

M249
Machine
Gun...

STRAIGHT TALK ON STRAIGHT GAGING



Dear Half-Mast,

I have always dropped a 5.56mm straightness gage through all my M249 machine gun barrels to check that they're OK. But I don't see anything in the M249 TM about doing this. Should I be doing this check?

SPC D.R.

Dear Specialist D.R.,

No, you don't need to do a check with the straightness gage. That gage is to be used only for the M16 rifle and M4 carbine. Because of the differences in rates of fire between the M249 and the M16/M4, there are different barrel wear patterns. As a result, the gage might not pass through an M249 barrel that's still OK for firing. The only gaging required for the M249 is for breech bore erosion, trigger pull, headspace and firing pin protrusion.

If you have questions about this, contact Matt Williams at DSN 793-1918, (309) 782-1918, or email:

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Or, contact Andre Pilgrim at DSN 793-7458, (309) 782-7458, or email:

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Half-Mast