# MARYLAND STATE POLICE

**Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division**
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# ADVISORY

## LD-HQL-17-004

## NOVEMBER 17, 2017

## ALTERNATIVE AMMUNITION FOR HANDGUN QUALIFICATION LICENSE (HQL) LIVE FIRE TRAINING COMPONENT

PUBLIC SAFETY §5-117.1(c)(3)(iii) requires a firearms orientation component that demonstrates the person's safe operation and handling of a firearm, which includes, as required by COMAR 29.03.01.29.C(4), a practice component in which the applicant safely fires at least one round of live ammunition.

The Maryland State Police (MSP) has received several requests to review alternative non-lethal, marking projectiles to satisfy the "live fire" component of the HQL training requirement. The MSP has determined that the use of non-lethal marking projectiles would meet the HQL "live fire" training requirement provided that the non-lethal marking projectile meets the following requirements:

1) meets the definition of "ammunition" as defined in Public Safety §5-133.1(a): "a cartridge, shell, or any other device containing explosive or incendiary material designed and intended for use in a firearm;" and
2) can be fired from a firearm as defined in Public Safety §5-101(h)(1)(i): "a weapon that expels, is designed to expel, or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive."

If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact the Handgun Qualification License Unit, by email, at msp.hql@maryland.gov, or call the Licensing Division at 410-653-4500. Thank you for your attention to this matter.