

Guns on Shabbos

TABLE OF CONTENTS

CARRYING WEAPONS ON SHABBOS	2
MUKTZAH.....	3
Group A. Items that may not be handled for any purpose.	4
Group B. Items which may be handled to a limited extent.....	5
Group C. Items which may be handled for any purpose.....	6
MUKTZAH STATUS OF GUNS	6
WEAPONS IN THE SYNAGOGUE	8
DANGEROUS CIRCUMSTANCES.....	10

Question

Is it permitted to carry a gun on Shabbat, and if so, may one bring it to the synagogue? Do the laws governing the above distinguish between a normal situation on the one hand, and a dangerous one on the other? If so, what constitutes a dangerous situation?

Response

Note: The following is an overview of the halachic issues involved with bringing a gun to the synagogue on Shabbos. However, this paper does not attempt to determine the final ruling, which can only be done by a competent rabbinical authority.

Three *halachic* issues must be considered in order to clarify the above question: (1) *Hotza'ah*—carrying on Shabbos from a private domain to a public domain or vice versa. (2) *Muktzah*—handling items on Shabbos (even if no forbidden category of work will be performed). (3) Bringing a weapon into a synagogue (even during the week). Another issue that must be addressed is whether a differentiation is made in potential life-threatening situations.

