background. When special circumstances limit the use of the warning to two colors, the colors assigned to the signal word background may also be used for the cautionary statement letters, provided that they contrast with the background color of the product. When special circumstances preclude the use of safety colors on base materials such as wood, cardboard, metal, plastic, and so forth, the marking used should (when feasible) contrast with the background color of the base material.

7.3.10 The cautionary statement on packaging of all airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall convey the following information at a minimum:

7.3.10.1 A signal word “WARNING.”

7.3.10.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.3.10.3 A warning that misuse may cause serious injury, especially to the eye.

7.3.10.4 A warning that eye protection designed for airsoft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range.

7.3.10.5 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.3.10.6 The following cautionary statement may be used:
Warning—This is not a toy. Misuse may cause serious injury

or death. Eye protection designed for air soft guns must be worn by the user and any person within range. Read the owner's manual before using.

7.3.10.7 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain a recommendation that a person be at least 18 years of age to purchase.

7.3.10.8 The packaging must contain a warning that adult supervision is required.

7.3.10.9 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain a warning not to misuse the gun and that brandishing it in public or changing the coloration and markings to make it look more like a firearm may confuse people and may be a crime.

7.3.10.10 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall contain an advisory that the end user of this product should be aware of all requirements imposed by applicable U.S. federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and administrative policies related to airsoft equipment or use of said equipment.

7.3.11 Information shall be provided which identifies the type of propellant or energy source intended for use in the airsoft gun.

7.3.12 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall show conspicuously the name and address of the manufacturer, the distributor, or the dealer.

7.3.13 The packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall be clearly marked with the following: a description of the type of airsoft gun enclosed in the package, the model number of the airsoft gun, and the caliber of the airsoft gun.

7.3.14 Packaging for airsoft guns with energy over two joule must include a statement of maximum velocity, determined using a .12 or .20 gram, or both, projectile.

7.3.15 If an airsoft gun with energy over two joule is customarily sold without the packaging that would normally contain the information required in 7.3.1 – 7.3.6, the information required in these sections shall be placed on the airsoft gun itself, either on a label or hangtag that meets the same requirements for content, prominence, and visibility at the time of sale.

7.4 *Product Marking:*

7.4.1 Airsoft guns with energy under two joule shall be prominently and durably marked to convey the following information at a minimum:

7.4.1.1 A signal word "WARNING."

7.4.1.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.4.1.3 A warning that eye protection must be worn to prevent serious injury to eye.

7.4.1.4 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.4.1.5 The following cautionary statement may be used:
Warning—Not a toy. Wear eye protection to prevent serious injury to the eye. Read owners manual before using.

7.4.1.6 Each airsoft gun with energy under two joule shall be durably marked with the name of the manufacturer, distributor, or retailer; the model number or name that will allow proper identification of the airsoft gun by the user; and the caliber of projectile.

7.4.2 Airsoft guns with energy over two joule shall be prominently and durably marked to convey the following information at a minimum:

7.4.2.1 A signal word "WARNING."

7.4.2.2 A warning that this is not a toy.

7.4.2.3 A warning that eye protection must be worn to prevent serious injury to eye.

7.4.2.4 Instructions to read operation manual before using.

7.4.2.5 The following cautionary statement may be used:
Warning—Not a toy. Misuse may cause serious injury or death. Wear eye protection to prevent serious injury to the eye. Read owners manual before using.

7.4.2.6 Each airsoft gun with energy over two joule shall be durably marked with the name of the manufacturer, distributor, or retailer; the model number or name that will allow proper identification of the airsoft gun by the user; and the caliber of projectile.

7.5 *Literature Accompanying Airsoft Guns:*

7.5.1 The instructions and warnings communicating to the user the information included in this section shall be provided as a leaflet or brochure packed with the airsoft gun, or attached to the airsoft gun.

7.5.1.1 An appropriate cautionary statement as noted in 7.3.3 or 7.3.10 and 7.5.1.5 shall be placed prominently in the literature or attached to the airsoft gun. Prominence of the statement shall be achieved by placement within the borders of a rectangle and by use of a suitable contrasting background. The statement may be in a combination of upper and lower case letters of a size bearing a reasonable relationship to the other type on the literature or tag, but no less than 8-point type. The signal word shall be at least 50 % larger than the other words in the literature or tag.

7.5.1.2 Instructions shall properly instruct or inform the user about the following:

(1) Handle and operate the airsoft gun safely.

(2) Select safe and proper targets.

(3) Care for and maintain the gun properly.

(4) Store the gun unloaded in a safe and proper manner, and check to see that the gun is unloaded when removed from storage or received from another person.

(5) Treat every airsoft gun as if it were loaded.

(6) Always wear eye protection designed for airsoft guns when handling or shooting or in range of any airsoft gun, and wear them over prescription glasses.

(7) Keep your finger off the trigger until ready to shoot.

(8) Never point the airsoft gun at anything you do not wish to shoot.

(9) Keep the airsoft gun on safe until ready to shoot.

(10) Avoid ricochet. Never shoot at a hard or flat surface or at water.

(11) Backstops should be inspected for wear before and after each use. Discontinue use if the backstop surface shows signs of failure. Since backstop surfaces eventually fail, always place the backstop in a location that will be safe should the backstop fail. Discontinue the use of a backstop if the projectile rebounds or ricochets.

(12) Perform routine inspection and maintenance, including:

(a) Modification of the gun mechanism may cause a gun to malfunction and tampering with a gun may make it unsafe to use.

(b) Any change in the performance, such as lowered trigger force and shortened trigger travel, indicates possible wear and that such guns should be inspected, replaced, or properly repaired, and repairs should only be made by qualified personnel.

(c) Check any gun that has been dropped to ensure that its function has not been affected.

(d) Information shall be included to indicate how to obtain service and locate authorized repair shops.

7.5.1.3 Information shall be provided which identifies the type and caliber of the projectile or projectiles intended for use in the airsoft gun. Also include information that use of incorrect projectiles may not be safe and that airsoft gun projectiles should not be reused.

7.5.1.4 The instructions shall contain a warning that adult supervision is required.

7.5.1.5 The instructions shall contain a warning not to misuse the gun and that brandishing it in public or changing the coloration and markings to make it look more like a firearm may confuse people and may be a crime.

7.5.1.6 The instructions shall contain an advisory that the end user of this product should be aware of all requirements imposed by applicable U.S. federal, state, and local laws, regulations, and administrative policies related to airsoft equipment or use of said equipment.

7.5.1.7 Information shall be provided which identifies the type of propellant or energy source intended for use in the airsoft gun. Instructions for proper use and handling, including application and removal of propellants such as CO₂ cylinders, or energy sources such as batteries shall be included. The literature shall indicate the operating temperature range recommended for each airsoft gun. Any special operating conditions shall be identified for proper high and low-temperature use.

7.5.1.8 If the airsoft gun does not have a safety mechanism, it shall so state.

7.5.1.9 Information shall be provided to indicate the maximum velocity of the airsoft gun, determined using a .12 or .20 gram, or both, projectile.

8. Keywords

8.1 air soft; airsoft; low energy air gun; low energy air gun projectile; low energy air gun warnings; soft air

ASTM International takes no position respecting the validity of any patent rights asserted in connection with any item mentioned in this standard. Users of this standard are expressly advised that determination of the validity of any such patent rights, and the risk of infringement of such rights, are entirely their own responsibility.

This standard is subject to revision at any time by the responsible technical committee and must be reviewed every five years and if not revised, either reapproved or withdrawn. Your comments are invited either for revision of this standard or for additional standards and should be addressed to ASTM International Headquarters. Your comments will receive careful consideration at a meeting of the responsible technical committee, which you may attend. If you feel that your comments have not received a fair hearing you should make your views known to the ASTM Committee on Standards, at the address shown below.

This standard is copyrighted by ASTM International, 100 Barr Harbor Drive, PO Box C700, West Conshohocken, PA 19428-2959, United States. Individual reprints (single or multiple copies) of this standard may be obtained by contacting ASTM at the above address or at 610-832-9585 (phone), 610-832-9555 (fax), or service@astm.org (e-mail); or through the ASTM website (www.astm.org). Permission rights to photocopy the standard may also be secured from the Copyright Clearance Center, 222 Rosewood Drive, Danvers, MA 01923, Tel: (978) 646-2600; <http://www.copyright.com/>