

# The International Manufacture, Trade and Use of Body-Worn Electric Shock Equipment

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## Introduction



Body-worn electric shock equipment, often referred to as **stun cuffs, stun sleeves or stun belts**, are designed to deliver an electric shock to the wearer when activated by remote control.

They are used to enforce compliance through the fear of pain, or, if activated, to enforce compliance through pain.

They are advertised for use in courtroom settings, for prisoner transfers, and on work details.

## Concerns

*The use of body-worn electric shock equipment breaches international and regional standards in several ways:*

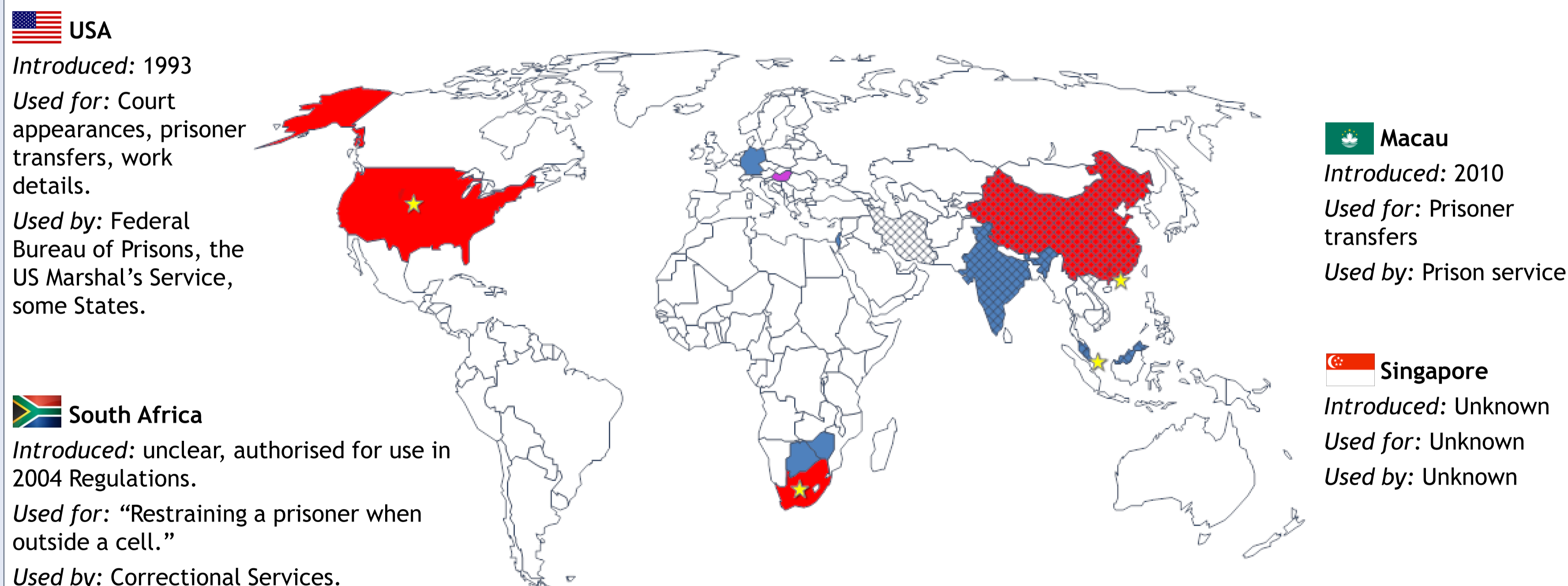
- By the mental suffering inflicted.
- By its humiliating and degrading effects.
- By impairing the subject's mental capacity.
- By using, or threatening, excessive force.

**Other concerns include:**

- Their interference with legal proceedings.
- Accidental discharge.
- Limited knowledge about their true effects.

In addition, concerns surrounding the use of these devices are not well known and as such, agencies or individual officers, may be using them without fully understanding the implications.

## Map of Manufacture, Trade and Use



## International Condemnation

**"They can only be intended to be afflictive and degrading, or to have that effect."**

Nigel Rodley, former UN Special Rapporteur on Torture

**"[They] should be abolish(ed)...as methods of restraining those in custody."**

UN Committee Against Torture

**"[They have] no practical use other than for torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment."**

European Commission, under Council Regulation 1236/2005

## Recommendations

- All States to take effective legislative, administrative, judicial or other measures to **prevent** the manufacture, trade, and use of body worn electric shock devices.
- All stockpiles of body worn electric shock equipment held by manufacturing and supplier companies to be **withdrawn** from sale and **destroyed** at the earliest possible convenience.
- Where body worn electric shock devices have been acquired, they should be immediately **withdrawn** from circulation and **destroyed** at the earliest possible convenience.
- Supportive States to **make public statements against** the manufacture, trade and use of body worn electric shock devices in an attempt to encourage others to follow suit.

**Key:**  
Red indicates States with known manufacturers of body-worn electric shock equipment - USA, South Africa, China  
Blue indicates States with known suppliers of body-worn electric shock equipment - Germany, Botswana, Zimbabwe, India, Israel, Malaysia  
Purple indicates States which have acquired body-worn electric shock equipment and then withdrawn it from use - Hungary  
Yellow stars indicate States which are known to authorise the use of body-worn electric shock equipment - USA, South Africa, Macau, Singapore  
Hatching indicates States in which body-worn electric shock equipment has been marketed/demonstrated - China, Vietnam, India, Malaysia, Iran