

## Recommended caliber for use & bullet weight requirements in South Africa

The "new" 2011 rules, which apply to South Africa, is an improvement to the previous legislation, but even though they are a step in the right direction, there is still no energy requirement. Some species are also omitted, such as crocodile and zebra. We have therefore interpreted the rules in the best possible way, and placed both Crocodile and Zebra in the best suited groups below. This document is to be considered as a recommendation with respect to caliber, and not a document by law - **The law only require minimum weights on bullets as mentioned below.**

The following calibers that are suggested are not the only ones claimed to be useable, but just examples of calibers that can handle the specified bullet weight - There are dozens of suitable calibers which is not included here. However, one should use common sense when it comes to impact energy, for which unfortunately there is no requirement. A caliber 30/30 for example will carry a heavy bullet, but the impact energy is small and not suitable in the class where for example 30.06 and other "modern" cartridges belong.

**NOTE:** Animals that are termed "**thick-skinned**" and **MUST be shot with Full Metal Jackets or monolithic projectiles** include: elephant, rhino, hippopotamus, crocodile, and buffalo.

Hunting for Buffalo, Elephant and Rhino does not require a minimum caliber, but as mentioned a minimum bullet weight. That means that a .338 win mag with a 250 grain bullet could be used legally for buffalo, but most experienced professionals highly recommend the 375 H/H as the minimum caliber - Use enough gun!

### **Group 1:** Furred game up to and including the size of **rock hyrax, all rodents and birds**

Minimum bullet weight: 35 grain = 2,27 gram

*Recommended caliber: 22 long, 22 magnum*

### **Group 2:** Furred game up to and including the size of **Springbuck and Mountain Reedbuck**

Minimum bullet weight: 50 grain = 3,25 gram

*Recommended caliber: 223 rem, 243 win and larger*

### **Group 3:** Game up to and including the size of **Impala, Blesbuck, Common Reedbuck, Nyala cow, warthog and ostrich**

Minimum bullet weight: 100 grain = 6,5 gram

*Recommended caliber: 243 win, 6,5 x 55, 308 win. and larger*

### **Group 4:** Game up to and including the size of **Black Wildebeest, Tsessebe, Nyala bull and Red Hartebeest**

Minimum bullet weight: 130 grain = 8,45 gram

*Recommended caliber: 270 win, 308 Win. and larger*

### **Group 5:** Game up to and including the size of **Blue Wildebeest, Kudu, Oryx, Sable, Roan, Leopard and Zebra**

Minimum bullet weight: 150 grain = 9,75 gram (*we recommend heavier bullets in this category*)

*Recommended caliber: 270 win, 308 win, div. 7 mm, 30.06 and larger*

### **Group 6:** Game up to and including the size of **Eland, Crocodile**

Minimum bullet weight: 175 grain = 11,35 gram (remember crocodile is thick-skinned)

*Recommended caliber: 7mm rem mag, 30.06, 300 win mag. and larger*

### **Group 7:** Game up to and including the size of **Buffalo, Lion og Giraffe.**

Minimum bullet weight: 250 grain = 16,2 gram (remember buffalo is thick-skinned)

*Recommended caliber: 9,3 x 62, 375 H/H and larger*

### **Group 8** Thick-skinned animals including **Elephant, Rhino, Hippopotamus.**

Minimum bullet weight: 300 grain = 19,45 gram

*Recommended caliber: 375H/H and larger*