



Ingots to Target

Casting Bullets

Bullet Casting

- Thank you to Carl Lantz
- Great time at his place cast lead bullets.

From Ingot to Target: A Cast Bullet Guide for Handgunners

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Foreword by John Taffin



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Inspecting Cast Bullets

Common causes for defects



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Sizing cast bullets made easy and cheaper

\$30-60



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Pan Lubing Cast Bullets



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Bullet Lube for Black and Smokeless Powder



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Nitrocellulose/Antimony vs China

There was a recent decision by China to halt the export of two critical components —*nitrocellulose and antimony*. These materials are indispensable in the production of propellant powder and primers, and their restriction threatens to create significant supply chain disruptions. In August 2024, China announced that it would discontinue the export of these materials to the United States. Now, the defense and ammunition sectors are bracing for the impact of these new restrictions.

Antimony is a crucial material for the U.S. defense sector, particularly for hardening lead bullets and creating other munitions. The closure of domestic antimony mines in the early 2000s has left the U.S. entirely dependent on foreign sources, with China being the most significant supplier. Recent efforts, such as the proposed reopening of the Stibnite Gold Mine in Idaho, are intended to reduce reliance on Chinese imports. However, these projects will take years to come online, meaning the U.S. remains vulnerable to supply chain disruptions in the short term.

Nitrocellulose, another critical component in ammunition manufacturing, has also become a point of geopolitical tension. Nitrocellulose is used in propellant powder and is necessary for both firearms and artillery.

As China's export restrictions take effect, U.S. ammunition manufacturers are already struggling to keep up with demand. As a result, civilian ammunition consumers are likely to experience increased shortages and higher prices.

It has come to my attention that Alliant Powders has recently suspended shipments of its smokeless powders for reloading. Alliant is the source of such old standards as Bullseye, Unique, and 2400, as well as the more modern Reloader series of powders.

Alliant is owned by Vista Outdoor, which also owns several other companies that produce loaded ammunition, including CCI, Federal, and Remington. Because the ammunition manufacturers under the Vista umbrella are stressed in obtaining the propellants they need for their production, Vista appears to have made the business decision to commit all of the Alliant propellant capacity to Vista ammunition manufacturers. **Thus, Alliant withdrew from shipment and sold propellants for reloading.**

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