

# Lead shot restrictions in Northern Ireland - Shotgun and game shooting

The new lead shot restrictions come into force in Northern Ireland on 01 September 2009.

The regulations will prohibit the use of lead shot to shoot any species of bird or animal on or over wetlands. Anyone shooting with lead shot on or over wetlands on or after 1 September 2009 will be committing an offence and liable to prosecution; conviction can result in a fine of up to £1000.

The legislation applies to all wetlands, including all foreshore areas, in Northern Ireland. Therefore all coastal wildfowling, including punt gunning, will have to be undertaken with non-lead shot. Inland flight ponds, no matter how small, are counted as wetland features as are fields which frequently flood or which include streams, ponds or other wetland features. Shooting ducks, geese, game, pests or clays away from wetlands is not affected by the legislation.

**It is very important that all people who shoot in the Province are aware that these new regulations come into force soon, as non-compliance will lead to prosecutions.**

Non-lead alternatives are widely available from all good gun dealers.