



RUGER PEPPER SPRAY PRODUCTS

S T A T E L A W S O N P E P P E R S P R A Y

Laws regulating pepper spray are subject to change without notice. Ruger does not actively monitor the status of such laws and makes no representations or warranties regarding the accuracy or completeness of the information contained below. This information is provided as a service to Ruger customers and for guidance only; before purchasing any Ruger branded pepper spray product, you should check with your local police or other authority to determine whether you may legally possess pepper spray products in your state and locale.

ALABAMA: Section 13A-7-27 involves the criminal use of a noxious substance. There does not appear to be any specific statute describing the use of Mace Pepper Sprays or other Pepper Spray regarding self defense.

ALASKA: Legal with restrictions. Section 11.81.900(a)(18) defines “defensive weapon” as “...a device to dispense Mace or a similar chemical agent, that is not designed to cause death or serious physical injury”. Section 11.61.210(a)(6) prohibits the sale of a defensive weapon to a person under the age of 18 years of age. Such defensive weapons cannot be possessed in a school without permission of certain school authorities, unless the person is 21 years of age or older.

ARIZONA: Legal. Section 12.3101.7 excludes from the definition of “prohibited weapon” “...any propellant (or) propellant actuated devices... which are manufactured, imported or distributed for their intended purposes...” There is nothing that appears to regulate or prohibit the lawful use of Mace Pepper Spray or other Pepper Sprays of any kind.

ARKANSAS: Legal with restrictions. Section 5-73-124 makes the possession of tear gas or pepper spray illegal. However, it is legal to possess” a small container of Mace or Pepper Spray to be used for self defense purposes only, but the capacity of the cartridge or container shall not exceed one hundred cubic centimeters (150cc)”. Although it hardly seems necessary, there is also a specific prohibition against using and spraying against a law enforcement officer. There is nothing, therefore, that appears to prohibit the lawful use of self defense sprays as the size limitation is much larger than Mace or other brands of Pepper Sprays.

CALIFORNIA: Legal with restrictions. Subject to certain restrictions, Section 12403.7 of the Penal Code provides: “...any person may purchase, possess, or use tear gas or tear gas weapons for the projection or release of tear gas if the tear gas and tear gas weapons are used solely for self defense purposes...” The definition of tear gas also includes Mace and other Pepper Sprays. The restrictions include a prohibition against selling such a unit to a minor, and a provision limiting the size to 2.5 ounces by weight. The misuse of tear gas in California comes with state penalties of up to a \$1000.00 fine and/or up to three years in prison, not to mention a possible felony conviction on record. To be legally purchased, possessed or used in California, any canister must have a label that says “Warning: The use of this substance or device for any purpose other than self defense is a crime under the law. The contents are dangerous--use with care.” The maximum legal net weight of a canister is 2.5 ounces, or 70 grams of OC, CS, or CN. CR is not legal for civilian use.



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DELAWARE: Legal with restrictions. Title 11, Section 222(7) defines “disabling chemical spray” as including self-defense sprays. However, the only prohibition concerning Mace or other Pepper Sprays appear to be restricting their possession by minors and increasing the penalty for criminal use of the sprays.

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA: Legal with restrictions. Mace and other Pepper Sprays are lawful if used or possessed by a person 18 or over “in the exercise of reasonable force in defense of the person or the person’s property only if it is propelled from an aerosol container, labeled with or accompanied by clearly written instructions as to its use, and dated to indicate its anticipated useful life”. Section 6-2322 et seq. When purchasing such a spray, the buyer must complete a standard registration form and the vendor must forward the form to the Metropolitan Police Department. Section 6-2324. This would preclude any out of state purchase.

HAWAII: Legal with restrictions. Only OC products are legal for use by or sale to persons 18 and over. There is a 1/2-ounce size restriction and there are licensing requirements.

ILLINOIS: Legal with restrictions. The use of a product “...containing a non-lethal noxious liquid gas or substance designed solely for personal defense carried by a person 18 years of age or older” is authorized by Section 720 ILCS5/24-1.

MASSACHUSETTS: Legal with restrictions. Massachusetts defines ammunition as including “tear gas cartridges, chemical mace, or any other device or instrument which contains or emits a liquid gas, powder or other substance designed to incapacitate”. To sell or possess “ammunition” a license is required. Therefore, the unlicensed sale, or the unlicensed use of self-defense sprays is illegal in Massachusetts. Massachusetts’s residents may only purchase defensive sprays from licensed Firearms Dealers in that state. Massachusetts General Laws, Chapter 140, Section 121, et seq. The licensing authority is the local chief of police or other persons authorized by the locality.

MICHIGAN: Legal with restrictions. Michigan law allows no more than 10% OC. There is a prohibition on sales to minors. Section 750.224d.

NEVADA: Legal with restrictions. Nevada law prohibits possession of tear gas weapons, except for CS by adults (no minors or felons) with no more than 2 fluid ounces in the form of an aerosol spray “which is designed and intended for use as an instrument of self defense”.

NEW JERSEY: Legal with restrictions. Any non-felon 18 or over may possess for the purpose of self defense, “one pocket-sized device which contains and releases not more than three-quarters of an ounce of chemical substance not ordinarily capable of lethal use or of inflicting serious bodily injury, but rather is intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or disability through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air”. Section 2C:396i.



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NEW YORK: Legal with restrictions. The possession of “self defense sprays” by persons who are not felons or who have been convicted of an assault, 18 or over for the protection of person or property and its otherwise lawful use is legal. “Self defense spray” is defined as “a pocket sized spray device which contains and releases a chemical or organic substance which is intended to produce temporary physical discomfort or disability through being vaporized or otherwise dispensed in the air or any like device containing tear gas, pepper spray or similar disabling agent”. There are certain labeling requirements. Sales require both a seller’s license and the completion by a purchaser of a registration form. New York residents may only purchase defense sprays from licensed Firearms Dealers or licensed Pharmacists in that state. No more than two sprays may be sold at any one time to a single purchaser. Section 265.25(14) and (15).

NORTH CAROLINA: Legal with restrictions. Possession and use of self-defense sprays is lawful for non-felons so long as the device does not exceed 150 cubic centimeters (150cc). Section 14-401.6.

RHODE ISLAND: Legal with restrictions. “Any person eighteen year of age or over may carry on his or her person and use, unless otherwise prohibited by law, any non-lethal noxious substance or liquid for his protection or the protection of others”. Section 11-47-57.

SOUTH CAROLINA: Legal with restrictions. It is lawful to possess a container not exceeding fifty cubic centimeters (50cc) containing tear gas “for self defense purposes only”. Section 16-23-470.

WASHINGTON STATE: Legal with restrictions. Section 9.91.160 explicitly authorizes the sale and use of “personal protection spray devices” such as Mace or Pepper Gas”. There is an age restriction to persons age 18 and older, or 14 with a parent or guardians permission.

WISCONSIN: Legal with restrictions. Tear gas, UV Dye or combination sprays are not permissible. A “device or container that contains a combination of oleoresin of capsicum and inert ingredients” is permissible. By regulation, OC products with a maximum OC concentration of 10% and weight range of oleoresin of capsicum and inert ingredients of 15-60 grams are authorized. Furthermore, the product cannot be camouflaged, and must have a safety feature designed to prevent accidental discharge. In addition, there are certain labeling requirements. Wisconsin Statutes Section 941.26 and Justice Regulations 14.01 et seq. All other states are legal. Please always check your particular states laws on Pepper Spray or Mace Spray.