

Alandic Guidelines for bowhunting

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In comparison to other hunting techniques, bowhunting requires a much greater perception and patience. Bowhunting is considered to be just as, if not safer than any other hunting form today, provided the hunter's skills and knowledge are proficient. The purpose of these guidelines are to ensure that bowhunters seeks and learn the needed knowledge and skills needed to provide a safe and correct hunt with bow and arrow.

The guidelines has been compiled in effort to help the persons conducting the exam to provide a correct shooting test as well as for any one who handles and manages issues regarding bowhunting and equipment for bowhunting. The guidelines are also here for those who seek further information regarding bowhunting on Åland and it's possibilities.

The laws that regulate bowhunting are stipulated with in the Alandic fish&game department under (1958.31) as well as in (ÅFS 70/2006). Any game can be taken with bow and arrow except for moose (*Alces alces*). The definition of hunting is according to 1 § "hunting regulations"

"To track or pursue game with the intention to capture or kill game" The definition of game is governed by the hunting regulation list of game, for example Roe deer, White tailed deer, fox, hare and different spices of birds.

Requirements to hunt with bow and arrow

- General hunting education (Alandic hunting education or equivalent)
- Valid Alandic hunting permit (Alandic government or Alandic police)
- Bowhunting certificate (IBEP certification, Danish bowhunting certificate)
- Valid yearly shooting test (See below)
- Legal equipment (regulated by the hunting regulations)
- Land/hunting rights (Own land or guest hunts)

Targets for the shooting test

- The test consist of a series of 6 arrows against paper animal faces
- Target placement is at "hunting distances" and unknown to the shooter (max 25m)
- Some targets can be elevated to simulate accurate hunting conditions

Bowhunting equipment (shooting test)

- During test, the bow type has to be the same as will be used during the hunt.
- Broad heads or field tips can be used during shooting test.
- Rangefinders can not be used during or prior to the test.

Bowhunting equipment (hunting)

- Bows that reduces the draw weight at point of anchor (compounds)

- Bows that does not reduce draw weight at point of anchor (i.e. recurve and long bows)
- Minimum kinetic energy is 40 joules
- The broad head has to have a minimum of two blades (fixed or mechanical) and a minimum cutting diameter of 25 mm. The condition of the blades needs to be razor sharp and to be able to provide a direct killing shot when targeting the vital area of the game.
- The total weight of the arrow must be a minimum of 25 grams.

Requirements for a successful shooting test

- One arrow is to be shot at each target.
- 5 of the 6 arrows must hit the vital area of the target.
- Shooter can shoot more then one series, but only a full series is approved.

Statistics

- The appointed examination should upon approved shooting test, provide the shooter with the alandic government form for hunting statistics.

Samples from the hunting regulations (ÅFS 70/2006)

§7

Legal game

Any game except moose (*Alces alces*).

§8

Bow

While bowhunting, bows that reduces the draw weight at anchoring is permitted (compound) as well as bows without draw weight reducing mechanisms (Recurve and long bows)

The bow should propel the arrow so that it has a minimum of 40 joules of kinetic energy.

The kinetic energy is calculated according to this formula $E_0=0,5*m*V_0^2$

E_0 = the arrows kinetic energy expressed in Joule

M = the total mass (weight) of the arrow in kilogram

V_0 = Arrow speed in meters per second

While hunting no technical equipments that allows more then one arrow at the time to be shot or equipment that allows the bow to be pre drawn is permitted.

§9

Arrow

The minimum total weight of the arrow is 25 grams

§10

Broad head

The broad head shall be such as when a hit is located in the vital area the effect is directly lethal to the game. Blades must have at least 2 with sharp cutting edges and a 25 mm cutting diameter.

§11

Standards for knowledge and skill level for the bowhunter

The person who hunts with bow and arrow shall have a valid hunting licence and have passed the required bowhunter education according to the specifications in appendix 2 attachment to this regulation and additionally have successfully passed a yearly proficiency test.

A successful proficiency test is valid during the "hunting year" 1st of August to 31st of July. Any test that has been successfully conducted 1st June-31 July will be in effect the following year.

The proficiency test that is described in the text can be taken in the following:

- 1) On Aalandic soil according to the regulations in attachment 2.
- 2) According to the Danish regulations in effect at the date these regulations were implemented.