



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

MAY 05 2008

Martinsburg, WV 25405

www.atf.gov

**Open Letter to Licensed and/or Registered Importers
of U.S. Munitions Import List Articles**

Procedural Guidance for ATF Form 6A, Release and Receipt of Imported Firearms
Ammunition, and Implements of War

The Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch (FEIB) would like to remind federally licensed and/or registered importers of the procedures to follow when completing ATF Form 6A, as outlined in 27 CFR 478.112 and on the instruction page of the form. FEIB continues to receive questions about this long-standing procedure, and we believe that clarification at this time may be helpful.

To obtain the release of firearm(s), ammunition or implements of war from the custody of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP), an importer must complete Section I of Form 6A, in **duplicate**, and present **one copy** to CBP along with the approved import permit, ATF Form 6.

The importer must provide a complete description of the defense articles to be imported:

- a) The number and kinds of packages;
- b) The name of the manufacturer;
- c) The type of firearm;
- d) The model;
- e) The caliber, gauge, or size;
- f) The serial number, if known;
- g) For ammunition, the type (e.g. ball, incendiary, wadcutter etc.);
- h) For defense articles, the Category of the U.S. Munitions Import List in 27 CFR 447.21 to which they belong; and
- i) The quantity to be imported

The CBP official must then complete Section II of one copy of ATF Form 6A if he/she is satisfied that the shipment of firearm(s), ammunition or implements of war was authorized by ATF. At this point, the CBP official must return the import permit, ATF Form 6, to the importer and mail the ATF Form 6A, with Section II completed, directly

to ATF, Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch, 244 Needy Road, Martinsburg, WV 25405. **CBP does not return to the importer a copy of Form 6A with Section II completed.**

Within 15 days of the date of release from Customs custody, the licensed and/or registered importer must complete Section III of the **duplicate copy** of Form 6A and forward it to FEIB. If the import includes firearms for which the serial numbers were not known at the time of importation, the importer must report them in Section III. Any discrepancies or errors appearing on the copy of the Form 6A forwarded by CBP to ATF must also be reported in Section III.

The duplicate copy of Form 6A which the importer forwards to ATF is not required to have Section II completed by CBP. Also note that ATF does not have the authority to require the acceptance by CBP of faxed copies of Forms 6A. CBP's acceptance of ATF Forms 6A in any medium other than hard copy is strictly at the discretion of CBP.

Maintaining open lines of communication is vital to the successful future of ATF's partnership with the import community. The Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch staff is available to answer your questions about the above outlined procedures. You may reach us by phone at (304) 616-4550 or by fax at (304) 616-4551.



Kevin L. Boydston
Chief, Firearms & Explosives Imports Branch