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DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO AND FIREARMS  
WASHINGTON, DC 20226

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OPEN LETTER TO ALL WASHINGTON FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEES

WASHINGTON CONCEALED WEAPONS PERMITS  
ARE NO LONGER A VALID ALTERNATIVE TO NICS CHECKS

The purpose of this letter is to advise you of your responsibilities under the permanent provisions of the Brady Law, 18 U.S.C. § 922(t).

The permanent provisions of the Brady Law took effect on November 30, 1998. The Brady Law generally requires Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) to initiate a National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) check before transferring a firearm to an unlicensed individual. However, the Brady Law contains a few exceptions to the NICS check requirement, including an exception for holders of certain State permits to possess, carry, or acquire firearms.

In a 1998 open letter, ATF advised you that concealed weapons permit issued in your State after July 1, 1996 and prior to November 30, 1998, would be "grandfathered" as Brady alternatives for the duration of the permit, not to exceed five years from the date of issuance. The letter also stated permits issued on or after November 30, 1998 would **NOT** qualify as alternatives to the NICS check.

Washington State law provides that concealed weapons permits are valid for five years. **Therefore, as of November 30, 2003, all the grandfathered permits will have expired and Washington FFLs may no longer accept a Washington concealed weapons permit as an alternative to a NICS check.** If you have any questions, please contact your local ATF office.

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