



ATF Guidebook -  
Importation & Verification of Firearms,  
Ammunition, and Implements of War





Policies and Procedures

## Policies & Procedures Overview

The following policies and procedures are required to initiate the importation of firearms, ammunition and implements of war:

### Laws & Regulations (In Brief)

- The importation of firearms, firearm frames and receivers, firearm barrels, and ammunition is subject to the provisions of **18 U.S.C., Chapter 44**, the GCA and the implementing regulations in **27 CFR, Part 478**.
  - The importation of certain firearms, including but not limited to, machineguns, silencers, certain large caliber weapons, other concealable weapons and explosive or incendiary weapons is also subject to the provisions of **26 U.S.C., Chapter 53**, the NFA and the implementing regulations in **27 CFR, Part 479**.
  - The importation defense articles to include certain firearms, firearm parts, ammunition and other defense articles on the U.S. Munitions Import List (USMIL) is also subject to the provisions of the **22 U.S.C. § 2778**, the AECA and the implementing regulations in **27 CFR, Part 447**. (see **27 CFR § 447.21** for list of articles on the USMIL)
1. In order to engage in the business of importing firearms or ammunition for resale, you must obtain a Federal Firearms License (FFL) as an importer. You may apply for a license by executing the ATF Form 7, Application for License, and forwarding it, with fingerprints, photographs and fee attached, to the address indicated on the form. You are also encouraged to check with State and local authorities to ensure you will be complying with their requirements for conducting a firearms or ammunition business within their jurisdiction.
  2. In order to engage in the business of importing articles on the USMIL, including firearms, firearm parts or ammunition (other than sporting shotguns, shotgun parts, or shotgun shells) for resale, you must also be registered with ATF as an importer of USMIL articles. You may apply for registration by executing ATF Form 4587, Application to Register as an Importer of U.S. Munitions Import List Articles, in duplicate, with an original signature on both copies, and enclosing your a check made payable to: Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, in the amount of \$250 for 1 year; \$500 for 2 years; \$700 for 3 years; \$850 for 4 years; or \$1,000 for 5 years. The Form 4587 and check should be forwarded to the address indicated on the form.
  3. In order to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in firearms coming within the purview of the NFA, you must register and pay a special (occupational) tax (SOT). NFA firearms include machineguns, destructive devices, short-barreled shotguns, short-barreled rifles, etc. You may register as an NFA SOT taxpayer by executing ATF Form 5630.7 and forwarding it with the fee attached to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, P.O. Box 371962M, Pittsburgh, PA 15250-7962. As an SOT, you are required to have an Employer Identification Number (EIN). You may apply for your EIN by executing Form SS-4 (instruction sheet attached). You are also encouraged to check with State and local authorities to ensure you will be complying with their requirements regarding NFA weapons.
  4. An approved import permit on ATF Form 6, Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War, is required to import these articles into the United States and allows the importation of the articles listed on the form. A permit is valid for one year from its approved date.

5. A Federally licensed firearms dealer, pawnbroker or manufacturer, other than a manufacturer of ammunition only (Type 06 FFL) may obtain a permit to occasionally import a firearm for the FFL's personal use, or for the personal use of a customer (the customer's name, address and purpose of importation should be shown in the item entitled 'Specific Purpose of Importation' on the Form 6 Part I), without becoming licensed and registered as an importer.
6. A Federally licensed firearms collector may obtain a permit to occasionally import curio or relic firearms for the purpose of enhancing the collector's personal firearms collection, without becoming licensed and registered as an importer. However, a licensed collector may not import surplus military curio or relic firearms or nonsporting handguns.
7. An unlicensed person may obtain a permit to import sporting ammunition (excluding armor-piercing, tracer, or incendiary ammunition) and firearm parts (other than frames, receivers, firearm barrels, or barreled actions) without engaging the services of an FFL, provided the items are for personal use and not for resale. Generally, ATF cannot issue a permit authorizing the importation of firearms barrels for nonsporting or surplus military firearms.
8. In order to engage in the business of exporting, manufacturing, or brokering items on the USMIL you must be registered with the Department of State which administers the export and manufacturing provisions of the AECA. Generally, persons holding a manufacturer's FFL (Types 06, 07, and 10) must register as a manufacturer with the Department of State unless specifically exempted by an International Traffic in Arms Regulation (ITAR). For further information, you should contact:  
Office of Defense Trade Controls PM/DDTC  
**Department of State Suite 1200 SA-I**  
2401 E Street, NW Washington, DC 20522-0112  
 (202) 663-2980  [www.pmdtc.org](http://www.pmdtc.org)
9. The Department of Commerce regulates the exportation of sporting shotguns, shotgun parts, sporting shotgun ammunition, firearm-type accessories and certain parts (e.g. sights, scopes, and mounts). For further information you should contact:  
Bureau of Industry and Security  
Export Counseling Division  
**Department of Commerce**  
19th Street & Pennsylvania Ave., NW Washington, DC 20230  
 (202) 482-4811  [www.bis.doc.gov](http://www.bis.doc.gov)

 [ATF Internet](#)

## Import Requirements for Firearms & Ammunition


It shall be unlawful for any person other than an FFL, knowingly to import, or bring into the United States, any firearms or ammunition. 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1).

However, as provided in **18 U.S.C. § 925**, the GCA generally allows the importation of sporting firearms and ammunition and certain surplus military firearms classified as curios or relics.

### Sporting Firearms and Ammunition

To qualify for importation under **18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3)**, a firearm or ammunition must not fall under the definition of firearm as defined in **26 U.S.C. § 5845(b)**, and must be of a type generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

- **Handguns** – Pistols & revolvers must meet size & safety requirements and accrue a qualifying point value specified on ATF Form 4590, Factoring Criteria for Weapons.
- **Rifles and Shotguns** –Firearms such as single shot, lever action, bolt action and certain semiautomatic long guns with generally recognized sporting features.


NOTE: ATF has determined that certain features designed for military application are indicative of non-sporting rifles and shotguns. Features which are not recognized as sporting include, but are not limited to, folding or telescoping stocks, pistol grips that protrude conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon, a bayonet or bayonet mount, a flash suppressor or threaded barrel designed to accommodate a flash suppressor, a grenade launcher and night sights. These features as well as other information concerning a particular firearm may result in ATF classifying a rifle or shotgun as non-sporting. Additional information regarding this subject is available in the  [Report and Recommendation of the ATF Working Group on the Importability of Certain Semiautomatic Rifles](#) or [The Department of Treasury Study on the Suitability of Modified Semiautomatic Assault Rifles \(4/98\)](#)

- **Ammunition** - Sporting ammunition is all ammunition EXCEPT, tracer or incendiary rounds, ammunition for destructive devices, less than lethal (i.e., rubber projectiles) and armor piercing ammunition as defined in **18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17)** and **27 CFR § 478.11**.

### Surplus Military Firearms

- A surplus military firearm is any firearm which has ever been possessed by a regular or irregular military force. Surplus military firearms are prohibited from importation under **18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3)**; however, **§ 925(e)** authorizes licensed importers (FFL type 08 or 11) to import surplus military rifles and shotguns classified as curios or relics; and handguns classified as curios or relics which meet the sporting criteria. In order to qualify for importation the firearms must be in their original military configuration and cannot have been sporterized. Further, under the AECA, the importation of U.S.-origin surplus military firearms is generally prohibited without retransfer authorization from the Department of State. **27 CFR § 447.57**.

## ATF Form 4590 – Factoring Criteria for Weapons

 [Form 4590](#) is intended for informational use only. Copies are provided for your review to promote a better understanding of how ATF determines the importability of handguns but may not be submitted for consideration by ATF as the form is used by ATF only.

The **ATF Form 4590, Factoring Criteria for Weapons**, was implemented as a result of the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA). Following the enactment of the GCA, the Treasury Department established an advisory council known as the Firearms Evaluation Panel to provide guidance in determining an import standard, and to identify which firearms met this standard for importation into the United States. The panel focused its attention on handguns and recommended the adoption of a factoring criteria to evaluate certain types of handguns. The resulting factoring criteria for handguns is a one-page worksheet utilized by ATF's Firearms Technology Branch to calculate a numeric score that is used in determining whether a certain handgun may be legally imported into the United States.

- **Form 4590** establishes certain standards and prerequisites for imported handguns. Those qualifying benchmarks establish the minimum size and weight requirements for handguns under consideration for importation. Each submitted sample can accrue additional points based on the cumulative evaluation of its configuration, design, and enhanced safety features that further contribute to overall sporting and safety characteristics. The factoring criteria apply only to complete firearms, not actions, frames or receivers.
- Generally, domestically produced firearms are not subject to the factoring criteria as long as they remain within the United States. However, if a U.S. made handgun were exported, it would be subject to the factoring criteria before it could be imported back into the United States. An exception to this rule is provided if the person who exported the firearm is the person bringing it back into the United States. In such an instance the sporting purposes test does not apply. **18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(4)**.
- Handguns that are classified as surplus military curios or relics are also subject to the factoring criteria. Failure to obtain a sufficient numeric score on ATF Form 4590 would prohibit their importation.

 [ATF Internet](#)

## Restricted Importation

- **NFA Firearms** – Those firearms as defined in **26 U.S.C. § 5845**, which include such firearms as machineguns, machinegun receivers, silencers, short barreled rifles, short barreled shotguns, destructive devices, smoothbore pistols, and certain other firearms (including certain unserviceable weapons).
- **Surplus Military Firearms** – Those firearms which are generally not authorized for importation under **18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3)**.
- **Nonsporting Firearms** – such as handguns which do not meet the sporting purpose criteria on ATF Form 4590, any rifle or shotgun with a folding stock or folding bayonet, and shotguns having a fixed magazine with a capacity of more than 5 cartridges and certain military style semiautomatic rifles and shotguns.
- **Nonsporting Ammunition** – including armor piercing ammunition, tracer ammunition (except sporting shotgun ammunition), ammunition for destructive devices, and incendiary ammunition. (see **18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(17)(B)**).
- **Proscribed Countries** – Importation of firearms (other than sporting shotguns), ammunition (other than sporting shotgun ammunition), and munitions list articles originating in certain countries is prohibited. 📖 View List
- **Voluntary Restraining Agreement** – Certain restrictions apply to both ammunition and firearms (other than sporting shotguns) which are located or manufactured in Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgystan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Ukraine or Uzbekistan and any firearm or ammunition manufactured in the former Soviet Union located anywhere in the world. Only the following stipulated firearm models or parts for these models are importable under the present agreement. **27 CFR § 447.52**. 📖 View List

## Conditional Importation

ATF may authorize firearms, ammunition and implements of war to be imported for examination by ATF's Firearms Technology Branch to determine their import status. Items which are determined to be nonimportable generally must be forfeited to the United States government, exported under a State Department license, or destroyed under Customs supervision. **18 U.S.C. § 925(d); 26 U.S.C. § 5844.**

- Conditional importation is also allowed for articles imported for storage in a CBP Bonded Warehouse (CBW) or in a Foreign Trade Zone (FTZ).

When ATF approves a conditional importation, the ATF Form 6 is stamped "CONDITIONAL IMPORTATION PER ATTACHMENT" in red letters. The applicant will also receive a letter attachment outlining the reasons why this application was conditionally approved and providing further importation instructions.

If CBP releases the firearm(s) to you or your broker under conditional importation, it is your responsibility to forward the firearm(s) to ATF's Firearms Technology Branch. You are not required to affix the required markings of **18 U.S.C. § 923(i); 27 CFR § 478.92 and 26 U.S.C. § 5842; 27 CFR § 479.102** to conditionally imported firearms; however, if you do, ATF will consider them in its evaluation. View forms below -


- [ATF F 5330.3A \(Form 6, Part I\) - Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition, and Implements of War](#)
- [ATF F 5330.3B \(Form 6, Part II\) - Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War \(for use by members of the US Armed Forces\)](#)
- [ATF F 5330.3C \(ATF E Form 6A\) - Release and Receipt of Imported Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War](#)
- [ATF F 5330.3D \(Form 6NIA\) - Application and Permit fo Temporary Importation of Firearms and Ammunition by Nonimmigrant Aliens](#)

 [ATF Internet](#)

# Arms Export Control Act

Arms Export Control Act of 1976 – 22 U.S.C. § 2778

## The United States Munitions Import List

With respect to Section 38 of the AECA, only the permanent importation provisions are administered by ATF. Permanent and temporary export, as well as the temporary import provisions are administered by the Department of State. Importation regulations issued under this law are in 27 CFR Part 447 and are included in the  [Federal Firearms Regulations Reference Guide, ATF P 5300.4](#). See Part 447 of that publication.

The USMIL is compiled in conjunction with Department of State, Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC) and enumerates defense articles and defines defense services that may be imported into the United States under the provisions the AECA administered by ATF.

Articles on the USMIL also include items in a partially completed state (such as forgings, castings, extrusions, and machined bodies) that have reached a stage in manufacture where they have been clearly identified as defense articles. **27 CFR, § 447.22.**


Anyone engaged in the business of importing articles on the U.S. Munitions Import List for commercial purposes must register with ATF as an importer under the AECA using ATF Form 4587 and pay the prescribed fee. **27 CFR §§ 447.31 and 447.32.**

The term “firearms” is defined in **27 CFR § 447.11** as

“A weapon, and all components and parts therefore, not over .50 caliber which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive, but shall not include BB and pellet guns, and muzzle loading (black powder) firearms (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) or firearms covered by Category 1(a) established to have been manufactured in or before 1898.”

The provisions of **27 CFR § 447.2** in part, provide that all items on the USMIL which are “firearms” or “ammunition” as defined in **18 U.S.C § 921(a)** are subject to the interstate and foreign commerce controls contained in Chapter 44 of Title **18 U.S.C** and **27 CFR Part 478**. If they are “firearms” within definition set out in **26 U.S.C § 5845(a)**, they are also subject to the provisions of **27 CFR Part 479**.

## Importation of Firearm Parts and Other Munitions Import List Articles

Firearm parts (other than parts for sporting shotguns), gas masks and other articles enumerated in the USMIL, **27 CFR § 447.21**, also require an import permit  [ATF Form 6 \(part 1\)](#).



View Related Links  [PDF version of Subpart C – US Munitions Import List](#)

### Importers Registration

You may apply for registration by completing the  [ATF Form 4587](#), Application To Register as an Importer of U.S. Munitions Import List Articles, in duplicate, and enclosing your check made payable to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Importer Registration Fee Schedule	
\$250	1 year
\$500	2 years
\$700	3 years
\$850	4 years
\$1000	5 years

\* Fees subject to change by regulation.

The completed application Form 4587 and check must be mailed directly to the address indicated on the form.

**NOTE:** Once ATF has received and processed your application, one copy of the completed form will be returned to you with your registration number. You may then begin submitting ATF Forms 6 (including your registration number entered on Line 12) to the Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch for the commodities you intend to import.

 [ATF Internet](#)

## Types of Forms

The following types of forms and processes are relevant in the importation of firearms and ammunitions:

- [Applications](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6 Part I](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6A](#)
- [Forms Required for Importation](#)
- [Sample of Required Forms](#)
- [ATF Form 6 Parts I, II, 6NIA & 6A Exemptions](#)

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# Types of Forms

## Types of Forms

- [Applications](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6 Part I](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6A](#)
- [Forms Required for Importation](#)
- [Sample of Required Forms](#)
- [ATF Form 6 Exemptions](#)

### Applications

To obtain approval of submitted applications, the items to be imported must be correctly and completely identified on the ATF Form 6. In the case of new or unusual firearms, photographs and drawings of all markings should be submitted with the permit. It is strongly recommended that persons wishing to import firearms, ammunition, and defense articles first determine if the items are importable and then obtain an approved ATF Form 6 before acquiring the items abroad or attempting to bring them into the United States. Items may be conditionally imported pursuant to **18 U.S.C. § 925(d) and/or 26 U.S.C. § 5844**.

### ATF FORM 6

#### **Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War**

This is the form generally needed to import firearms, ammunition and other defense articles into the United States.

This is the form generally needed to import firearms, ammunition and other defense articles into the United States.

**NOTE:** It typically takes the Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch (FEIB) personnel four to six weeks to process a properly executed ATF Form 6 import permit application.

### Permit Application Tracking System

One tracking method employed by importers involves the use and placement of an internal control number or optional number generated by the importers on the permit applications they submit. ATF encourages the use of internal control numbers or optional numbers by importers. Importers who elect to use an internal control numbers or optional numbers (*composed of no more than 20 alpha-numeric characters*) should place these numbers at the top of their ATF Forms 6 in the space entitled **For Applicant's Optional Use**. Our database will allow us to capture these unique numbers as a key field, and allows us to search for a given application the unique number established by the importer.

# Types of Forms

## Types of Forms

### [Applications](#)


### [Processing ATF Form 6 Part I](#)

### [Processing ATF Form 6A](#)

### [Forms Required for Importation](#)

### [Sample of Required Forms](#)

### [ATF Form 6 Parts I, II, 6NIA & 6A Exemptions](#)

Processing ATF Form 6 Part I –  [View Form](#)

To assist us in the processing of your forms in a timely manner, we ask that you ensure the following:

- The form is the most current edition, is fully completed, and contains accurate and complete information. If the form is missing information or does not contain the required supporting documentation, it will be disapproved and returned to you, along with a letter stating the reason(s) for disapproval. If the information on the form is not legible, it may cause a delay in processing.
- **Item 1** contains a complete and valid 15-digit FFL number and the expiration date. The 9th digit of the FFL number indicates the year the license expires, and the 10th character indicates the month. The expiration date also appears on the face of the license.
  - **A**=Jan
  - **B**=Feb
  - **C**=Mar
  - **D**=Apr
  - **E**=May
  - **F**=June
  - **G**=Jul
  - **H**=Aug
  - **J**=Sept
  - **K**=Oct
  - **L**=Nov
  - **M**=Dec
- **Item 2** contains your business telephone number. You may also provide a business fax number. Please note "**B**" next to your business telephone number and the "**F**" next to your fax number.
- **Item 3** notes the name of the country of export. Pursuant to **27 CFR § 447.52**, ATF is prohibited from approving applications to import articles that were manufactured in, or are being exported from, a proscribed country.
- **Item 4** lists the name and address of your Customs broker, if you are using one. If you would like the Form 6 to be returned to the broker, indicate by checking the box at the bottom of this section.
- **Item 5** contains your name and address, not the name and address of the person for whom you may be importing the articles. If you use your own tracking number, please enter it in the "For Applicant's Optional Use" section of Form 6 at the top of the form.
- **Item 6** lists the foreign seller's name and address.

- **Item 7** lists the foreign shipper's name and address. If this information is identical to the information in Item 6, you may note the words "**See Item 6.**"
- **Item 8a** notes the name, address, and the country in which the firearm was manufactured. This section needs, at minimum, the full name and country of the manufacturer. Pursuant to **27 CFR § 447.52**, ATF is prohibited from approving applications to import articles that were manufactured in, or being exported from a proscribed country.
- Item **8b** notes only the following acronyms:
  - **SG**=shotgun
  - **RI**=rifle
  - **PI**=pistol
  - **RE**=revolver

Any information you can provide to further identify articles may be noted in **Item 8b**. For example, if you know the firearm is a nonsporting or an NFA firearm, you may note this information separately, directly under columns **Item 8b-d**, after you have described the articles in **Items 8a-k**. Also, if you are importing frames or receivers, indicate this in the same area. If you enter items on a separate attached sheet, put the total quantity of all articles applied for on the front of the application in **Item 8d**.

Please ensure all required information required by **Item 8** is included on attachments. Copies of invoices or catalogs may not contain sufficient information for ATF to determine if the articles are importable.

- **Items 8c-k** notes further description of the article, such as caliber/gauge, quantity, unit cost in US dollars, USMIL category, model designation, barrel and overall lengths in inches, serial number, if known, and the condition of the articles (N=new and U=used). The USMIL categories are in **27 CFR § 447.21** as outlined in our ATF Publication 5300.4.

*For example*, firearms and firearms components are **Category I** and ammunition is **Category III**.


- **Item 9a, 9b, or 9c** must be checked. Please note that **Items 9b and 9c** pertain to U.S. military defense articles designated as Significant Military Equipment (SME) by the Department of State (e.g. firearms and firearm component parts, ammunition and ammunition components, military vehicles, military aircraft) and not to goods manufactured for the commercial or civilian market. You must check **Item 9b** if the SME sought for importation contains U.S. manufactured parts or components or parts or components that were manufactured with U.S. military technical data or assistance and the SME was provided to by the U.S. government to a foreign government through a grant or Foreign Military Sales program, **and** you must attach to your application a copy of the written retransfer authorization issued to the foreign seller by the following office:

**Department of State**  
**Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfer Policy (RSAT),**  
 (202) 647-9750

- You must check **Item 9c** if the SME sought for importation contain U.S. manufactured parts or components and/or foreign manufactured parts or components that were manufactured with U.S. military technical data or assistance, and were provided to a foreign government pursuant to an export license issued by the Department of State, **and**

you must attach to your application a copy of the written retransfer authorization issued to the foreign seller by the following office:

**Department of State**  
**Directorate of Defense Trade Controls (DDTC),**  
 (202) 663-1282


- **Item 10** must ALWAYS state the specific purpose of importation, such as, without limitation, resale, gun show, personal use, on behalf of an individual, entry or removal from a CBW or FTZ, etc. Please provide the name of the special (occupational) taxpayer (SOT) and/or law enforcement/government entities ultimately demonstrating or receiving the imported articles. If you are importing on behalf of a non-licensee, include his or her name and addresses in this section.
- **Item 11.** This item pertains to the Arms Export Control Act of 1976 (AECA). If you completed the
-  [ATF F 5330.4 \(4587\)](#), Application to Register as an Importer of U.S. Munitions Import List Articles (USMIL), and paid \$250-\$1000 to become a registered importer, you must check "yes", even if the item(s) you are applying for do not fall under the AECA.
- **Item 12** notes the full 10-digit AECA number which was issued by the Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch (FEIB) when you completed Form 4587.
- **Item 13** bears your original signature.
- **Item 14** notes your title, such as Importer, CEO, or President.
- **Item 15** is the date the person in Item 13 signed the form.
- The detachable perforated strip located at the top of the triplicate Form 6 is completely removed.
- All carbon sheets are completely removed, if located inside the original Form 6 import permit application.
- Three (triplicate) copies of any supporting documentation pertaining to the application are submitted, which includes fax copies. The supporting documentation must be attached to each copy of the Form 6.
- Any separate sheets you prepare and attach to the completed Form 6, listing articles you wish to import must coincide with the format (Items 8a-k) on the face of the form. You must submit three copies of these attachment sheets, attached to each copy of the Form 6.
- Supporting documentation lists only those articles listed on the completed Form 6, and those articles are identical and distinctly identified by the manufacturer's name and address, type, caliber/gauge, model designation, and serial number(s) if known.
- ATF's four-to-six weeks processing period begins the day FEIB receives the application. Please try to wait until that period expires before contacting FEIB to inquire about the receipt or processing status of your Form 6, as it interrupts and delays the processing of your applications and those of other applicants.
- Forms 6 are processed on a first-come, first-served basis. Any Form 6 resubmitted because your initial permit has or will soon expire, will be considered a newly received Form 6. **27 CFR § 447.43** states that Form 6 import permit applications are valid for one year from their issuance date. Please ensure that your applications are submitted with sufficient lead time to avoid your current permit from expiring. Also remember that only the articles which are listed on the approved permit may be imported within the approved time period.

- Firearms returned to the United States for repair, replacement, or customizing and subsequent export should be imported with a temporary import license issued by the U.S. Department of State:

**U.S. State Department**  
**Directorate of Defense Trade Controls**

PM/DTC, Room 1304, SA-1

Washington, DC 20037

 (202) 663-1282

 [ATF Internet](#)

# Types of Forms

## Importing Activities

- [Applications](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6 Part I](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6A](#)
- [Forms Required for Importation](#)
- [Sample of Required Forms](#)
- [ATF Form 6 Exemptions](#)

Processing ATF Form 6A  [View Form](#)

**ATF F 6A**, Release and Receipt of Imported Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War is used to release firearms, firearms parts, ammunition and other defense articles to you from U.S. Customs and Border Protection officials.

As FFL importers (Types 08 or 11) and/or AECA registered importers, the information below will provide you with the procedure and process needed to ensure Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials release your imported articles to you.

- An approved ATF Form 6 permit will be returned to you along with two blank ATF Forms 6A. You must fully complete Section I of the ATF Form 6A for each incoming shipment.
- **27 CFR § 447.45(a) and 27 CFR § 448.112(c)** impose an additional requirement on all registered and FFL (Type 08 or 11) importers. In addition to the ATF Forms 6 and 6A already required to obtain the release of firearms, firearms parts, or ammunition, you must also present to CBP officials a copy of the export license authorizing the export of the articles from the country of export. If the exporting country does not require the issuance of an export license, you instead must present a certification, signed under penalties of perjury, attesting to that effect.
- CBP may conduct a physical examination of the articles to ensure the articles imported coincide with the approved Form 6 and completed Form 6A.
- CBP will complete Section II of the first Form 6A if they are satisfied that the shipment of firearms(s), ammunition or implements of war is authorized by ATF. The CBP official should return the Form 6 to you and send the first Form 6A, with Section II completed, directly to FEIB.
- Within 15 days after the articles have been released by CBP, including release from a CBW or FTZ the importer must complete the marking requirements of **27 CFR § 478.92** and/or **§ 479.102** and the record keeping requirements of **27 CFR § 478.122**.
- Within that same 15 days, 27 CFR § 478.112 provides that each importer of firearms must complete Section III of the second ATF Form 6A and forward it directly to FEIB. Your original signature must be placed in Item 19.
- Section **478.129(d)** requires licensed importers to maintain permanent records of the importation or other acquisition of firearms, including Forms 6 or 6A. To satisfy this requirement, in view of the current instructions to prepare the Form 6A in duplicate, ATF recommends that importers either retain a photocopy of the second Form 6A in their records or prepare the Form 6A in triplicate and retain the third copy in their records.





## Types of Forms

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### Forms required for Importation

- **ATF Form 6 – Part I: white, generally used by licensees and certain non-licensees**  
 [View Form](#)
  - Except as provided in 27 CFR Parts 447 and 478, importers cannot secure the release of firearms, firearm component parts, ammunition, or other USMIL defense articles from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custom without presenting an approved ATF Form 6 permit.
  - Restrictions apply to various types of firearms and ammunition; the type of importer; the country of origin; and the purpose of importation.
- **ATF Form 6 – Part II: blue, restricted to use by members of the U.S. Armed Forces on active duty outside the U.S.**  [View Form](#)
  - U.S. military personnel must have been on temporary duty (TDY) or have been on active duty outside of the U.S. within 60 days preceding the intended importation.
  - The firearm or ammunition must be suitable for sporting purposes.
  - The firearm cannot be a surplus military firearm.
  - The country of manufacture or exportation of the firearm or ammunition cannot be proscribed pursuant to **27 CFR § 478.52**.
  - The firearm or ammunition must be intended for personal use and not as a gift or resale.

**NOTE:** Military members must complete the Form 6 Part I to import implements of war, such as firearms component parts.



- **ATF Form 6A – green, this form must be completed to secure the release of articles from Customs and Border Protection (CBP) custody.**  [View Form](#)
  - Licensed and registered importers must submit only the first of two copies to CBP.
  - Non-licensed importers submit single copy to CBP.
  - CBP officials complete and sign Section II of the first copy and submit it directly to ATF without returning it to the importer.
  - Licensed and registered importers must complete Section III of second copy within 15 days of release by CBP and submit directly to ATF.
- **ATF Form 6NIA – white, form used by nonimmigrant aliens for temporary importation.**  [View Form](#)
  - Form must be submitted with a valid hunting license from any U.S. state, or an invitation/registration to compete in a qualified competitive shooting event or

exhibit firearms or ammunition at a qualified sports/hunting trade show. **27 CFR § 478.100.**

- o Permit is valid for one year from approval date. Nonimmigrant aliens may enter U.S. multiple times as long as their hunting license or permit, or invitation/registration is valid at the time of entry into to the U.S. Only the firearms, ammunition, and other articles approved on the Form 6 NIA may be imported.

Forms required for Importation of defense articles into the United States for commercial resale and distribution

Commodity	Federal Firearms License	Federal Explosives License/User's Permit	ATF Form 4587 Registration as importer under the AECA	ATF Form 5530.7 (SOT) as Importer of NFA weapons	Approved ATF Form 6 Import Permit
Implements of War (All USMIL defense articles other than firearms and ammunition)			√		√
Sporting Shotguns and Sporting Shotgun Ammunition	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL				√
All Other Firearms EXCLUDING NFA Firearms and Destructive Devices	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL		√		√
NFA Firearms EXCLUDING Destructive Devices	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL		√	√ To become a Class I Special (Occupational Taxpayer)	√
Destructive Devices	√ Type 11 FFL		√	√ To become a Class I Special (Occupational Taxpayer)	√
Barrels for Sporting Rifles and Handguns			√		√
Barrels for Sporting Shotguns					√
Barrels for Nonsporting/NFA Firearms			√		√
Dual Use (Sporting/Nonsporting) Barrels			√		√
Barrels for Surplus Military Firearms			√		√
Rifle and Handgun Ammunition other than Ammunition for Destructive Devices and	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL		√		√

Armor Piercing Ammunition					
Ammunition for Destructive Devices and Armor Piercing Ammunition	√ Type 11 FFL		√		√
Bulk Smokeless Powder	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL	√ Explosives Importers License/User's Permit	√		√
Smokeless Powder Pre-packaged in Cans	√ Type 08 or 11 FFL		√		√
Plastic Explosives		√ Explosives Importers License/User's Permit	√		√

import application process – required documentation

Types of Imported Defense Articles or Action	Initial Form 6	Second Form 6	Government Agency Purchase Order/Contract	Original Law Enforcement Letter (original signature)	Penalty of Perjury Certification (original signature REQUIRED)	Foreign Source (original signature ONLY needed for SMCR's)	Identity of Sporting Firearms to Be Manufactured	State Dept. Retransfer Authorization needed with Form 6
Sporting Firearms & Sporting Ammunition	√							
Barrels for Sporting Firearms	√							
Barrels for Nonsporting/NFA Firearms	√		√					
Dual Use (Sporting/Nonsporting) Barrels	√						√ (Model Designations)	
Barrels for Surplus Military Firearms	√		√					
Surplus Military Firearms	√		√ OR √*		√	√		
Surplus Military Curio or Relic Firearms	√				√	√ Firearm's last 5-Year History		
NFA Dealer Sales	√			√**				

Sample(Machineguns only)								
Firearms (Including Frames& Receivers), and Ammunition Into CBW/FTZ	√				√ Surplus Military Firearms	√ Surplus Military Firearm s		
Firearms (Including Frames& Receivers), and Ammunition Removed from CBW/FTZ		√	√ OR √ Surplus Military Firearms (other than Curios & Relics) or Nonsporting Firearms & Ammunition					
Nonsporting firearms, Nonsporting Ammunition, and NFA Firearms (Including Machineguns)	√		√ OR √*					
Firearm Barrels,& Rifle & Handgun Component Parts (Excluding Framesor Receivers) Into CBW/FTZ	√		The removal of firearm barrels from a CBW/FTZ for entry into the U.S. <b>DOES</b> require a second approved Form 6. However, ATF <b>DOES NOT</b> require a second Form 6 for other firearm component parts, but Customs <b>MAY</b> require a second approved Form 6.					
To be removed from CBW/FTZ		√	√ OR √**					
U.S. OriginMilitary Defense Articles	√		Depending on type of U.S. origin military defense articles being imported, additional documentation including the above categories may be required along with the retransfer authorization.					√

\* The required law enforcement demonstration requests documentation for NFA firearms must always include the specific imported firearm by type, caliber, model designation and quantity. Requests to import two or more firearms of a particular model will be approved only if the dealer/importer provides documentation showing bona fide reasons that a single firearm will be insufficient. See **27 CFR §479.105(d)**; See also **ATF Ruling 2002-5**; **ATF NFA Guidebook**.

\*\* For machineguns classified as a curio or relic, the importer must provide detailed information as to why a particular weapon is suitable for law enforcement purposes, who the expected customers would be, and information as to the availability of firearms to fill subsequent orders. **27 CFR 479.105**; See also **ATF Rulings 85-2, 2002-5**; **ATF NFA Guidebook**.






# Types of Forms



## Types of Forms

- [Applications](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6 Part I](#)
- [Processing ATF Form 6A](#)
- [Forms Required for Importation](#)
- [Sample of Required Forms](#)
- [ATF Form 6 Parts I, II, 6NIA & 6A Exemptions](#)

Samples of required forms

### Frequently encountered Forms include:

-  [Customs Form 4455](#) – Resale as a registered importer under the AECA
-  [ATF F 5330.3A \(Form 6, Part I\)](#) – Application & Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition & IOW
-  [ATF F 5330.3B \(Form 6, Part II\)](#) – Application & Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition & IOW
-  [ATF F 5330.3C \(ATF E Form 6A\)](#) – Release & Receipt of Import of Firearms, Ammunition and/or Implements of War
-  [ATF F 5330.4 \(4587\)](#) – Application to Register as an Importer of U.S. Munitions Import List Articles

Required Forms Listed Alphanumerically		
The forms designated as ATF F can be accessed from the  <a href="#">ATF website</a> . The forms designated as CF, FBI and SS can be accessed from the  <a href="#">U.S. Customs Border&amp; Protection website</a> .		
ATF F 4473 PT.I (5300.9)	CF 19	CF 3171
ATF F 4473 PT I (SV) (5300.9)	CF 26	CF 3173
ATF F 4473 PT.II (5300.9)	CF 28	CF 3229
ATF F 4590	CF 178	CF 3299
ATF F 5013.3 (eForm6 Request)	CF 214A	CF 3311
ATF F 5300.11	CF 214B	CF 3347
ATF F 5300.11a	CF 214C	CF 3347a
ATF F 5300.26	CF 216	CF 3461
ATF F 5300.27	CF 226	CF 3485
ATF F 5300.28	CF 247	CF 3495

ATF F 5300.38	CF 300	CF 3499
ATF F 5300.42	CF 301	CF 4315
ATF F 5310.12 (Form 7)	CF 339A	CF 4455
ATF F 5310.16 (Form 7CR)	CF 339C	CF 4457
ATF F 5320.1 (Form 1)	CF 339V	CF 4609
ATF F 5320.2 (Form 2)	CF 349	CF 4790
ATF F 5320.3 (Form 3)	CF 350	CF 5106
ATF F 5320.4 (Form 4)	CF 400	CF 5125
ATF F 5320.5 (Form 5)	CF 442	CF 5523
ATF F 5320.9 (Form 9)	CF 446	CF 7507
ATF F 5320.10 (Form 10)	CF 449	CF 7509
ATF F 5320.20	CF 450	CF 7512
ATF F 5330.3A (Form 6 Part I)	CF 1300	CF 7512A
ATF F 5330.3B (Form 6 Part II)	CF 1302	CF 7512B
ATF F 5330.3D (Form 6 NIA)	CF 1302A	CF 7514
ATF F 5330.4 ( 4587)	CF 1303	CF 7523
ATF F 5330.20	CF 1304	CF 7533
ATF F 5400.4	CF 1400	CF 7551
ATF F 5400.5	CF 1401	CF 7552
ATF F 5400.8	CF 3078	CF 7553
ATF F 5400.13	CF 3124	FBI FD-258
ATF F 5400.21	CF 3124E	SS-4
ATF F 5400.28		
ATF F 5400.29		

# Types of Forms

## Types of Forms

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### ATF Form 6 Parts I, II, 6NIA & 6A Exemptions

1. No approved ATF Form 6 is required to import any antique firearm, as that term is defined in the GCA and the NFA. 27 CFR 578.115(c).

**NOTE:** *you may need to supply proof to Customs to establish that a certain firearm, which is not marked as being manufactured in or before 1898 is an antique firearm as defined in Federal law.*

2. Importations by agencies of United States Government are exempt from ATF's import controls and permit requirements. 27 CFR 478.141(a)(1); 27 CFR 447.53.(a)(1).
3. The importation of components for items being manufactured under contract for the Department of Defense is exempt from the import permit and registration requirements of 27 CFR Part 447. 27 CFR 53(a)(2). See also 27 CFR 447.53(b)
4. The importation of articles (other than those which would be "firearms" as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a) (3) manufactured in foreign countries for persons in the United States pursuant to Department of State approval is exempt from the import permit and registration requirements . 27 CFR 447.52(a)(3). See also 27 CFR 447.53(b).
5. Pursuant to 27 CFR 447.41(c), an import permit is not required for the importation of –

The U.S. Munitions Import List articles from Canada, except articles enumerated in Categories I, II, III, IV, VI(e), VIII(a), and XX, and

Nuclear weapons strategic delivery systems and all specifically designed components, parts, accessories, attachments, and associated equipment thereof (see Category XXI), or

Minor components and parts for Category I(a) and I(b) firearms except barrels, cylinders, receivers (frames) or complete breech mechanisms, when the total value does not exceed \$100 wholesale in any single transaction.

6. The return of U.S. goods by the person who exported/took them out of the United States.27 CFR 478.115(a).
7. Foreign military personnel on official assignment to the U.S. who bring firearms or ammunition into the U.S. for their exclusive use while on official duty in the U.S. (excluding NFA weapons). 27 CFR 478.115(d)(2)
8. Official representatives of foreign governments who are accredited to the U.S. government or are en route to or from other accredited countries (excluding NFA weapons). 27 CFR 478.115(d)(3)

9. Officials of foreign governments and distinguished foreign visitors who have been so designated by the Department of State (excluding NFA weapons). 27 CFR 478.115(d)(4).
10. Foreign law enforcement officers of friendly foreign governments entering the U.S. on official law enforcement business (excluding NFA weapons). 27 CFR 478.115(d)(5).
11. Sporting shotgun parts other than firearm frames or receivers or barrels.
12. Air guns, pellet guns, starter guns and flare guns provided they are not firearms as defined in **18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3)** and do not have tear gas dissemination capability.
13. Firearm accessories such as gun cases, slings, and cleaning kits.

 [ATF Internet](#)