

This document contains the Connecticut regulations for Private Shooting Preserves. This document was prepared by the State of Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection and is provided for the convenience of the reader. This is not the official version of the regulations. The official regulations are published by the State of Connecticut, Judicial Branch, Commission on Official Legal Publications in the Connecticut Law Journal. In the event there is inconsistency between this document and the regulations as published in the Connecticut Law Journal, the Connecticut Law Journal publication will serve as the official version.

PRIVATE SHOOTING PRESERVES

26-48-1. Permits

Any person or organization who owns or controls by lease or agreement the hunting rights on an area may apply for a regulated private shooting preserve permit. When the hunting rights are under lease or agreement, a true copy of such lease or agreement shall be filed with the Department before the first permit is issued. Copies of any subsequent leases or agreements that add to the area shall be filed with the Department and any lease or agreement that is canceled shall be reported to the Department.

26-48-2. Area

(a) No permit shall be issued for an area of less than two hundred contiguous acres.

(b) The area shall be suitable for the purpose, and such use shall not endanger public safety or conflict with any reasonable prior public interest.

(c) The external boundaries of the area included in the permit shall be described in the original application and shown on a map that shall accompany the original application. Any subsequent changes in the area shall be shown on a map filed with the Department.

26-48-3a. Seasons

Permits issued by the department shall authorize the hunting of legally propagated game birds on the area covered by the permit during the period of September fifteenth through March thirty-first of the following year, both dates inclusive.

26-48-4. Hunting limited to persons authorized by permittee

Only persons authorized by the permittee shall be permitted to hunt on the property during the period covered by the permit.

26-48-5a. Limitation on taking

(a) Permits issued by the department shall authorize the hunting of legally propagated pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks, without regard to sex or daily and seasonal bag limits during the period specified in Section 26-48-3a.

(b) The number of pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks harvested on the area included in the permit shall not exceed the total number of each species liberated by the permittee.

(c) The hunting of all other wildlife species not authorized under the permit shall be in accordance with statewide regulations governing the season, and daily and season bag limits for each particular species.

(d) The permittee shall be required to liberate a minimum number of each species authorized under the permit. Minimum liberation shall be:

- (1) Pheasants. Not less than one pheasant for each two acres included in the permit, with a minimum liberation requirement of two hundred fifty birds.
- (2) Quail. Not less than fifty quail if the permittee is also authorized to liberate and hunt pheasants, or one hundred quail if the permittee is not authorized to liberate and hunt pheasants.
- (3) Chukar Partridge. Not less than fifty chukar partridge if the permittee is authorized to liberate and hunt pheasants, or one hundred chukar partridge if the permittee is not authorized to liberate and hunt pheasants.
- (4) Ducks. Not less than fifty ducks shall be liberated for pass shooting if the permittee is also authorized to liberate and hunt pheasants or one hundred ducks if the permittee is not authorized to liberate or hunt pheasants. The shooting of ducks is restricted to pass shooting while the birds are in flight.

(e) Liberations authorized and require under the permit are not restricted to the time frame of the permit and may be made at any time during the calendar year.

26-48-6. Sunday Hunting

Sunday shall be included as a day when hunting is permitted only if the permittee has obtained permission to hunt on Sunday on the area in conformance with 26-73 of the general statutes. Any permittee who obtains permission to hunt on Sunday shall file with the department a true copy of such permission. When permission to hunt on Sunday has been revoked, the permittee shall inform the department of this fact within forty-eight hours.

26-48-7. Identification and records of game shot

(a) (1) All pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks shot on the property included in the permit and recovered shall be securely tagged with a sealed, numbered tag supplied by the department at a cost of ten cents per tag.

(2) A separate record shall be kept of all birds killed and recovered that are dressed and frozen and held on property.

(b) The permittee shall keep accurate, written daily records that shall be open to inspection by any duly authorized representative of the Department at any time. These records shall include (1) the name of each person hunting on the area; the day person was hunting and the amount of game, pheasant, quail, chukar partridge and ducks taken each day. (2) The number of all pheasant, quail, chukar partridge and ducks liberated on the area included in the permit, together with the dates when such birds were liberated. Not later than thirty days following the period for which the permit was issued, the permittee shall submit to the department a true copy of his records on forms provided by the department.

26-48-8. Condition of game

All pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks liberated on the area shall be healthy and free from disease, full winged and capable of maintaining reasonable flight according to age, in a condition suitable for release, capable of maintaining themselves in the wild and, with the exception of Cortunix quail, shall not be less than twelve weeks of age.

26-48-9. Renewal of permits

Permission to operate a regulated private shooting preserve is renewable annually at the option of the Department and such application shall be made on forms provided by the Department for this purpose.

26-48-10. Revocation of permits

Permits to operate are subject to revocation at any time for a violation of any provision of chapter 490 of the General Statutes, or for a violation of any regulation made by the Department pertaining to regulated private shooting preserve.

26-48-11. Liberation of legally propagated game birds.

Upon written request for the permittee, the Department may grant permission authorizing the liberation and subsequent shooting of legally propagated game birds, in addition to pheasants, quail, chukar partridge and/or ducks, on the area and during the period covered by the permit in effect at the time of such application. The required liberations and the numbers of birds authorized to be shot will be determined by the Department for each specific request. All birds liberated and shot under such authorization shall be subject to Sections 26-48-5, 26-48-7(a)(1), (2), 26-48-7(b) and 26-48-8.