

Reduce Burden

Eliminating administrative requirements that impose costs on law-abiding individuals and businesses.

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[**1140-AA63 Fingerprint and Photograph Requirements for Firearms Applications**](#)

ATF is proposing to modernize the firearms application process by providing applicants with greater flexibility while reducing unnecessary administrative requirements. Under the proposal, individuals and responsible persons applying under either the Gun Control Act or the National Firearms Act would have the option of submitting a clear copy of a valid government-issued photo identification document instead of the currently required 2" x 2" passport-style photograph. Additionally, for National Firearms Act applications, fingerprint submissions would only be required when expressly mandated by the statute or when the Director determines they are necessary to assess whether the proposed making or transfer of a firearm would violate federal law. These changes are intended to streamline the application process while preserving ATF's ability to conduct appropriate background and legal reviews.

1140-AA80 Registering NFA Firearms That Fall Out of Government Contract

ATF is proposing to clarify longstanding regulatory confusion regarding Special Occupational Tax (SOT) exemptions and other relief available to federal firearms licensees performing work for the U.S. Government under the National Firearms Act. The proposed rule would expressly state that FFLs conducting NFA business exclusively with, or on behalf of, the U.S. Government may qualify for an SOT exemption and clarify the Director's authority to grant additional regulatory relief to manufacturers producing NFA firearms for government contracts. It would also formally codify existing registration relief for qualifying manufacturers, establish a request process to verify eligibility, and create a new mechanism allowing manufacturers whose firearms are no longer covered by a government contract 15 days to mark and register those firearms, rather than requiring their destruction or export. These changes are intended to improve regulatory clarity, reduce compliance uncertainty, and provide a practical process for industry while maintaining ATF oversight.

1140-AA89: Interstate Transport and Temporary Export of National Firearms Act - NPRM

ATF is proposing to update the administrative process for transporting lawfully registered National Firearms Act (NFA) firearms within the United States. Under the proposal, individuals transporting NFA firearms for short-term purposes (365 days or fewer) would no longer be required to submit advance notice to ATF or await approval before departing. Individuals transporting NFA firearms for long-term purposes (more than 365 days) or permanent relocation would still submit

notice but would not need to await ATF approval before transporting. This change to ATF Form 5320.20 (Form 20), per 27 CFR § 478.28, is intended to remove an unnecessary regulatory burden on law-abiding NFA firearm owners without affecting applicable federal, state, or local legal requirements.

1140-AB00: Joint Registration for Spouses Under the National Firearms Act - NPRM

ATF is proposing to allow married couples to file a joint application as makers and/or transferees of NFA-regulated firearms. Under current regulations, spouses who wish to jointly possess an NFA firearm typically establish a legal trust to do so, a process that involves legal expense and administrative complexity. This proposal would allow both spouses to be registered jointly as possessors without creating a trust. Under a joint registration, the transfer of a firearm between spouses would not constitute a separate NFA transfer, reducing both administrative burden and cost for law-abiding NFA firearm owners.

1140-AA65: Removing CLEO Notification Under the National Firearms Act - NPRM

ATF is proposing to remove the requirement for an applicant to forward to the Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) of his or her locality a copy of their National Firearms Act (NFA) application to make or transfer a firearm as well as a copy of the Responsible Person Questionnaire (ATF Form 5320.23) required to be completed. The requirement to forward these documents to CLEOs has faced sustained legal challenges and has not achieved its intended public safety outcomes.

1140-AA73: Clarifying Interstate Transportation of Firearms Under the Gun Control Act - NPRM

ATF is proposing to clarify regulations that govern the interstate transportation of firearms by lawful owners. The proposed rule formally recognizes that common, reasonably necessary activities during travel –including overnight stops, vehicle maintenance, refueling, emergency stops, and medical treatments –are considered as a necessary part of “transport,” and are therefore covered under the Firearms Owners’ Protection Act’s interstate transport protections. The proposed rule also updates requirements for transporting ammunition and firearm accessories and clarifies requirements for securing firearms during transit.

1140-AA75: Transferring Machine Guns Between Qualified Licensees - NPRM

ATF is proposing to simplify regulatory requirements for machine gun transfers between licensed manufacturers, importers, and dealers in two specific, limited circumstances: 1) when demonstrating firearms to government entities, and 2) when a licensee is discontinuing a business. The proposed changes update implementing regulations to more closely align with the authority provided by the Gun Control Act and ATF parameters established in a January 2023 Open Letter to prevent misuse of the dealer sales sample exception. This reduces unnecessary regulatory complexity for these narrow commercial transactions while maintaining all applicable NFA requirements and federal licensing controls.

1140-AA76: Clarifying Special (Occupational) Tax Payments Per Business Activity - NPRM

ATF is proposing to clarify that Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) who pay the Special Occupational Taxpayer (SOT) fee under the National Firearms Act (NFA) owe one SOT per business activity (manufacturing, importing, or dealing) conducted at a given location, regardless of the number of Gun Control Act (GCA) licenses the FFL holds to carry out such activity at that location. This is a regulatory clarification designed to provide licensees with a clear, consistent understanding of their NFA tax obligation.

1140-AA74: Removing Triplicate Filing Requirement for Importing Plastic Explosives - FINAL RULE

ATF is amending its regulations governing the importation of plastic explosives to remove the requirement that importers submit the required attestation in triplicate when filing a Form 6 import application. ATF's current processing procedures do not require three copies of this document, making the triplicate requirement an administrative artifact with no current operational function. This change eliminates redundant paperwork without affecting any substantive requirement governing the importation of plastic explosives.

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