



**SPECIAL MESSAGE from the Director**  
**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives**  
**WASHINGTON, DC 20226**

Dear Federal Firearms Licensee:

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is the primary agency responsible for enforcing the Federal firearms laws. Our mission is to prevent terrorism, reduce violent crime, and protect the public. With respect to firearms, ATF works to take armed, violent offenders off the streets and to ensure criminals and other prohibited persons do not possess firearms.

Licensees play a critical role in protecting America from violent firearms crime through responsible and lawful distribution of firearms and accurate recordkeeping which assists ATF in tracing guns used to commit crimes. By complying with Federal law, licensees prevented the sale of more than 870,000 firearms to prohibited persons from November 1998 through September 2005. An untold number of lives have been saved and countless crimes have been prevented by stopping such transactions from taking place.

Dedicated licensees also make significant contributions to crime prevention efforts through active support of such collaborative efforts as the National Shooting Sports Foundation (NSSF) campaign "Don't Lie for the Other Guy." We are grateful to the scores of licensees who cooperate with ATF in preventing illegal straw purchases, which helps to disrupt firearms trafficking organizations. We encourage your continued support and we thank you for reporting suspicious criminal activity and firearms thefts to ATF. Please note, to report a theft, you should call 1-888-930-9275, and to report other criminal activity, you should call 1-800-ATF-GUNS.

The 2005 edition of the Federal Firearms Regulations Reference Guide provides information designed to help you comply with all of the laws and regulations governing the manufacture, importation, and distribution of firearms and ammunition. Accordingly, it contains the relevant Federal firearms laws and regulations, some of which have changed since the 2000 edition. It also contains rulings, general information, and questions and answers to give you further guidance on the Federal firearms laws. The laws and regulations are in a different order from previous versions so that this publication will be easier to use. This new edition also contains additional points of contact to help you get in touch with ATF more easily.

Since firearms laws can change over time, please be aware that the information in this book may change after the date of publication. The ATF Web site at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov) is an excellent source for up-to-date information. As always, you are welcome to contact your local ATF field office for information or assistance.

Sincerely yours,

Carl J. Truscott  
Director