

2.1 BODY-WORN ELECTRIC SHOCK DEVICES

<p>Key Technical Features</p>	<p>These devices are worn on the body (e.g. as a belt, sleeve, cuff, or vest).</p> <p>The electric shock is delivered by a third-party activating device by remote control.</p> <p>The remote control range, voltage, and length of shock can vary between models.</p>
<p>Human Rights Concerns</p>	<p>The electric shock causes severe pain and causes muscles to contract involuntarily, rendering the target individual immobile. Other physical effects can include muscular weakness, involuntary urination and defecation (when device is worn around the waist), heartbeat irregularities, seizures, and welts on the skin.</p> <p>The person holding the remote control can easily abuse the target individual through delivering multiple or continuous shocks. These devices can also be activated accidentally.</p> <p>Wearing the device with the continuous threat of receiving a painful electric shock can cause profound mental suffering to the target individual.</p> <p>Body-worn electric shock weapons are inherently degrading and fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
<p>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</p>	<p>CPT: electric shock belts are “inherently degrading for the person to whom it is applied, and the scope for misuse is particularly high.”⁷⁴</p> <p>CAT: electric shock stun belts should be abolished as a method of restraining those in custody.⁷⁵</p> <p>UNODC and OHCHR: “there is no tactical utility [in electric shock belts] ... that cannot be achieved with another device, and the risk of arbitrary force amounting to torture or other forms of ill-treatment is too great. As such, their use is not advised.”⁷⁶</p>
<p>Examples of Existing Controls</p>	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation prohibits the trade in this equipment.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
<p>Proposed Control</p>	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁷⁴ CoE: CPT, *CPT Standards*, “Substantive” sections of the CPT’s General Reports, January 2015, para. 74.

⁷⁵ UN CAT, *Conclusions and Recommendations of the CAT: United States of America*, 15 May 2000, p.32.

⁷⁶ UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94.



◀ **Stun sleeve**



◀ **Stun cuff**



◀ **Stun belt**

2.2 ELECTRIC SHOCK BATONS (STUN BATONS)

<p>Key Technical Features</p>	<p>Electric shock batons deliver an electric shock through direct contact between the electrodes and the target individual.</p> <p>Designs vary; the batons can be straight, extendable, or telescopic. Some models have strips or spirals of metal along length of the baton to conduct electricity, others have two to four electrodes on the tip.</p> <p>In some models, the electrodes are hidden under a removable cover or incorporated into a flashlight (stun torch).</p> <p>Voltage varies between models, as does the duration of the shock delivered.</p> <p>Some electric shock batons can also spray chemical irritants.</p>
<p>Human Rights Concerns</p>	<p>Due to their design and purpose, direct contact electric shock weapons carry an unacceptable risk of arbitrary force.</p> <p>These weapons are inherently abusive equipment that facilitate torture, including through application of multiple or continuous electric shocks, as well as electric shocks to vulnerable areas of the body such as the head, neck, and genitals.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
<p>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</p>	<p>UNODC and OHCHR: "there is no tactical utility [in electric shock batons] ... that cannot be achieved with another device, and the risk of arbitrary force amounting to torture or other forms of ill-treatment is too great. As such, their use is not advised."⁷⁷</p> <p>CPT: has "strong reservations" about the use of electric shock equipment that is in direct contact with the skin, highlighting that law enforcement officials should have other techniques available to them when they are with touching distance of the person who must be brought under control.⁷⁸</p>
<p>Examples of Existing Controls</p>	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this equipment and allows Member States to prohibit the trade.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
<p>Proposed Control</p>	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁷⁷ UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94

⁷⁸ CPT, *20th General Report*, CPT/Inf (2010)28, 26, October 2010, para. 78.



▲ Electric shock baton with metal spiral electrode



▲ Telescopic / extendable electric shock baton with metal strip electrode



◀ Electric shock baton with two electrodes

2.3 ELECTRIC SHOCK GUNS (STUN GUNS)

<p>Key Technical Features</p>	<p>Electric shock guns deliver the electric shock through direct contact between electrodes and the target individual.</p> <p>They are either straight or curved. Designs vary, although most have two or four electrodes on the tip.</p> <p>Voltage varies between models, as does the length of the shock delivered.</p> <p>Some electric shock guns feature electrodes hidden under a removable cover or that are incorporated into a flashlight (stun torch).</p> <p>Some models can also spray chemical irritants.</p>
<p>Human Rights Concerns</p>	<p>Due to their design and purpose, direct contact electric shock weapons carry an unacceptable risk of arbitrary force.</p> <p>These weapons are inherently abusive equipment that facilitates torture and other ill-treatment, including through application of multiple or continuous electric shocks, as well as electric shocks to vulnerable areas of the body such as the head, neck, and genitals.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
<p>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</p>	<p>UNODC and OHCHR: "there is no tactical utility [in electric shock guns] ... that cannot be achieved with another device, and the risk of arbitrary force amounting to torture or other forms of ill-treatment is too great. As such, their use is not advised."⁷⁹</p> <p>CPT: has "strong reservations" about the use of electric shock equipment that is in direct contact with the skin, highlighting that law enforcement officials should have other techniques available to them when they are with touching distance of the person who must be brought under control.⁸⁰</p>
<p>Examples of Existing Controls</p>	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this equipment and allows Member States to prohibit the trade.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
<p>Proposed Control</p>	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁷⁹ UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94

⁸⁰ CoE: CPT, *CPT Standards, "Substantive" sections of the CPT's General Reports*, January 2015, para. 78.



◀ **Curved stun gun with four electrodes**



◀ **Straight stun guns with electrodes**

2.4 ELECTRIC SHOCK SHIELDS (STUN SHIELDS)

<p>Key Technical Features</p>	<p>Shield design varies, and can be round, rectangular, or square.</p> <p>Convex or flat models are most often used for policing public gatherings.</p> <p>Concave rectangular models are most often used in places of detention for cell extractions.</p> <p>Electric current runs along one or more conductive strips attached to the face of the shield. Some models feature visible shock sparks, warning alert tones, or sirens. Voltage outputs vary between models (current models range from 6,000 – 5,000,000v.) as does the length of shock delivered.</p> <p>Some models can also spray chemical irritants, have a bright flashlight, or have metal spikes.</p>
<p>Human Rights Concerns</p>	<p>Due to their and design and purpose, direct contact electric shock weapons carry an unacceptable risk of arbitrary force.</p> <p>Electric shock shields are inherently abusive equipment that facilitate torture and other ill-treatment, including through application of multiple or continuous electric shocks.</p> <p>Their use fulfils no legitimate law enforcement purpose that cannot be achieved through less harmful means.</p>
<p>Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies</p>	<p>UNODC and OHCHR: "there is no tactical utility [in electric shock shields] ... that cannot be achieved with another device, and the risk of arbitrary force amounting to torture or other forms of ill-treatment is too great. As such, their use is not advised."⁸¹</p> <p>CPT: "strong reservations" about the use of electric shock equipment that is in direct contact with the skin, highlighting that law enforcement officials should have other techniques available to them when they are with touching distance of person who must be brought under control.⁸²</p>
<p>Examples of Existing Controls</p>	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this equipment and allows Member States to prohibit the trade.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
<p>Proposed Control</p>	<p>Manufacture should be prohibited.</p> <p>Transfer should be prohibited.</p> <p>Use should be prohibited.</p>

⁸¹ UNODC and OHCHR, *Resource book on the use of force and firearms in law enforcement*, 2017, p. 94

⁸² CPT, *20th General Report*, October 2010, para. 78.



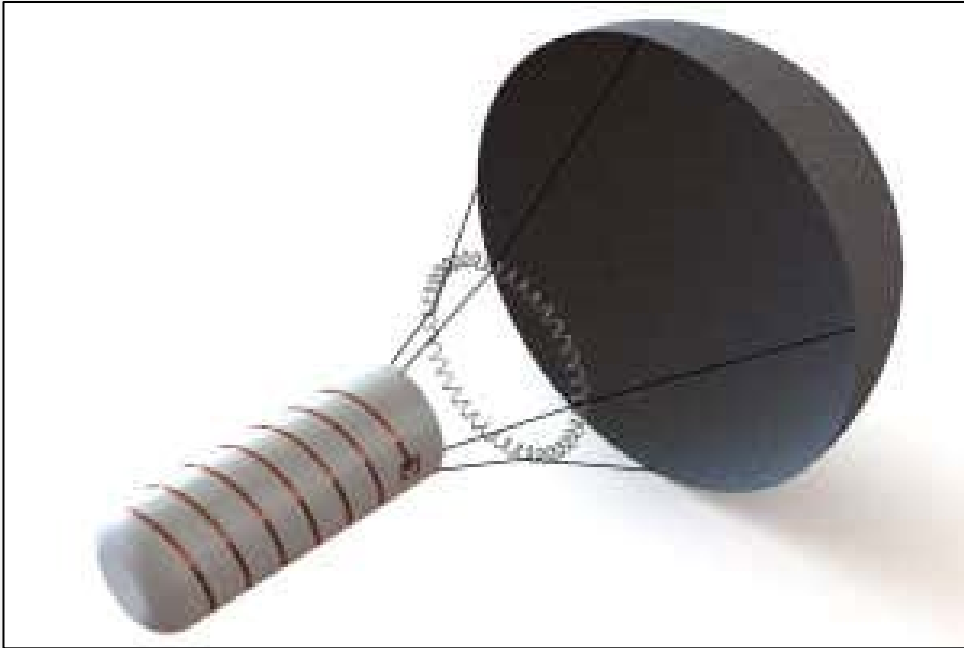
◀ **Concave electric shock shield with metal electrode strips**



◀ **Round electric shock shield with metal spikes and electrode strips**

2.5 WIRELESS PROJECTILE ELECTRIC SHOCK WEAPONS

Key Technical Features	<p>Specially designed launchers (including types of shotguns and pistols) that fire projectile stun or kinetic impact cartridges, which can also be called “electric bullets”.</p> <p>Some models of launcher can fire a range of projectiles, including chemical irritants or kinetic impact projectiles.</p> <p>The range of the projectiles, voltage output, and duration of shock varies between models.</p>
Human Rights Concerns	<p>Some models may facilitate torture and other ill-treatment, including through application of long duration or continuous electric shocks.</p> <p>Once the projectile has left the weapon, the operator has no control over the shocks being delivered.</p> <p>These projectiles are inaccurate and are affected by weather conditions, which increases the risk of head or upper body injury from the kinetic energy impact.</p> <p>There is a lack of research on wireless projectiles, but some studies on wired projectiles have found a risk of cardiac, respiratory, and brain injuries and complications, including a number of cases where death has occurred subsequent to the use of the weapon.</p>
Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies	<p>These projectiles are not widely used and to the best of Omega’s knowledge, there are no statements or standards from human rights bodies on this specific type of equipment.</p>
Examples of Existing Controls	<p>The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this equipment and allows Member States to prohibit trade.</p> <p>The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.</p>
Proposed Control	<p>Independent and transparent medical and human rights compliance testing is required before any decision to manufacture, purchase, or use this type of equipment.</p>



▲ **Wireless projectile**

2.6 PROJECTILE ELECTRIC SHOCK WEAPONS

Key Technical Features

Small, usually pistol-shaped. These weapons fit one or more cartridges, which usually contain 2 darts (or probes) attached to thin wires. When fired from the cartridge, the probes deliver an electric shock to the target, remaining attached to the weapon by the wires.

These weapons deliver a high-voltage shock that causes the target individual to lose muscle control (neuro-muscular incapacitation).

Range, voltage, and duration varies between models. Some weapons can be used in direct contact mode (called 'drive stun' or 'touch stun'), where they touch the skin.

Human Rights Concerns

The use of these weapons causes severe pain as well as incapacitation and loss of body posture, which can result in secondary injuries through falls. Studies have also found a risk of cardiac, respiratory, and brain injuries and complications, including a number of cases where death has occurred subsequent to the use of the weapon.

These weapons are open to misuse through sustained or multiple shocks, or through shocks on vulnerable areas of the body.

The direct contact mode has no legitimate law enforcement use.

Statements and Standards from Human Rights Bodies

CAT: "electrical discharge weapons should be used exclusively in extreme and limited situations – where there is a real and immediate threat to life or risk of serious injury".⁸³ They also assert that the use of the weapons in drive stun mode should be prohibited.⁸⁴

CPT: "the use of [electric discharge weapons] should be limited to situations where there is a real and immediate threat to life or risk of serious injury. Recourse to such weapons for the sole purpose of securing compliance with an order is inadmissible."⁸⁵

Examples of Existing Controls

The EU Anti-Torture Regulation controls the export of this equipment and allows Member States to prohibit the trade.

The US CCL controls the export of this equipment.

Proposed Control

Manufacture should be controlled.

Trade and transfer should be controlled.

Use should conform with international human rights standards.

⁸³ UN CAT, *Concluding observations on the fifth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, 2013, CAT/C/75/GBR/CO/5, para. 26.

⁸⁴ UN CAT, *Concluding observations on the sixth periodic report of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland*, 2019, CAT/C/GBR/CO/6, paras. 28 and 29.

⁸⁵ CoE: CPT, 'Electrical Discharge Weapons', *Extract from the 20th General Report of the CPT*, 2010, CPT/Inf(2010)28-part, para. 70.



▲ Projectile stun gun with cartridges of different ranges



▲ Dart from a projectile stun gun



▲ Projectile stun gun and cartridges