

**DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
D.C. CODE**

**Publisher's Note**

The District of Columbia Official Code 2001 Edition (West) changed the numbering from the previous 1981 edition.

**Division I. Government of District**

**Title 1. Government Organization**

**Chapter 3. Specified Governmental Authority**

**Subchapter II. Regulatory Authority**

**Part C. General**

**1-303.43. Regulations relative to firearms, explosives, and weapons** The Council of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized and empowered to make, and the Mayor of the District of Columbia is hereby authorized and empowered to enforce, all such usual and reasonable police regulations, in addition to those already made under §§ 1-303.01 to 1-303.03 as the Council may deem necessary for the regulation of firearms, projectiles, explosives, or weapons of any kind in the District of Columbia.

**Title 5. Police, Firefighters, and Chief Medical Examiner**

**Chapter 1. Metropolitan Police**

**Subchapter XVII. Miscellaneous**

**5-133.16. Transfer of ammunition feeding devices prohibited** Except as provided in § 7-2507.05, and § 22-4517, the Metropolitan Police Department shall not transfer any ammunition feeding device in its possession to any person or entity other than a law enforcement officer or governmental agency for law enforcement purposes.

**Title 7. Human Health Care and Safety**

**Subtitle J. Public Safety**

**Chapter 25. Firearms Control**

**Unit A. Firearms Control Regulations**

**Subchapter I. General Provisions**

**7-2501.01. Definitions**

As used in this unit the term:

- (1) "Acts of Congress" means:  
(A) Chapter 45 of Title 22;  
(B) Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968, as amended (Title VII, Unlawful Possession or Receipt of Firearms (82 Stat. 1236; 18 U.S.C.S. Appendix)); and  
(C) An Act to Amend Title 18, United States Code, To Provide for Better Control of the Interstate Traffic in Firearms Act of 1968 (82 Stat. 1213; 18 U.S.C.S. § 921 et seq.).  
(2) "Ammunition" means cartridge cases, shells, projectiles (including shot), primers, bullets (including restricted pistol bullets),

propellant powder, or other devices or materials designed, redesigned, or intended for use in a firearm or destructive device.

- (3) "Antique firearm" means:  
(A) Any firearm (including any firearm with a matchlock, flintlock, percussion cap, or similar type of ignition system) manufactured in or before 1898; and  
(B) Any replica of any firearm described in subparagraph (A) if such replica:  
(i) Is not designed or redesigned for using rim-fire or conventional center-fire fixed ammunition; or  
(ii) Uses rim-fire or conventional ammunition which is no longer manufactured in the United States and which is not readily available in the ordinary channels of commercial trade.

- (3A) (A) "Assault weapon" means:  
(i) The following semiautomatic firearms:  
(I) All of the following specified rifles:  
(aa) All AK series including, but not limited to, the models identified as follows:  
(1) Made in China AK, AKM, AKS, AK47, AK47S, 56, 56S, 84S, and 86S;  
(2) Norinco (all models);  
(3) Poly Technologies (all models);  
(4) MAADI AK47 and ARM; and  
(5) Mitchell (all models).  
(bb) UZI and Galil;  
(cc) Beretta AR-70;  
(dd) CETME Sporter;  
(ee) Colt AR-15 series;  
(ff) Daewook-K-1, K-2, Max 1, Max 2, AR 100, and AR110 C;  
(gg) Fabrique Nationale FAL, LAR, FNC, 308 Match, and Sporter;  
(hh) MAS 223.  
(ii) HK-91, HK-93, HK-94, and HK-PSG-1;  
(jj) The following MAC types:  
(1) RPB Industries Inc. sM10 and sM11; and  
(2) SWD Incorporated M11;  
(kk) SKS with detachable magazine;  
(ll) SIG AMT, PE-57, SG 550, and SG 551;  
(mm) Springfield Armory BM59 and SAR-48;  
(nn) Sterling MK-6;  
(oo) Steyer AUG, Steyr AUG;  
(pp) Valmet M62S, M71S, and M78S;  
(qq) Armalite AR-180;  
(rr) Bushmaster Assault Rifle;  
(ss) Calico -900;  
(tt) ENG -68; and  
(uu) Weaver Arms Nighthawk.  
(II) All of the following specified pistols:  
(aa) UZI;  
(bb) Encom MP-9 and MP-45;  
(cc) The following MAC types:  
(1) RPB Industries Inc. sM10 and sM11;  
(2) SWD Incorporated-11;  
(3) Advance Armament Inc. -11; and  
(4) Military Armament Corp. Ingram M-11;  
(dd) Intratec TEC-9 and TEC-DC9;  
(ee) Sites Spectre;  
(ff) Sterling MK-7;  
(gg) Calico M-950; and  
(hh) Bushmaster Pistol.  
(III) All of the following specified shotguns:  
(aa) Franchi SPAS 12 and LAW 12; and

(bb) Striker 12. The Streetsweeptype S/S Inc. SS/12;

(IV) A semiautomatic, rifle that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and any one of the following:

- (aa) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon;  
(bb) A thumbhole stock;

- (cc) A folding or telescoping stock;  
(dd) A grenade launcher or flare launcher;  
(ee) A flash suppressor; or  
(ff) A forward pistol grip;  
(V) A semiautomatic pistol that has the capacity to accept a detachable magazine and any one of the following:

- (aa) A threaded barrel, capable of accepting a flash suppressor, forward handgrip, or silencer;  
(bb) A second handgrip;  
(cc) A shroud that is attached to, or partially or completely encircles, the barrel that allows the bearer to fire the weapon without burning his or her hand, except a slide that encloses the barrel; or

(dd) The capacity to accept a detachable magazine at some location outside of the pistol grip;

(VI) A semiautomatic shotgun that has one or more of the following:

- (aa) A folding or telescoping stock;  
(bb) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon;  
(cc) A thumbhole stock; or  
(dd) A vertical handgrip; and

(VII) A semiautomatic shotgun that has the ability to accept a detachable magazine; and

(VIII) All other models within a series that are variations, with minor differences, of those models listed in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, regardless of the manufacturer;

(ii) Any shotgun with a revolving cylinder; provided, that this sub-subparagraph shall not apply to a weapon with an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition; and

(iii) Any firearm that the Chief may designate as an assault weapon by rule, based on a determination that the firearm would reasonably pose the same or similar danger to the health, safety, and security of the residents of the District as those weapons enumerated in this paragraph.

(B) The term "assault weapon" shall not include:

- (i) Any antique firearm; or  
(ii) Any of the following pistols, which are designed expressly for use in Olympic target shooting events, sanctioned by the International Olympic Committee and by USA Shooting, the national governing body for international shooting competition in the United States, and used for Olympic target shooting purposes:

MANUFACTURER	MODEL CALIBER
BENELLI	MP90 .22LR

BENELLI	MP90 .32 S&W LONG
BENELLI	MP95 .22LR
BENELLI	MP95 .32 S&W LONG
HAMMERLI	280 .22LR
HAMMERLI	280 .32 S&W LONG
HAMMERLI	SP20 .22LR
HAMMERLI	SP20 .32 S&W LONG
PARDINI	GPO .22 SHORT
PARDINI	GP-SCHUMANN .22 SHORT
PARDINI	HP .32 S&W LONG
PARDINI	MP .32 S&W LONG
PARDINI	SP .22LR
PARDINI	SPE .22LR
WALTHER	GSP .22LR
WALTHER	GSP .32 S&W LONG
WALTHER	OSP .22 SHORT
WALTHER	OSP-2000 .22 SHORT

(C) The Chief may exempt, by rule, new models of competitive pistols that would otherwise fall within the definition of "assault weapon" pursuant to this section from being classified as an assault weapon. The exemption of competitive pistols shall be based either on recommendations by USA Shooting consistent with the regulations contained in the USA Shooting Official Rules or on the recommendation or rules of any other organization that the Chief considers relevant.

(4) "Chief" means the Chief of Police of the Metropolitan Police Department of the District of Columbia or his designated agent.

(5) "Crime of violence" means a crime of violence as defined in § 22-4501, committed in any jurisdiction, but does not include larceny or attempted larceny.

(6) "Dealer's license" means a license to buy or sell, repair, trade, or otherwise deal in firearms, destructive devices, or ammunition as provided for in subchapter IV of this unit.

(7) "Destructive device" means:

(A) An explosive, incendiary, or poison gas bomb, grenade, rocket, missile, mine, or similar device;

(B) Any device by whatever name known which will, or is designed or redesigned, or may be readily converted or restored to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive or other propellant through a smooth bore barrel, except a shotgun;

(C) Any device containing tear gas or a chemically similar lacrimator or sternutator by whatever name known;

(D) Any device designed or redesigned, made or remade, or readily converted or restored, and intended to stun or disable a person by means of electric shock;

(E) Any combination of parts designed or intended for use in converting any device into any destructive device; or from which a destructive device may be readily assembled; provided, that the term shall not include:

(i) Any pneumatic, spring, or B-B gun which expels a single projectile not exceeding .18 inch in diameter;

(ii) Any device which is neither designed nor redesigned for use as a weapon;

(iii) Any device originally a weapon which has been redesigned for use as a signaling, line throwing, or safety device; or

(iv) Any device which the Chief finds is not likely to be used as a weapon.

(8) "District" means District of Columbia.

(8A) ".50 BMG rifle" means:

(A) A rifle capable of firing a center-fire cartridge in .50 BMG caliber, including a 12.7 mm equivalent of .50 BMG and any other metric equivalent; or

(B) A copy or duplicate of any rifle described in subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, or any other rifle developed and manufactured after January 6, 2009, regardless of caliber, if such rifle is capable of firing a projectile that attains a muzzle energy of 12,000 foot-pounds or greater in any combination of bullet, propellant, case, or primer.

(9) "Firearm" means any weapon, regardless of operability, which will, or is designed or redesigned, made or remade, readily converted, restored, or repaired, or is intended to, expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive; the frame or receiver of any such device; or any firearm muffler or silencer; provided, that such term shall not include:

(A) Antique firearms;

(B) Destructive devices;

(C) Any device used exclusively for line throwing, signaling, or safety, and required or recommended by the Coast Guard or Interstate Commerce Commission; or

(D) Any device used exclusively for firing explosive rivets, stud cartridges, or similar industrial ammunition and incapable for use as a weapon.

(9A) "Intrafamily offense" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 16-1001(8).

(10) "Machine gun" means any firearm which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term "machine gun" shall also include the frame or receiver of any such firearm, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a firearm into a machine gun, and any combination of parts from which a machine gun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.

(11) "Organization" means any partnership, company, corporation, or other business entity, or any group or association of 2 or more persons united for a common purpose.

(12) "Pistol" means any firearm originally designed to be fired by use of a single hand or with a barrel less than 12 inches in length.

(12A) "Place of business" means a business that is located in an immovable structure at a fixed location and that is operated and owned entirely, or in substantial part, by the firearm registrant.

(13) "Registration certificate" means a certificate validly issued pursuant to this unit evincing the registration of a firearm pursuant to this unit.

(13A) "Restricted pistol bullet" means any bullet designed for use in a pistol which, when fired from a pistol with a barrel of 5 inches or less in length, is capable of penetrating commercially available body armor with a penetration resistance equal to or greater than that of 18 layers of kevlar.

(14) "Rifle" means a grooved bore firearm using a fixed metallic cartridge with a single projectile and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder.

(15) "Sawed-off shotgun" means a shotgun having a barrel of less than 18 inches in length; or a firearm made from a shotgun if such firearm as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or any barrel of less than 18 inches in length.

(16) "Shotgun" means a smooth bore firearm using a fixed shotgun shell with either a number of ball shot or a single projectile, and designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder.

(17) "Short barreled rifle" means a rifle having any barrel less than 16 inches in length, or a firearm made from a rifle if such firearm as modified has an overall length of less than 26 inches or any barrel of less than 16 inches.

(18) "Weapons offense" means any violation in any jurisdiction of any law which involves the sale, purchase, transfer in any manner, receipt, acquisition, possession, having under control, use, repair, manufacture, carrying, or transportation of any firearm, ammunition, or destructive device.

## Subchapter II. Firearms and Destructive Devices

### 7-2502.01. Registration requirements

(a) Except as otherwise provided in this unit, no person or organization in the District of Columbia ("District") shall receive, possess, control, transfer, offer for sale, sell, give, or deliver any destructive device, and no person or organization in the District shall possess or control any firearm, unless the person or organization holds a valid registration certificate for the firearm. A registration certificate may be issued:

(1) To an organization if:

(A) The organization employs at least 1 commissioned special police officer or employee licensed to carry a firearm whom the organization arms during the employee's duty hours; and

(B) The registration is issued in the name of the organization and in the name of the president or chief executive officer of the organization;

(2) In the discretion of the Chief of Police, to a police officer who has retired from the Metropolitan Police Department; or

(3) In the discretion of the Chief of Police, to the Fire Marshal and any member of the Fire and Arson Investigation Unit of the Fire Prevention Bureau of the Fire Department of the District of Columbia, who is designated in writing by the Fire Chief, for the purpose of enforcing the arson and fire safety laws of the District of Columbia.

(b) Subsection (a) of this section shall not apply to:

(1) Any law enforcement officer or agent of the District or the United States, or any law enforcement officer or agent of the government of any state or subdivision thereof, or any member

of the armed forces of the United States, the National Guard or organized reserves, when such officer, agent, or member is authorized to possess such a firearm or device while on duty in the performance of official authorized functions;

(2) Any person holding a dealer's license: Provided, that the firearm or destructive device is:

(A) Acquired by such person in the normal conduct of business;

(B) Kept at the place described in the dealer's license; and

(C) Not kept for such person's private use or protection, or for the protection of his business;

(3) With respect to firearms, any nonresident of the District participating in any lawful recreational firearm-related activity in the District, or on his way to or from such activity in another jurisdiction: Provided, that such person, whenever in possession of a firearm, shall upon demand of any member of the Metropolitan Police Department, or other bona fide law enforcement officer, exhibit proof that he is on his way to or from such activity, and that his possession or control of such firearm is lawful in the jurisdiction in which he resides: Provided further, that such weapon shall be unloaded, securely wrapped, and carried in open view.

(4) Any person who temporarily possesses a firearm registered to another person while in the home of the registrant; provided, that the person is not otherwise prohibited from possessing firearms and the person reasonably believes that possession of the firearm is necessary to prevent imminent death or great bodily harm to himself or herself.

#### **7-2502.02. Registration of certain firearms prohibited**

(a) A registration certificate shall not be issued for a:

(1) Sawed-off shotgun;

(2) Machine gun;

(3) Short-barreled rifle;

(4) Pistol not validly registered to the current registrant in the District prior to September 24, 1976, except that the prohibition on registering a pistol shall not apply to:

(A) Any organization that employs at least one commissioned special police officer or other employee licensed to carry a firearm and that arms the employee with a firearm during the employee's duty hours;

(B) A police officer who has retired from the Metropolitan Police Department; or

(C) Any person who seeks to register a pistol for use in self-defense within that person's home;

(5) An unsafe firearm prohibited under § 7-2505.04;

(6) An assault weapon; or

(7) A .50 BMG rifle.

(b) Repealed.

#### **7-2502.03. Qualifications for registration; information required for registration**

(a) No registration certificate shall be issued to any person (and in the case of a person between the ages of 18 and 21, to the person and his signatory parent or guardian) or organization unless the Chief determines that such person (or the president or chief executive in the case of an organization):

(1) Is 21 years of age or older; provided, that the Chief may issue to an applicant between the ages of 18 and 21 years old, and who is otherwise qualified, a registration certificate if

the application is accompanied by a notarized statement of the applicant's parent or guardian:

(A) That the applicant has the permission of his parent or guardian to own and use the firearm to be registered; and

(B) The parent or guardian assumes civil liability for all damages resulting from the actions of such applicant in the use of the firearm to be registered; provided further, that such registration certificate shall expire on such person's 21st birthday;

(2) Has not been convicted of a crime of violence, weapons offense, or of a violation of this unit;

(3) Is not under indictment for a crime of violence or a weapons offense;

(4) Has not been convicted within 5 years prior to the application of any:

(A) Violation in any jurisdiction of any law restricting the use, possession, or sale of any narcotic or dangerous drug;

(B) A violation of § 22-407, regarding threats to do bodily harm, or § 22-404, regarding assaults and threats, or any similar provision of the law of any other jurisdiction so as to indicate a likelihood to make unlawful use of a firearm;

(C) Two or more violations of § 50-2201.05(b), or, in any other jurisdiction, any law restricting driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs; or

(D) **Intrafamily offense;**

(5) Within the 5-year period immediately preceding the application, has not been acquitted of any criminal charge by reason of insanity or has not been adjudicated a chronic alcoholic by any court; provided, that this paragraph shall not apply if such person shall present to the Chief, with the application, a medical certification indicating that the applicant has recovered from such insanity or alcoholic condition and is capable of safe and responsible possession of a firearm;

(6) Within the 5 years immediately preceding the application, has not been voluntarily or involuntarily committed to any mental hospital or institution; provided, that this paragraph shall not apply, if such person shall present to the Chief, with the application, a medical certification that the applicant has recovered from whatever malady prompted such commitment;

(6A) Within the 5 years immediately preceding the application, has not had a history of violent behavior.

(7) Does not appear to suffer from a physical defect which would tend to indicate that the applicant would not be able to possess and use a firearm safely and responsibly;

(8) Has not been adjudicated negligent in a firearm mishap causing death or serious injury to another human being;

(9) Is not otherwise ineligible to possess a pistol under § 22-4503;

(10) Has not failed to demonstrate satisfactorily a knowledge of the laws of the District of Columbia pertaining to firearms and, in particular, the safe and responsible use, handling, and storage of the same in accordance with training, tests, and standards prescribed by the Chief; provided, that once this determination is made with respect to a given applicant for a particular type of firearm, it need not be made again for the same applicant with respect to a subsequent application for the same type of firearms; provided, further, that this

paragraph shall not apply with respect to any firearm reregistered pursuant to § 7-2502.06;

(11) Has vision better than or equal to that required to obtain a valid driver's license under the laws of the District of Columbia; provided, that current licensure by the District of Columbia, of the applicant to drive, shall be prima facie evidence that such applicant's vision is sufficient and; provided further, that this determination shall not be made with respect to persons applying to reregister any firearm pursuant to § 7-2502.06;

(12) (A) Has not been the respondent in an intrafamily proceeding in which a civil protection order was issued against the applicant pursuant to § 16-1005; provided, that an applicant who has been the subject of such an order shall be eligible for registration if the applicant has submitted to the Chief a certified court record establishing that the order has expired or has been rescinded for a period of 5 years or more; or

(B) Has not been the respondent in a proceeding in which a foreign protection order, as that term is defined in § 16-1041, was issued against the applicant; provided, that an applicant who has been the subject of such an order shall be eligible for registration if the applicant has submitted to the Chief a certified court record establishing that the order has expired or has been rescinded for a period of 5 years;

(13) (A) Has completed a firearms training or safety course or class conducted by a state-certified firearms instructor or a certified military firearms instructor that provides, at a minimum, a total of at least one hour of firing training at a firing range and a total of at least 4 hours of classroom instruction.

(B) An affidavit signed by the certified firearms instructor who conducted or taught the course, providing the name, address, and phone number of the instructor and attesting to the successful completion of the course by the applicant shall constitute evidence of certified successful completion under this paragraph.

(14) Has not been prohibited from possessing or registering a firearm pursuant to § 7-2502.09(b).

(b) Every person applying for a registration certificate shall provide on a form prescribed by the Chief:

(1) The full name or any other name by which the applicant is known;

(2) The present address and each home address where the applicant has resided during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application;

(3) The present business or occupation and any business or occupation in which the applicant has engaged during the 5-year period immediately preceding the application and the addresses of such businesses or places of employment;

(4) The date and place of birth of the applicant;

(5) The sex of the applicant;

(6) Whether (and if so, the reasons) the District, the United States or the government of any state or subdivision of any state has denied or revoked the applicant's license, registration certificate, or permit pertaining to any firearm;

(7) A description of the applicant's role in any mishap involving a firearm, including the date,

place, time, circumstances, and the names of the persons injured or killed;

(8) The intended use of the firearm;

(9) The caliber, make, model, manufacturer's identification number, serial number, and any other identifying marks on the firearm;

(10) The name and address of the person or organization from whom the firearm was obtained, and in the case of a dealer, his dealer's license number;

(11) Where the firearm will generally be kept;

(12) Whether the applicant has applied for other registration certificates issued and outstanding;

(13) Such other information as the Chief determines is necessary to carry out the provisions of this unit.

(c) Every organization applying for a registration certificate shall:

(1) With respect to the president or chief executive of such organization, comply with the requirements of subsection (b) of this section; and

(2) Provide such other information as the Chief determines is necessary to carry out the provisions of this unit.

(d) The Chief shall require any registered pistol to be submitted for a ballistics identification procedure and shall establish a reasonable fee for the procedure.

(e) The Chief shall register no more than one pistol per registrant during any 30-day period; provided, that the Chief may permit a person first becoming a District resident to register more than one pistol if those pistols were lawfully owned in another jurisdiction for a period of 6 months prior to the date of the application.

#### **7-2502.04. Fingerprints and photographs of applicants; application in person required**

(a) The Chief may require any person applying for a registration certificate to be fingerprinted if, in his judgment, this is necessary to conduct an efficient and adequate investigation into the matters described in § 7-2502.03 and to effectuate the purpose of this unit; provided, that any person who has been fingerprinted by the Chief within 6 years prior to submitting the application need not, in the Chief's discretion, be fingerprinted again if he offers other satisfactory proof of identity.

(b) Each applicant, other than an organization, shall submit with the application 2 full-face photographs of himself, 1 3/4 by 1 7/8 inches in size which shall have been taken within the 30-day period immediately preceding the filing of the application.

(c) Every applicant (or in the case of an organization, the president or chief executive, or a person authorized in writing by him), shall appear in person at a time and place prescribed by the Chief, and may be required to bring with him the firearm for which a registration certificate is sought, which shall be transported in accordance with § 22-4504.02.

#### **7-2502.05. Application signed under oath; fees**

(a) Each applicant (the president or chief executive in the case of an organization) shall sign an oath or affirmation attesting to the truth of all the information required by § 7-2502.03 or § 7-2502.07a.

(b) Each application required by this subchapter shall be accompanied by a nonrefundable fee to be established by the

Mayor; provided, that such fee shall, in the judgment of the Mayor, reimburse the District for the cost of services provided under this subchapter.

#### **7-2502.06. Time for filing registration applications.**

(a) An application for a registration certificate shall be filed (and a registration certificate issued) prior to taking possession of a firearm from a licensed dealer or from any person or organization holding a registration certificate therefor. In all other cases, an application for registration shall be filed immediately after a firearm is brought into the District. It shall be deemed compliance with the preceding sentence if such person personally communicates with the Metropolitan Police Department (as determined by the Chief to be sufficient) and provides such information as may be demanded: Provided, that such person files an application for a registration certificate within 48 hours after such communication.

(b) Any firearm validly registered under prior regulations must be registered pursuant to this unit in accordance with procedures to be promulgated by the Chief. An application to register such firearm shall be filed pursuant to this unit within 60 days of September 24, 1976.

#### **7-2502.07. Issuance of registration certificate; time period; corrections.**

(a) Upon receipt of a properly executed application for registration certificate, the Chief, upon determining through inquiry, investigation, or otherwise, that the applicant is entitled and qualified under the provisions of this unit, thereto, shall issue a registration certificate. Each registration certificate shall be in duplicate and bear a unique registration certificate number and such other information as the Chief determines is necessary to identify the applicant and the firearm registered. The duplicate of the registration certificate shall be delivered to the applicant and the Chief shall retain the original.

(b) The Chief shall approve or deny an application for a registration certificate within a 60-day period beginning on the date the Chief receives the application, unless good cause is shown, including nonreceipt of information from sources outside the District government: Provided, that in the case of an application to register a firearm validly registered under prior regulations, the Chief shall have 365 days after the receipt of such application to approve or deny such application. The Chief may hold in abeyance an application where there is a revocation proceeding pending against such person or organization.

(c) Upon receipt of a registration certificate, each applicant shall examine same to ensure that the information thereon is correct. If the registration certificate is incorrect in any respect, the person or organization named thereon shall return it to the Chief with a signed statement showing the nature of the error. The Chief shall correct the error, if it occurred through administrative error. In the event the error resulted from information contained in the application, the applicant shall be required to file an amended application setting forth the correct information, and a statement explaining the error in the original application. Each amended application shall be accompanied by a fee equal to that required for the original application.

(d) In the event the Chief learns of an error in a registration certificate other than as provided in subsection (c) of this section, he may require the holder to return the registration certificate for correction. If the error resulted from information contained in the application, the person or organization named therein shall be required to file an amended application as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Each registration certificate issued by the Chief shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth the registrant's duties under this unit.

(f) In the discretion of the Chief of Police, a registration certificate may be issued to a retired police officer who is a resident of the District of Columbia for a pistol and ammunition which conforms to the Metropolitan Police Department General Orders and policies.

(g) When the retired police officer ceases to be a resident of the District of Columbia the registration certificate expires.

(h) Nothing in this unit shall create an entitlement to a registration certificate for a retired police officer. If the Chief of Police denies a retired police officer's registration certificate application, the Chief of Police shall state the reasons for the denial in writing.

(i) The District of Columbia shall not incur any liability by reason of the issuance or denial of a certificate, nor for any use made of the registered firearm.

#### **7-2502.07a. Expiration and renewal of registration certificate**

(a) Registration certificates shall expire 3 years after the date of issuance unless renewed in accordance with this section for subsequent 3-year periods.

(b) A registrant shall be eligible for renewal of registration of a firearm if the registrant continues to meet all of the initial registration requirements set forth in § 7-2502.03 and follows any procedures the Chief may establish by rule.

(c) For each renewal, a registrant shall submit a statement to the Metropolitan Police Department attesting to:

(1) Possession of the registered firearm;

(2) The registrant's address; and

(3) The registrant's continued compliance with all registration requirements set forth in § 7-2502.03.

(d) A registrant shall submit to a background check once every 6 years to confirm that the registrant continues to qualify for registration under § 7-2502.03.

(e) (1) The Metropolitan Police Department shall mail a renewal notice to each registrant at least 90 days prior to the expiration of the registration certificate.

(2) A renewal application shall be received by the Metropolitan Police Department at least 60 days prior to the expiration of the current registration certificate to ensure timely renewal.

(3) It is the duty of the registrant to timely renew a registration before its expiration date and a failure of the Metropolitan Police Department to mail or the registrant to receive the notice required under paragraph (1) of this subsection shall not prevent a registration from expiring as of that date.

(f) An applicant for the renewal of a registration certificate may be charged a reasonable fee to cover the administrative costs

incurred by the Metropolitan Police Department in connection with the renewal.

(g) The Chief shall establish, by rule, a method for conducting the renewal of registrations for all firearms registered prior to March 25, 2009. The renewals of all firearms registered prior to March 25, 2009, shall be completed within 3 years of March 25, 2009.

**7-2502.08. Duties of registrants** Each person and organization holding a registration certificate, in addition to any other requirements imposed by this unit, or the acts of Congress, shall:

(1) Notify the Chief in writing of:

(A) The loss, theft, or destruction of the registration certificate or of a registered firearm (including the circumstances, if known) immediately upon discovery of such loss, theft, or destruction;

(B) A change in any of the information appearing on the registration certificate or required by § 7-2502.03;

(C) The sale, transfer or other disposition of the firearm not less than 48 hours prior to delivery, pursuant to such sale, transfer or other disposition, including:

(i) Identification of the registrant, the firearm and the serial number of the registration certificate;

(ii) The name, residence, and business address and date of birth of the person to whom the firearm has been sold or transferred; and

(iii) Whether the firearm was sold or how it was otherwise transferred or disposed of.

(2) Return to the Chief, the registration certificate for any firearm which is lost, stolen, destroyed, or otherwise transferred or disposed of, at the time he notifies the Chief of such loss, theft, destruction, sale, transfer, or other disposition.

(3) Have in his possession, whenever in possession of a firearm, the registration certificate for such firearm, and exhibit the same upon the demand of a member of the Metropolitan Police Department, or other law enforcement officer.

**7-2502.09. Revocation of registration certificate [Formerly § 6-2319]**

(a) A registration certificate shall be revoked if:

(1) Any of the criteria in § 7-2502.03 are not currently met;

(2) The registered firearm has become an unregistrable firearm under the terms of § 7-2502.02, or a destructive device;

(3) The information furnished to the Chief on the application for a registration certificate proves to be intentionally false; or

(4) Repealed.

(b) In addition to any other criminal or civil sanctions that may be imposed, including § 7-2502.06:

(1) A registrant shall be subject to a civil fine of \$ 100 for the 1st violation or omission of the duties, obligations, or requirements imposed by § 7-2502.08.

(2) A registrant shall be subject to a civil fine of \$ 500 for the 2nd violation or omission of the duties, obligations, or requirements imposed by § 7-2502.08, a registrant's registration shall be revoked, and the registrant shall be prohibited from possessing or registering any firearm for a period of 5 years.

(3) A registrant shall be subject to a civil fine of \$ 500 for the 3rd violation or omission of the duties, obligations, or requirements imposed by

§ 7-2502.08, a registrant's registration shall be revoked, and the registrant shall be prohibited from possessing or registering any firearm.

**7-2502.10. Procedure for denial and revocation of registration certificate**

(a) If it appears to the Chief that an application for a registration certificate should be denied or that a registration certificate should be revoked, the Chief shall notify the applicant or registrant of the proposed denial or revocation, briefly stating the reason or reasons therefor. Service may be made by delivering a copy of the notice to the applicant or registrant personally, or by leaving a copy thereof at the place of residence identified on the application or registration with some person of suitable age and discretion then residing therein, or by mailing a copy of the notice first class mail, postage prepaid, to the residence address identified on the application or certificate. In the case of an organization, service may be made upon the president, chief executive, or other officer, managing agent or person authorized by appointment or law to receive such notice as described in the preceding sentence at the business address of the organization identified in the application or registration certificate. The person serving the notice shall make proof thereof by preparing an affidavit identifying the person served and stating the time, place, and manner of service. The applicant or registrant shall have 15 days from the date the notice is served in which to submit further evidence in support of the application or qualifications to continue to hold a registration certificate, as the case may be; provided, that if the applicant does not make such a submission within 15 days from the date of service, the applicant or registrant shall be deemed to have conceded the validity of the reason or reasons stated in the notice, and the denial or revocation shall become final.

(b) Within 10 days of the date upon which the Chief receives such a submission, he shall serve upon the applicant or registrant in the manner specified in subsection (a) of this section notice of his final decision. The Chief's decision shall become effective at the expiration of the time within which to file a notice of appeal pursuant to subchapter I of Chapter 5 of Title 2 or, if such a notice of appeal is filed, at the time the final order or judgment of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals becomes effective.

(c) Within 7 days of a decision unfavorable to the applicant or registrant becoming final, the applicant or registrant shall:

(1) Peaceably surrender to the Chief the firearm for which the registration certificate was revoked in the manner provided in § 7-2507.05;

(2) Lawfully remove such firearm from the District for so long as he has an interest in such firearm; or

(3) Otherwise lawfully dispose of his interest in such firearm.

(d) If a firearm is in the possession of the Chief, the Chief may maintain possession of the firearm for which the registrant is temporarily or permanently prohibited from having lawful possession until final disposition of the matter.

**7-2502.11. Information prohibited from use as evidence in criminal proceedings**

No information obtained from a person under this sub-chapter or retained by a person in order to comply with any section of this subchapter, shall be used as evidence against such person

in any criminal proceeding with respect to a violation of this unit, occurring prior to or concurrently with the filing of the information required by this sub-chapter: Provided, that this section shall not apply to any violation of § 22-2402 or § 7-2507.04.

### **Subchapter III. Estates Containing Firearms**

**7-2503.01. Rights and responsibilities of executors and administrators**

(a) The executor or administrator of an estate containing a firearm shall notify the Chief of the death of the decedent within 30 days of his appointment or qualification, whichever is earlier.

(b) Until the lawful distribution of such firearm to an heir or legatee or the lawful sale, transfer, or disposition of the firearm by the estate, the executor or administrator of such estate shall be charged with the duties and obligations which would have been imposed by this unit upon the decedent, if the decedent were still alive: Provided, that such executor or administrator shall not be liable to the criminal penalties of § 7-2507.06.

### **Subchapter IV. Licensing of Firearms Businesses**

**7-2504.01. Manufacture of firearms, destructive devices or ammunition prohibited; requirement for dealer's license**

(a) No person or organization shall manufacture any firearm, destructive device or parts thereof, or ammunition, within the District: Provided, that persons holding registration certificates may engage in handloading, reloading, or custom loading ammunition for his registered firearms: Provided further, that such person may not handload, reload, or custom load ammunition for others.

(b) No person or organization shall engage in the business of selling, purchasing, or repairing any firearm, destructive device, parts thereof, or ammunition, without first obtaining a dealer's license, and no licensee shall engage in the business of selling, purchasing, or repairing firearms which are unregistrable under § 7-2502.02, destructive devices, or parts thereof, except pursuant to a valid work or purchase order, for those persons specified in § 7-2502.01(b)(1).

(c) Any license issued pursuant to this section shall be issued by the Metropolitan Police Department as a Public Safety endorsement to a basic business license under the basic business license system as set forth in subchapter I-A of Chapter 28 of Title 47.

**7-2504.02. Qualifications for dealer's license; application; fee**

(a) Any person eligible to register a firearm under this chapter and who, if a registrant, has not previously failed to perform any of the duties imposed by this unit; and, any person eligible under the acts of Congress to engage in such business, may obtain a dealer's license, or a renewal thereof, which shall be valid for a period of not more than 1 year from the date of issuance. The license required by this unit, shall be in addition to any other license or licensing procedure required by law.

(b) Each application for a dealer's license and each application for renewal thereof shall be made on a form prescribed by the Chief, shall be

sworn to or affirmed by the applicant, and shall contain:

(1) The information required by § 7-2502.03 (a);

(2) The address where the applicant conducts or intends to conduct his business;

(3) Whether the applicant, prior to September 24, 1976, held a license to deal in deadly weapons in the District; and

(4) Such other information as the Chief may require, including fingerprints and photographs of the applicant, to carry out the purposes of this unit.

(c) Each application for a dealer's license, or renewal shall be accompanied by a fee established by the Mayor: Provided, that such fee shall in the judgment of the Mayor, reimburse the District for the cost of services provided under this subchapter.

(d) Any license issued pursuant to this section shall be issued as a Public Safety endorsement to a basic business license under the basic business license system as set forth in subchapter I-A of Chapter 28 of Title 47.

#### **7-2504.03. Issuance of dealer's license; time period; corrections**

(a) Upon receipt of a properly executed application for a dealer's license, or renewal thereof, the Chief, upon determining through further inquiry, investigation, or otherwise, that the applicant is entitled and qualified under the provisions of this unit thereto, shall issue a dealer's license. Each dealer's license shall be in duplicate and bear a unique dealer's license number, and such other information as the Chief determines is necessary to identify the applicant and premises. The duplicate of the dealer's license shall be delivered to the applicant and the Chief shall retain the original.

(b) The Chief shall approve or deny an application for a registration certificate within a 60-day period beginning on the date the Chief receives the application, unless good cause is shown, including nonreceipt of information from sources outside the District government. The Chief may hold in abeyance an application where there is any firearms revocation proceeding pending against such person.

(c) Upon receipt of a dealer's license, each applicant shall examine the same to ensure that the information thereon is correct. If the dealer's license is incorrect in any respect, the person named thereon shall return the same to the Chief with a signed statement showing the nature of the error. The Chief shall correct the error, if it occurred through administrative error. In the event the error resulted from information contained in the application, the applicant shall be required to file an amended application explaining the error in the original application. Each amended application shall be accompanied by a fee equal to that required for the original application.

(d) In the event the Chief learns of an error in a dealer's license, other than as provided in subsection (c) of this section, he may require the holder to return the dealer's license for correction. If the error resulted from information contained in the application, the person named shall be required to file an amended application as provided in subsection (c) of this section.

(e) Each dealer's license issued by the Chief shall be accompanied by a statement setting forth a dealer's duties under this unit.

#### **7-2504.04. Duties of licensed dealers; records required**

(a) Each person holding a dealer's license, in addition to any other requirements imposed by this unit, the acts of Congress, and other law, shall:

(1) Display the dealer's license in a conspicuous place on the premises;

(2) Notify the Chief in writing:

(A) Of the loss, theft, or destruction of the dealer's license (including the circumstances, if known) immediately upon the discovery of such loss, theft, or destruction or of the loss, theft, or destruction of any firearms or ammunition in the dealer's inventory.

(B) Of a change in any of the information appearing on the dealer's license or required by § 7-2504.02 immediately upon the occurrence of any such change;

(3) Keep at the premises identified in the dealer's license a true and current record in book form of:

(A) The name, address, home phone, and date of birth of each employee handling firearms, ammunition, or destructive devices;

(B) Each firearm or destructive device received into inventory or for repair including the:

(i) Serial number, caliber, make, model, manufacturer's number (if any), dealer's identification number (if any), registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm, and similar descriptive information for destructive devices;

(ii) Name, address, and dealer's license number (if any) of the person or organization from whom the firearm or destructive device was purchased or otherwise received;

(iii) Consideration given for the firearm or destructive device, if any;

(iv) Date and time received by the licensee and in the case of repair, returned to the person holding the registration certificate; and

(v) Nature of the repairs made;

(C) Each firearm or destructive device sold or transferred including the:

(i) Serial number, caliber, make, model, manufacturer's number or dealer's identification number, and registration certificate number (if any) of the firearm or similar information for destructive devices;

(ii) Name, address, registration certificate number or license number (if any) of the person or organization to whom transferred;

(iii) The consideration for transfer; and

(iv) Time and date of delivery of the firearm or destructive device to the transferee;

(D) Ammunition received into inventory including the:

(i) Brand and number of rounds of each caliber or gauge;

(ii) Name, address, and dealer's license or registration number (if any) of the person or organization from whom received;

(iii) Consideration given for the ammunition; and

(iv) Date and time of the receipt of the ammunition;

(E) Ammunition sold or transferred including:

(i) Brand and number of rounds of each caliber or gauge;

(ii) Name, address and dealer's license number (if any) of the person or organization to whom sold or transferred;

(iii) If the purchaser or transferee is not a licensee, the registration certificate number of the firearm for which the ammunition was sold or transferred;

(iv) The consideration for the sale and transfer; and

(v) The date and time of sale or transfer.

(b) The records required by subsection (a) of this section shall upon demand be exhibited during normal business hours to any member of the Metropolitan Police Department. In addition, the records required by subsection (a) of this section shall be submitted upon demand with the dealer's application for license renewal.

(c) Each person holding a dealer's license shall, when required by the Chief in writing, submit on a form and for the periods of time specified, any record information required to be maintained by subsection (a) of this section, and any other information reasonably obtainable therefrom.

#### **7-2504.05. Revocation of dealer's license A dealer's license shall be revoked if:**

(1) Any of the criteria in § 7-2504.04 is not currently met;

(2) The information furnished to the Chief on the application for a dealer's license proves to be intentionally false;

(3) There is a violation or omission of the duties, obligations, or requirements imposed by § 7-2504.04; or

(4) The license holder no longer meets any of the criteria required by this unit.

#### **7-2504.06. Procedure for denial and revocation of dealer's license**

(a) If it appears to the Chief that an application for a dealer's license should be denied or that a dealer's license should be revoked, the Chief shall notify the applicant or registrant of the proposed denial or revocation briefly stating the reason or reasons therefor. Service may be made as provided for in § 7-2502.10(a). The applicant or dealer shall have 15 days from the date of service in which to submit further evidence in support of the application or qualifications to continue to hold a dealer's license, as the case may be: Provided, that if the applicant or dealer does not make such a submission within 15 days from the date of service, the applicant or dealer shall be deemed to have conceded the validity of the reason or reasons stated in the notice, and the denial or revocation shall become final.

(b) Within 10 days of the date upon which the Chief receives such a submission, the Chief shall serve upon the applicant or registrant in the manner provided in § 7-2502.10(a) notice of his final decision. The Chief's decision shall become effective at the expiration of the time within which to file a notice of appeal pursuant to the District of Columbia Administrative Procedure Act (D.C. Code, § 2-501 et seq.) or, if such a notice of appeal is filed, at the time the final order or judgment of the District of Columbia Court of Appeals becomes effective.

(c) Within 45 days of a decision becoming effective, which is unfavorable to a licensee or to an applicant for a dealer's license, the licensee or applicant shall:

(1) If he is eligible to register firearms pursuant to this chapter, register such firearms in his inventory as are capable of registration pursuant to this unit;

(2) Peaceably surrender to the Chief any firearms in his inventory which he does not register, and all destructive devices in his inventory in the manner provided for in § 7-2507.05;

(3) Lawfully remove from the District any firearm in his inventory which he does not register and all destructive devices and ammunition in his inventory for so long as he has an interest in them; or

(4) Otherwise lawfully dispose of any firearms in his inventory which he does not register and all destructive devices and ammunition in his inventory.

**7-2504.07. Display of firearms or ammunition by dealers; security; employees of dealers**

(a) No licensed dealer shall display any firearm or ammunition in windows visible from a street or sidewalk. All firearms, destructive devices, and ammunition shall be kept at all times in a securely locked place affixed to the premises except when being shown to a customer, being repaired, or otherwise being worked on.

(b) No licensee shall knowingly employ any person in his establishment if such person would not be eligible to register a firearm under this unit.

**7-2504.08. Identification number on firearm required before sale [Formerly § 6-2348]**

(a) No licensee shall sell or offer for sale any firearm which does not have imbedded into the metal portion of such firearm a unique manufacturer's identification number or serial number, unless the licensee shall have imbedded into the metal portion of such firearm a unique dealer's identification number.

(b) Beginning on January 1, 2011, no licensee shall sell or offer for sale any semiautomatic pistol manufactured on or after January 1, 2011 that is not microstamp-ready as required by and in accordance with § 7-2505.03.

**7-2504.09. Certain information obtained from or retained by dealers not to be used as evidence in criminal proceedings** No information obtained from or retained by a licensed dealer to comply with this subchapter shall be used as evidence against such licensed dealer in any criminal proceeding with respect to a violation of this unit occurring prior to or concurrently with the filing of such information: Provided, that this section shall not apply to any violation of § 22-2402, or of § 7-2507.04.

**Subchapter V. Sale and Transfer of Firearms, Destructive Devices, and Ammunition**

**7-2505.01. Sales and transfers prohibited**

No person or organization shall sell, transfer or otherwise dispose of any firearm, destructive device or ammunition in the District except as provided in § 7-2502.10(c), § 7-2505.02, or § 7-2507.05.

**7-2505.02. Permissible sales and transfers**

(a) Any person or organization eligible to register a firearm may sell or otherwise transfer ammunition or any firearm, except those which are unregistrable under § 7-2502.02, to a licensed dealer.

(b) Any licensed dealer may sell or otherwise transfer:

(1) Ammunition, excluding restricted pistol bullets, and any firearm or destructive device which is lawfully a part of such licensee's inven-

tory, to any nonresident person or business licensed under the acts of Congress and the jurisdiction where such person resides or conducts such business;

(2) Ammunition, including restricted pistol bullets, and any firearm or destructive device which is lawfully a part of such licensee's inventory to:

(A) Any other licensed dealer;

(B) Any law enforcement officer or agent of the District or the United States of America when such officer or agent is on duty, and acting within the scope of his duties when acquiring such firearm, ammunition, or destructive device, if the officer or agent has in his possession a statement from the head of his agency stating that the item is to be used in such officer's or agent's official duties.

(c) Any licensed dealer may sell or otherwise transfer a firearm except those which are unregistrable under § 7-2502.02, to any person or organization possessing a registration certificate for such firearm: Provided, that if the Chief denies a registration certificate, he shall so advise the licensee who shall thereupon: (1) Withhold delivery until such time as a registration certificate is issued, or, at the option of the purchaser; (2) declare the contract null and void, in which case consideration paid to the licensee shall be returned to the purchaser: Provided further, that this subsection shall not apply to persons covered by subsection (b) of this section.

(d) Except as provided in subsections (b) and (e) of this section, no licensed dealer shall sell or otherwise transfer ammunition unless:

(1) The sale or transfer is made in person; and

(2) The purchaser exhibits, at the time of sale or other transfer, a valid registration certificate, or in the case of a nonresident, proof that the weapon is lawfully possessed in the jurisdiction where such person resides;

(3) The ammunition to be sold or transferred is of the same caliber or gauge as the firearm described in the registration certificate, or other proof in the case of nonresident; and

(4) The purchaser signs a receipt for the ammunition which (in addition to the other records required under this unit) shall be maintained by the licensed dealer for a period of 1 year from the date of sale.

(e) Any licensed dealer may sell ammunition to any person holding an ammunition collector's certificate on September 24, 1976: Provided, that the collector's certificate shall be exhibited to the licensed dealer whenever the collector purchases ammunition for his collection: Provided further, that the collector shall sign a receipt for the ammunition, which shall be treated in the same manner as that required under paragraph (4) of subsection (d) of this section.

**7-2505.03. Microstamping**

(a) For the purposes of the section, the term:

(1) "Firearms dealer" means a person or organization possessing a dealer's license under authority of subchapter IV of this chapter.

(2) "Manufacturer" means any person in business to manufacture or assemble a firearm, for sale or distribution.

(3) "Microstamp-ready" means a semiautomatic pistol that is manufactured to produce a unique alpha-numeric or geometric code on at least 2 locations on each expended cartridge case that identifies the make, model, and serial number of the pistol.

(4) "Semiautomatic pistol" means a pistol capable of utilizing a portion of the energy of a firing cartridge to extract the fired cartridge case and automatically chamber the next round, and that requires a separate pull of the trigger to fire each successive round.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (c) of this section, beginning on January 1, 2011, a semiautomatic pistol shall be microstamp-ready if it is:

(1) Manufactured in the District of Columbia;

(2) Manufactured on or after January 1, 2011, and delivered or caused to be delivered by any manufacturer to a firearms dealer in the District of Columbia; or

(3) Manufactured on or after January 1, 2011, and sold, offered for sale, loaned, given, or transferred by a firearms dealer in the District of Columbia.

(c) (1) A semiautomatic pistol manufactured after January 1, 2011 that is not microstamp-ready and that was acquired outside of the District by a person who was not a District resident at the time of acquisition but who subsequently moved to the District shall be registered if the requirements of this unit are met, and may be sold, transferred, or given away; provided, that the pistol shall be sold, transferred, or given away only through a firearms dealer.

(2) If a firearms dealer lawfully acquires a microstamp-ready semiautomatic pistol that was originally purchased by a non-dealer resident of the District of Columbia, the firearms dealer shall not sell, offer for sale, loan, give, or transfer that pistol if he or she knows or reasonably should have known that the unique alphanumeric or geometric code associated with that pistol has been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated, excepting for normal wear.

(d) (1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, and except for normal wear, no person shall change, alter, remove, or obliterate the unique alpha-numeric or geometric code associated with that pistol.

(2) Replacing a firing pin that has been damaged or worn and is in need of replacement for the safe use of the semiautomatic pistol or for a legitimate sporting purpose shall not alone be evidence that someone has violated this subsection.

(e) Beginning January 1, 2011, a manufacturer that delivers a semiautomatic pistol, or causes a semiautomatic pistol to be delivered, to a firearms dealer for sale in the District of Columbia shall certify whether the pistol was manufactured on or after January 1, 2011 and, if it was, that:

(1) The semiautomatic pistol will produce a unique alpha-numeric code or a geometric code on each cartridge case that identifies the make, model, and serial number of the semiautomatic pistol that expended the cartridge casing; and

(2) The manufacturer will supply the Chief with the make, model, and serial number of the semiautomatic pistol that expended the cartridge case, when presented with an alpha-numeric or geometric code from a cartridge case; provided, that the cartridge case was recovered as part of a legitimate law enforcement investigation.

(f) The Chief, pursuant to § 2-501 et seq., shall issue rules to implement the provisions of this section.

**7-2505.04. Prohibition on sale, transfer, ownership, or possession of designated unsafe pistol**

(a) Except as provided in subsections (c), (d), or (e) of this section, beginning January 1, 2009, a pistol that is not on the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale, (also known as the California Roster of Handguns Determined Not to be Unsafe), pursuant to California Penal Code § 12131, as of January 1, 2009, may not be manufactured, sold, given, loaned, exposed for sale, transferred, or imported into the District of Columbia.

(b) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, beginning January 1, 2009, a pistol that is not on the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale as of January 1, 2009, may not be owned or possessed within the District of Columbia unless that pistol was lawfully owned and registered prior to January 1, 2009.

(c) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, a District of Columbia resident who is the owner of a pistol lawfully registered prior to January 1, 2009, that is not on the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale as of January 1, 2009, and who wishes to sell or transfer that pistol after January 1, 2009, may do so only by selling or transferring ownership of the handgun to a licensed firearm dealer.

(d) Except as provided in subsection (e) of this section, beginning January 1, 2009, a licensed firearm dealer who retains in the dealer's inventory, or who otherwise lawfully acquires, any pistol not on the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale as of January 1, 2009, may sell, loan, give, trade, or otherwise transfer the firearm only to another licensed firearm dealer.

(e) This section shall not apply to:

(1) Firearms defined as curios or relics, as defined in 27 C.F.R. § 478.11;

(2) The purchase of any firearm by any law enforcement officer or agent of the District or the United States;

(3) Pistols that are designed expressly for use in Olympic target shooting events, as defined by rule;

(4) Certain single-action revolvers, as defined by rule;

(5) The sale, loan, or transfer of any firearm that is to be used solely as a prop during the course of a motion picture, television, or video production by an authorized participant in the course of making that production or event or by an authorized employee or agent of the entity producing that production or event;

(6) The temporary transfer of a lawfully owned and registered firearm for the purposes of cleaning, repair, or servicing of the firearm by a licensed firearm dealer; or

(7) The possession of a firearm by a non-resident of the District of Columbia while temporarily traveling through the District; provided, that the firearm shall be transported in accordance with § 22-4504.02.

(f) The Chief shall review any additions or deletions to the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale at least annually. For purposes of District law, the Chief is authorized to revise, by rule, the roster of handguns determined not to be unsafe prescribed by subsection (a) of this section and to prescribe by rule the firearms permissible pursuant to subsection (e) of this section.

(g) The Chief shall provide to the licensed firearm dealers within the District information about how to obtain a copy of the California Roster of Handguns Certified for Sale and any revisions to it made the Chief.

**Subchapter VI. Possession of Ammunition**

**7-2506.01. Persons permitted to possess ammunition [Formerly § 6-2361]**

(a) No person shall possess ammunition in the District of Columbia unless:

(1) He is a licensed dealer pursuant to subchapter IV of this unit;

(2) He is an officer, agent, or employee of the District of Columbia or the United States of America, on duty and acting within the scope of his duties when possessing such ammunition;

(3) He is the holder of the valid registration certificate for a firearm of the same gauge or caliber as the ammunition he possesses; except, that no such person shall possess restricted pistol bullets; or

(4) He holds an ammunition collector's certificate on September 24, 1976.

(b) No person in the District shall possess, sell, or transfer any large capacity ammunition feeding device regardless of whether the device is attached to a firearm. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" means a magazine, belt, drum, feed strip, or similar device that has a capacity of, or that can be readily restored or converted to accept, more than 10 rounds of ammunition. The term "large capacity ammunition feeding device" shall not include an attached tubular device designed to accept, and capable of operating only with, .22 caliber rimfire ammunition.

**Subchapter VII. Miscellaneous Provisions**

**7-2507.01. Security mortgages, deposits, or pawns with firearms, destructive devices, or ammunition prohibited; loan or rental of firearms, destructive devices, or ammunition prohibited**

(a) No firearm, destructive device, or ammunition shall be security for, or be taken or received by way of any mortgage, deposit, pledge, or pawn.

(b) No person may loan, borrow, give, or rent to or from another person, any firearm, destructive device, or ammunition.

**7-2507.02. Responsibilities regarding storage of firearms**

(a) It shall be the policy of the District of Columbia that each registrant should keep any firearm in his or her possession unloaded and either disassembled or secured by a trigger lock, gun safe, locked box, or other secure device.

(b) No person shall store or keep any firearm on any premises under his control if he knows or reasonably should know that a minor is likely to gain access to the firearm without the permission of the parent or guardian of the minor unless such person:

(1) Keeps the firearm in a securely locked box, secured container, or in a location which a reasonable person would believe to be secure; or

(2) Carries the firearm on his person or within such close proximity that he can readily retrieve and use it as if he carried it on his person.

(c) (1) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section is guilty of criminally negligent storage of a firearm and, except as provided in paragraph (2) of this subsection, shall be fined not more than \$ 1,000, imprisoned not more than 180 days, or both.

(2) A person who violates subsection (b) of this section and the minor causes injury or death to himself or another shall be fined not more than \$ 5,000, imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(3) The provisions of paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection shall not apply if the minor obtains the firearm as a result of an unlawful entry or burglary to any premises by any person.

(d) For the purposes of this section, the term "minor" shall mean a person under the age of 18 years.

**7-2507.03. Firing ranges**

Any person operating a firing range in the District, shall in addition to any other requirement imposed by law, register with the Chief, on a form prescribed by him, which shall include the business name of the range, the location, the names and home addresses of the owners and principal officers, the types of weapons fired there, the number and types of weapons normally stored there, the days and hours of operation, and such other information as the Chief shall require.

**7-2507.04. False information; forgery or alteration**

(a) It shall be unlawful for any person purchasing any firearm or ammunition, or applying for any registration certificate or dealer's license under this unit, or in giving any information pursuant to the requirements of this unit, to knowingly give false information or offer false evidence of identity.

(b) It shall be unlawful for anyone to forge or alter any application, registration certificate, or dealer's license submitted, retained or issued under this unit.

**7-2507.05. Voluntary surrender of firearms, destructive devices, or ammunition; immunity from prosecution; determination of evidentiary value of firearm**

(a) If a person or organization within the District voluntarily and peaceably delivers and abandons to the Chief any firearm, destructive device or ammunition at any time, such delivery shall preclude the arrest and prosecution of such person on a charge of violating any provision of this unit with respect to the firearm, destructive device, or ammunition voluntarily delivered. Delivery under this section may be made at any police district, station, or central headquarters, or by summoning a police officer to the person's residence or place of business. Every firearm and destructive device to be delivered and abandoned to the Chief under this section shall be transported in accordance with § 22-4504.02, and, in the case of delivery to a police facility, the package shall be carried in open view. No person who delivers and abandons a firearm, destructive device, or ammunition under this section, shall be required to furnish identification, photographs, or fingerprints. No amount of money shall be paid for any firearm, destructive device, or ammunition delivered and abandoned under this section.

(b) Whenever any firearm, destructive device, or any ammunition is surrendered under this section or pursuant to § 7-2502.10(c)(1), the



Chief shall inquire of the United States Attorney and the Attorney General for the District of Columbia for the District whether such firearm is needed as evidence; provided, that if the same is not needed as evidence, it shall be destroyed.

#### **7-2507.06. Penalties**

Any person convicted of a violation of any provision of this unit shall be fined not more than \$ 1,000 or imprisoned for not more than 1 year, or both; except that:

(1) A person who knowingly or intentionally sells, transfers, or distributes a firearm, destructive device, or ammunition to a person under 18 years of age shall be fined not more than \$ 10,000 or imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

(2) (A) Except as provided in subparagraph (B) of this paragraph, any person who is convicted a second time for possessing an unregistered firearm shall be fined not more than \$ 5,000 or imprisoned not more than 5 years, or both.

(B) A person who in the person's dwelling place, place of business, or on other land possessed by the person, possesses a pistol, or firearm that could otherwise be registered, shall be fined not more than \$ 1,000 or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

(3) A person convicted of knowingly possessing restricted pistol bullets in violation of § 7-2506.01(3) may be sentenced to imprisonment for a term not to exceed 10 years and shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a mandatory-minimum term of not less than 1 year and shall not be released from prison or granted probation or suspension of sentence prior to serving the mandatory-minimum sentence, and, in addition, may be fined an amount not to exceed \$ 10,000.

#### **7-2507.06a. Seizure and forfeiture of conveyances**

(a) For the purposes of this section, the term "owner" means a person with an ownership interest in the specific conveyance sought to be forfeited. The term "owner" does not include:

(1) A person with only a general unsecured interest in, or claim against, the conveyance;

(2) A bailee; or

(3) A nominee who exercises no dominion or control over the conveyance.

(b) Any conveyance, including vehicles and vessels in which any person or persons transport, possess, or conceal any firearm, as that term is defined in § 7-2501.01, or in any manner use to facilitate a violation of § 7-2502.02 or § 22-4503 or § 22-4504, shall be seized and forfeited to the District of Columbia, provided that:

(1) No conveyance used by any person as a duly licensed common carrier in the course of transacting business as a licensed common carrier is subject to forfeiture under this section unless it appears that the owner or other person in charge of the conveyance is a consenting party or has knowledge of a violation of this section; and

(2) The forfeiture of a conveyance encumbered by a bona fide security interest is subject to the interest of the secured party if the secured party neither had knowledge of, nor consented to, the illegal act giving rise to forfeiture.

(c) An innocent owner's interest in a conveyance which has been seized shall not be forfeited under this section.

(1) A person is an innocent owner if he or she establishes, by a preponderance of the evidence:

(A) That he or she did not know that a person or persons in the conveyance was transporting, possessing, or concealing any firearm or that the conveyance was involved in or was being used in the commission of any illegal act involving any firearm; or

(B) That, upon receiving knowledge of the presence of any illegal firearm in or on the conveyance or that the conveyance was being used in the commission of an illegal act involving a forfeiture, he or she took action to terminate the presence in or on the conveyance of the person, persons, or firearms.

(2)(A) A claimant who establishes a lack of knowledge under subsection (c)(1)(A) of this section shall be considered an innocent owner unless the government, in rebuttal, establishes the existence of facts and circumstances that should have created a suspicion that the conveyance was being or would be used for an illegal purpose. In that case, the claimant must establish that, in light of such facts and circumstances, he or she did all that reasonably could be expected to prevent the use of the conveyance in the commission of any such illegal act.

(B) A person who willfully blinds himself or herself to a fact shall be considered to have had knowledge of that fact.

(d) Except as otherwise expressly provided by this section, all seizures and forfeitures of conveyances under this section shall follow the procedures set forth in § 48-905.02.

#### **7-2507.08. Construction of unit**

Nothing in this unit shall be construed, or applied to necessarily require, or excuse noncompliance with any provision of any federal law. This unit and the penalties prescribed in § 7-2507.06, for violations of this unit, shall not supersede but shall supplement all statutes of the District and the United States in which similar conduct is prohibited or regulated.

#### **Unit B. Strict Liability for Illegal Sale and Distribution of Firearms**

**7-2531.01. Definitions** For the purposes of this unit, the term:

(1) "Dealer" means:

(A) Any person engaged in the business of selling firearms at wholesale or retail;

(B) Any person engaged in the business of repairing firearms or of making or fitting special barrels, stocks, or trigger mechanisms to firearms; or

(C) Any person who is a pawnbroker who takes or receives by way of pledge or pawn, any firearm as security for the payment or repayment of money.

(2) "Engaged in the business" means:

(A) A person who devotes time, attention, and labor to dealing in firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the repetitive purchase and resale of firearms. The term "engaged in business" shall not include a person who makes occasional sales, exchanges, or purchases of firearms for the enhancement of a personal collection or for a hobby, or who sells all or part of this personal collection of firearms; or

(B) A person who devotes time, attention, and labor to importing firearms as a regular course of trade or business with the principal objective of livelihood and profit through the sale or distribution of the firearms imported.

(3) "Firearm" shall have the same meaning as in § 7-2501.01.

(4) "Illegal sale" means:

(A) Failure to establish proof of the purchaser's residence in a jurisdiction where the purchase of the weapon is legal or ignoring proof of the purchaser's residence in the District of Columbia;

(B) Failure to comply with District of Columbia registration and waiting requirements prior to delivery of the firearm to the purchaser when proof of District of Columbia residence is provided;

(C) Failure to maintain full, complete, and accurate records of firearm sales as required by local, state, and federal law; or

(D) Knowingly and willfully maintaining false records with the intent to misrepresent the name and address of persons purchasing firearms, or the type of firearm sold to those persons.

(5) "Importer" means any person engaged in the business of importing or bringing firearms or ammunition into the United States for purposes of sale or distribution.

(6) "Law enforcement agency" means a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, state militia, or an agency of the United States government.

(7) "Law enforcement officer" means any employee or agent of a law enforcement agency who is authorized to use a firearm in the course of employment.

(8) "Manufacturer" means any person in business to manufacture or assemble a firearm or ammunition for sale or distribution.

(9) "Pawnbroker" means any person whose business or occupation includes the taking or receiving, by way of pledge or pawn, of any firearm as security for the payment or repayment of money.

#### **7-2531.02. Liability**

(a) Any manufacturer, importer, or dealer of a firearm who can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence to have knowingly and willfully engaged in the illegal sale of a firearm shall be held strictly liable in tort, without regard to fault and without regard to either: (1) an intent to interfere with a legally protected interest; or (2) a breach of duty to exercise reasonable care, for all direct and consequential damages that arise from bodily injury or death if the bodily injury or death proximately results from the discharge of the firearm in the District of Columbia, regardless of whether or not the person operating the firearm is the original, illegal purchaser.

(b) Any individual who can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence to have knowingly and willfully engaged in the illegal sale, loan, lease, or rental of a firearm for money or anything of value shall be held strictly liable in tort, without regard to fault and without regard to either: (1) an intent to interfere with a legally protected interest; or (2) a breach of duty to exercise reasonable care, for all direct and consequential damages that arise from bodily injury or death if the bodily injury or death proximately results from the discharge of the firearm in the District of Columbia regardless of whether or not the person operating the firearm is the original, illegal purchaser.

(c) Nothing in this unit shall relieve from liability any person who commits a crime, is negligent, or who might otherwise be liable for acts committed with the firearm.

#### **7-2531.03. Exemptions**

(a) No firearm originally distributed to a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer shall provide the basis for liability under this unit.

(b) No action may be brought pursuant to this unit by a person who can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence to have committed a self-inflicted injury or by a person injured by a firearm while committing a crime, attempting to commit a crime, engaged in criminal activity, or engaged in a delinquent act.

(c) No action may be brought pursuant to this unit by a person who can be shown by a preponderance of the evidence to be engaged in the sale or distribution of illegal narcotics.

(d) No action may be brought pursuant to this unit by a person who either: (1) assumed the risk of the injury that occurred; or (2) negligently contributed to the injury that occurred.

#### **7-2531.04. Firearms Bounty Fund**

(a) There is established a fund to be known as the Firearms Bounty Fund ("Fund") to be administered by the Metropolitan Police Department. The Fund shall be operated as a proprietary fund and shall consist of monies appropriated to the Fund, federal grants to the Fund, or private monies donated to the Fund.

(b) Disbursements from the Fund shall be used exclusively for the payment of cash rewards to persons who provide District of Columbia law enforcement agencies with tips that lead to the adjudication or conviction of:

(1) A person or entity engaged in the illegal sale, rental, lease, or loan of a firearm in exchange for money or other thing of value; or

(2) A person who has committed a crime with a firearm.

(c) The amount of each cash reward shall be determined at the discretion of the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department and the cash reward may range up to \$ 100,000 per tip.

(d) The Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department shall report annually to the Mayor and Council all income and expenditures of the Fund.

(e) The Mayor, by a proposed notice to the Council, may terminate the Fund if the Mayor determines that the Fund is no longer necessary to pay cash rewards.

(f) If monies exist in the Fund at the time of its termination, the monies shall be deposited in the General Fund of the District of Columbia.

(g) The proposed notice to terminate the Fund shall be submitted to the Council for a 45-day period of review, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, legal holidays, and days of Council recess. If the Council does not approve or disapprove by resolution within the 45-day review period, the proposed notice to terminate the Fund shall be deemed approved.

### **Unit C. Assault Weapons Manufacturing Strict Liability**

#### **7-2551.01. Definitions**

For the purposes of this unit, the term:

(1) "Assault weapon" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(3A).

(2) "Handgun" means a firearm with a barrel less than 12 inches in length at the time of manufacture.

(3) "Dealer" and "importer" shall have the same meaning as in 18 U.S.C.S. § 921.

(4) "Machine gun" shall have the same meaning as in paragraph (10) of § 7-2501.01.

(5) "Manufacturer" means any person in business to manufacture or assemble a firearm or ammunition for sale or distribution.

(6) "Law enforcement agency" means a federal, state, or local law enforcement agency, state militia, or an agency of the United States government.

(7) "Law enforcement officer" means any officer or agent of an agency defined in paragraph (6) of this section who is authorized to use a handgun or machine gun in the course of his or her work.

**7-2551.02. Liability** Any manufacturer, importer, or dealer of an assault weapon or machine gun shall be held strictly liable in tort, without regard to fault or proof of defect, for all direct and consequential damages that arise from bodily injury or death if the bodily injury or death proximately results from the discharge of the assault weapon or machine gun in the District of Columbia.

#### **7-2551.03. Exemptions**

(a) No assault weapon originally distributed to a law enforcement agency or a law enforcement officer shall provide the basis for liability under this unit.

(b) No action may be brought pursuant to this unit by a person injured by an assault weapon while committing a crime.

(c) This section shall not operate to limit in scope any cause of action, other than that provided by this unit, available to a person injured by an assault weapon.

(d) Any defense that is available in a strict liability action shall be available as a defense under this unit.

(e) Recovery shall not be allowed under this unit for a self-inflicted injury that results from a reckless, wanton, or willful discharge of an assault weapon.

### **Division IV. Criminal Law and Procedure and Prisoners**

#### **Title 22. Criminal Offenses and Penalties**

#### **Subtitle VI. Regulation and Possession of Weapons**

#### **Chapter 45. Weapons and Possession of Weapons**

#### **22-4501. Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter, the term:

(1) "Crime of violence" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 23-1331(4).

(2) "Dangerous crime" means distribution or possession with intent to distribute a controlled substance. For the purposes of this definition, the term "controlled substance" means any substance defined as such in the District of Columbia Code or any Act of Congress.

(2A) "Firearm" means any weapon, regardless of operability, which will, or is designed or redesigned, made or remade, readily converted, restored, or repaired, or is

intended to, expel a projectile or projectiles by the action of an explosive. The term "firearm" shall not include:

(1) A destructive device as that term is defined in § 7-2501.01(7);

(2) A device used exclusively for line throwing, signaling, or safety, and required or recommended by the Coast Guard or Interstate Commerce Commission; or

(3) A device used exclusively for firing explosive rivets, stud cartridges, or similar industrial ammunition and incapable for use as a weapon.

(3) "Knuckles" means an object, whether made of metal, wood, plastic, or other similarly durable material that is constructed of one piece, the outside part of which is designed to fit over and cover the fingers on a hand and the inside part of which is designed to be gripped by the fist.

(4) "Machine gun" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(10).

(5) "Person" includes individual, firm, association, or corporation.

(6) "Pistol" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(12).

(6A) "Place of business" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(12A).

(7) "Playground" means any facility intended for recreation, open to the public, and with any portion of the facility that contains one or more separate apparatus intended for the recreation of children, including, but not limited to, sliding boards, swingsets, and teeterboards.

(7A) "Registrant" means a person who has registered a firearm pursuant to Chapter 25 of Title 7.

(8) "Sawed-off shotgun" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(15).

(9) "Sell" and "purchase" and the various derivatives of such words shall be construed to include letting on hire, giving, lending, borrowing, and otherwise transferring.

(9A) "Shotgun" shall have the same meaning as provided in § 7-2501.01(16).

(10) "Video arcade" means any facility legally accessible to persons under 18 years of age, intended primarily for the use of pinball and video machines for amusement, and which contains a minimum of 10 pinball or video machines.

(11) "Youth center" means any recreational facility or gymnasium (including any parking lot appurtenant thereto), intended primarily for use by persons under 18 years of age, which regularly provides athletic, civic, or cultural activities.

#### **22-4502.01. Gun free zones; enhanced penalty**

(a) All areas within 1000 feet of an appropriately identified public or private day care center, elementary school, vocational school, secondary school, college, junior college, or university, or any public swimming pool, playground, video arcade, youth center, or public library, or in and around public housing as defined in 42 U.S.C.S. § 1437a(b), the development or administration of which is assisted by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development, or in or around housing that is owned, operated, or financially assisted by the District of Columbia Housing Authority, or an event sponsored by any of the above entities shall be declared a gun

free zone. For the purposes of this subsection, the term "appropriately identified" means that there is a sign that identifies the building or area as a gun free zone.

(b) Any person illegally carrying a gun within a gun free zone shall be punished by a fine up to twice that otherwise authorized to be imposed, by a term of imprisonment up to twice that otherwise authorized to be imposed, or both.

(c) The provisions of this section shall not apply to a person legally licensed to carry a firearm in the District of Columbia who lives or works within 1000 feet of a gun free zone or to members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps of the United States; the National Guard or Organized Reserves when on duty; the Post Office Department or its employees when on duty; marshals, sheriffs, prison, or jail wardens, or their deputies; policemen or other duly-appointed law enforcement officers; officers or employees of the United States duly authorized to carry such weapons; banking institutions; public carriers who are engaged in the business of transporting mail, money, securities, or other valuables; and licensed wholesale or retail dealers.

#### **22-4503. Unlawful possession of firearm**

(a) No person shall own or keep a firearm, or have a firearm in his or her possession or under his or her control, within the District of Columbia, if:

- (1) Such person is a drug addict;
- (2) Such person has been convicted in the District of Columbia or elsewhere of a felony;
- (3) Such person has been convicted of violating § 22-2701, § 22-2722, or §§ 22-3502 to 22-3506; or
- (4) Such person is not licensed under § 22-4510 to sell weapons, and such person has been convicted of violating this chapter.

(b) No person shall keep a firearm for, or intentionally make a firearm available to, such a person, knowing that such person has been so convicted or that such person is a drug addict. Whoever violates this section shall be sentenced to imprisonment for not more than 10 years and shall be sentenced to imprisonment for a mandatory-minimum term of not less than 1 year and shall not be released from prison or granted probation or suspension of sentence prior to serving the mandatory-minimum sentence.

**22-4507. Certain sales of pistols prohibited** No person shall within the District of Columbia sell any pistol to a person who he or she has reasonable cause to believe is not of sound mind, or is forbidden by § 22-4503 to possess a pistol, or, except when the relation of parent and child or guardian and ward exists, is under the age of 21 years.

#### **22-4508. Transfers of firearms regulated**

No seller shall within the District of Columbia deliver a firearm to the purchaser thereof until 10 days shall have elapsed from the time of the application for the purchase thereof, except in the case of sales to marshals, sheriffs, prison or jail wardens or their deputies, policemen, or other duly appointed law enforcement officers, and, when delivered, said firearm shall be transported in accordance with § 22-4504.02. At the time of applying for the purchase of a firearm the purchaser shall sign in duplicate and deliver to the seller a statement containing his or her full name, address, occupation, color, place of birth, the date and hour of application, the caliber,

make, model, and manufacturer's number of the firearm to be purchased and a statement that the purchaser is not forbidden by § 22-4503 to possess a firearm. The seller shall, within 6 hours after such application, sign and attach his or her address and deliver 1 copy to such person or persons as the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia may designate, and shall retain the other copy for 6 years. No machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or blackjack shall be sold to any person other than the persons designated in § 22-4514 as entitled to possess the same, and then only after permission to make such sale has been obtained from the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia. This section shall not apply to sales at wholesale to licensed dealers.

**22-4509. Dealers of weapons to be licensed** No retail dealer shall within the District of Columbia sell or expose for sale or have in his or her possession with intent to sell, any pistol, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or blackjack without being licensed as provided in § 22-4510. No wholesale dealer shall, within the District of Columbia, sell, or have in his or her possession with intent to sell, to any person other than a licensed dealer, any pistol, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or blackjack.

#### **22-4510. Licenses of weapons dealers; records; by whom granted; conditions**

(a) The Mayor of the District of Columbia may, in his or her discretion, grant licenses and may prescribe the form thereof, effective for not more than 1 year from date of issue, permitting the licensee to sell pistols, machine guns, sawed-off shotguns, and blackjacks at retail within the District of Columbia subject to the following conditions in addition to those specified in § 22-4509, for breach of any of which the license shall be subject to forfeiture and the licensee subject to punishment as provided in this chapter:

- (1) The business shall be carried on only in the building designated in the license.
- (2) The license or a copy thereof, certified by the issuing authority, shall be displayed on the premises where it can be easily read.
- (3) No pistol shall be sold: (A) if the seller has reasonable cause to believe that the purchaser is not of sound mind or is forbidden by § 22-4503 to possess a pistol or is under the age of 21 years; and (B) unless the purchaser is personally known to the seller or shall present clear evidence of his or her identity. No machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or blackjack shall be sold to any person other than the persons designated in § 22-4514 as entitled to possess the same, and then only after permission to make such sale has been obtained from the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia.

(4) A true record shall be made in a book kept for the purpose, the form of which may be prescribed by the Mayor, of all pistols, machine guns, and sawed-off shotguns in the possession of the licensee, which said record shall contain the date of purchase, the caliber, make, model, and manufacturer's number of the weapon, to which shall be added, when sold, the date of sale.

(5) A true record in duplicate shall be made of every pistol, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, and blackjack sold, said record to be made in a book kept for the purpose, the form of which may be prescribed by the Mayor of the District of Columbia and shall be personally signed by the

purchaser and by the person effecting the sale, each in the presence of the other and shall contain the date of sale, the name, address, occupation, color, and place of birth of the purchaser, and, so far as applicable, the caliber, make, model, and manufacturer's number of the weapon, and a statement by the purchaser that the purchaser is not forbidden by § 22-4503 to possess a pistol. One copy of said record shall, within 7 days, be forwarded by mail to the Chief of Police of the District of Columbia and the other copy retained by the seller for 6 years.

(6) No pistol or imitation thereof or placard advertising the sale thereof shall be displayed in any part of said premises where it can readily be seen from the outside. No license to sell at retail shall be granted to anyone except as provided in this section.

(b) Any license issued pursuant to this section shall be issued by the Metropolitan Police Department as a Public Safety endorsement to a basic business license under the basic business license system as set forth in subchapter I-A of Chapter 28 of Title 47 of the District of Columbia Code.

**22-4511. False information in purchase of weapons prohibited** No person shall, in purchasing a pistol or in applying for a license to carry the same, or in purchasing a machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or blackjack within the District of Columbia, give false information or offer false evidence of his or her identity.

**22-4512. Alteration of identifying marks of weapons prohibited** No person shall within the District of Columbia change, alter, remove, or obliterate the name of the maker, model, manufacturer's number, or other mark or identification on any pistol, machine gun, or sawed-off shotgun. Possession of any pistol, machine gun, or sawed-off shotgun upon which any such mark shall have been changed, altered, removed, or obliterated shall be prima facie evidence that the possessor has changed, altered, removed, or obliterated the same within the District of Columbia; provided, however, that nothing contained in this section shall apply to any officer or agent of any of the departments of the United States or the District of Columbia engaged in experimental work.

#### **22-4513. Exceptions**

Except as provided in §§ 22-4502, 22-4504(b), and 22-4514(b), this chapter shall not apply to toy or antique pistols unsuitable for use as firearms.

#### **22-4514. Possession of certain dangerous weapons prohibited; exceptions.**

(a) No person shall within the District of Columbia possess any machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, or any instrument or weapon of the kind commonly known as a blackjack, slungshot, sand club, sandbag, switchblade knife, or metal knuckles, nor any instrument, attachment, or appliance for causing the firing of any firearm to be silent or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any firearms; provided, however, that machine guns, or sawed-off shotguns, and blackjacks may be possessed by the members of the Army, Navy, Air Force, or Marine Corps of the United States, the National Guard, or Organized Reserves when on duty, the Post Office Department or its employees when on duty, marshals, sheriffs, prison or jail wardens, or their deputies, policemen, or other duly-appointed law enforcement officers, including any designated

civilian employee of the Metropolitan Police Department, or officers or employees of the United States duly authorized to carry such weapons, banking institutions, public carriers who are engaged in the business of transporting mail, money, securities, or other valuables, wholesale dealers and retail dealers licensed under § 22-4510.

(b) No person shall within the District of Columbia possess, with intent to use unlawfully against another, an imitation pistol, or a dagger, dirk, razor, stiletto, or knife with a blade longer than 3 inches, or other dangerous weapon.

(c) Whoever violates this section shall be punished as provided in § 22-4515 unless the violation occurs after such person has been convicted in the District of Columbia of a violation of this section, or of a felony, either in the District of Columbia or in another jurisdiction, in which case such person shall be imprisoned for not more than 10 years.

**22-4515. Penalties** Any violation of any provision of this chapter for which no penalty is specifically provided shall be punished by a fine of not more than \$1,000 or imprisonment for not more than 1 year, or both.

**22-4515a. Manufacture, transfer, use, possession, or transportation of Molotov cocktails, or other explosives for unlawful purposes, prohibited; definitions; penalties**

(a) No person shall within the District of Columbia manufacture, transfer, use, possess, or transport a Molotov cocktail. As used in this subsection, the term "Molotov cocktail" means: (1) a breakable container containing flammable liquid and having a wick or a similar device capable of being ignited; or (2) any other device designed to explode or produce uncontained combustion upon impact; but such term does not include a device lawfully and commercially manufactured primarily for the purpose of illumination, construction work, or other lawful purpose.

(b) No person shall manufacture, transfer, use, possess, or transport any device, instrument, or object designed to explode or produce uncontained combustion, with the intent that the same may be used unlawfully against any person or property.

(c) No person shall, during a state of emergency in the District of Columbia declared by the Mayor pursuant to law, or during a situation in the District of Columbia concerning which the President has invoked any provision of Chapter 15 of Title 10, United States Code, manufacture, transfer, use, possess, or transport any device, instrument, or object designed to explode or produce uncontained combustion, except at his or her residence or place of business.

(d) Whoever violates this section shall:

(1) for the first offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 1 and not more than 5 years;

(2) for the second offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 3 and not more than 15 years; and

(3) for the third or subsequent offense, be sentenced to a term of imprisonment of not less than 5 years and not more than 30 years. In the case of a person convicted of a third or subsequent violation of this section, Chapter 402 of Title 18, United States Code (Federal Youth Corrections Act) shall not apply. For purposes of imprisonment following revocation of release authorized by § 24-403.01(b)(7), the third or subse-

quent conviction for an offense defined by this section is a Class A felony.

**22-4517. Dangerous articles; definition; taking and destruction; procedure**

(a) As used in this section, the term "dangerous article" means:

(1) Any weapon such as a pistol, machine gun, sawed-off shotgun, blackjack, slingshot, sandbag, or metal knuckles; or

(2) Any instrument, attachment, or appliance for causing the firing of any firearms to be silent or intended to lessen or muffle the noise of the firing of any firearms.

(b) A dangerous article unlawfully owned, possessed, or carried is hereby declared to be a nuisance.

(c) When a police officer, in the course of a lawful arrest or lawful search, or when a designated civilian employee of the Metropolitan Police Department in the course of a lawful search, discovers a dangerous article which the officer reasonably believes is a nuisance under subsection (b) of this section the officer shall take it into his or her possession and surrender it to the Property Clerk of the Metropolitan Police Department.

(d)(1) Within 30 days after the date of such surrender, any person may file in the office of the Property Clerk of the Metropolitan Police Department a written claim for possession of such dangerous article. Upon the expiration of such period, the Property Clerk shall notify each such claimant, by registered mail addressed to the address shown on the claim, of the time and place of a hearing to determine which claimant, if any, is entitled to possession of such dangerous article. Such hearing shall be held within 60 days after the date of such surrender.

(2) At the hearing the Property Clerk shall hear and receive evidence with respect to the claims filed under paragraph (1) of this subsection. Thereafter he or she shall determine which claimant, if any, is entitled to possession of such dangerous article and shall reduce his or her decision to writing. The Property Clerk shall send a true copy of such written decision to each claimant by registered mail addressed to the last known address of such claimant.

(3) Any claimant may, within 30 days after the day on which the copy of such decision was mailed to such claimant, file an appeal in the Superior Court of the District of Columbia. If the claimant files an appeal, he or she shall at the same time give written notice thereof to the Property Clerk. If the decision of the Property Clerk is so appealed, the Property Clerk shall not dispose of the dangerous article while such appeal is pending and, if the final judgment is entered by such court, he or she shall dispose of such dangerous article in accordance with the judgment of such court. The Superior Court of the District of Columbia is authorized to determine which claimant, if any, is entitled to possession of the dangerous article and to enter a judgment ordering a disposition of such dangerous article consistent with subsection (f) of this section.

(4) If there is no such appeal, or if such appeal is dismissed or withdrawn, the Property Clerk shall dispose of such dangerous article in accordance with subsection (f) of this section.

(5) The Property Clerk shall make no disposition of a dangerous article under this section, whether in accordance with his or her own de-

cision or in accordance with the judgment of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia, until the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia certifies to the Property Clerk that such dangerous article will not be needed as evidence.

(e) A person claiming a dangerous article shall be entitled to its possession only if: (1) such person shows, on satisfactory evidence, that such person is the owner of the dangerous article or is the accredited representative of the owner, and that the ownership is lawful; (2) such person shows on satisfactory evidence that at the time the dangerous article was taken into possession by a police officer or a designated civilian employee of the Metropolitan Police Department, it was not unlawfully owned and was not unlawfully possessed or carried by the claimant or with his or her knowledge or consent; and (3) the receipt of possession by the claimant does not cause the article to be a nuisance. A representative is accredited if such person has a power of attorney from the owner.

(f) If a person claiming a dangerous article is entitled to its possession as determined under subsections (d) and (e) of this section, possession of such dangerous article shall be given to such person. If no person so claiming is entitled to its possession as determined under subsections (d) and (e) of this section, or if there be no claimant, such dangerous article shall be destroyed. In lieu of such destruction, any such serviceable dangerous article may, upon order of the Mayor of the District of Columbia, be transferred to and used by any federal or District Government law-enforcing agency, and the agency receiving same shall establish property responsibility and records of these dangerous articles.

(g) The Property Clerk shall not be liable in damages for any action performed in good faith under this section.

**Title 24. Prisoners and Their Treatment**

**Chapter 2. Prisons and Prisoners**

**Subchapter VII. Correctional Treatment Facility**

**24-261.02a. Registration of firearms for private operator**

(a) In order to register firearms, the private operator shall follow the following procedures:

(1) To register for interim approval, the private operator shall provide the Chief of the Metropolitan Police Department ("Chief of Police") with the serial numbers and storage places of firearms in the private operator's possession in the District of Columbia. If the Chief of Police determines that the information provided is satisfactory, he or she shall issue interim approval to the private operator for the weapons identified and held in the private operator's possession. The interim approval shall be valid for 90 days, during which time the private operator shall complete the actions necessary to register for permanent approval.

(2) (A) To register for permanent approval, the private operator shall provide the Chief of Police with the following information:

(i) The names and such other identifying information as the Chief of Police may require, of all private correctional officers who will be

authorized by the private operator to carry and use firearms in the course of their assigned duties;

(ii) Records or other evidence acceptable to the Chief of Police to demonstrate that each private correctional officer authorized to carry and use firearms has received instructions about all applicable rules of the Department of Corrections or the Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding the use of force and deadly force in the course of his or her duties;

(iii) Records or other evidence acceptable to the Chief of Police to demonstrate that each private correctional officer authorized to carry and use firearms has successfully completed the training required by § 24-261.02(d); and

(iv) A sworn affidavit signed by each private correctional officer authorized to carry and use

firearms attesting that he or she has read and understands all applicable rules of the Department of Corrections or the Federal Bureau of Prisons regarding the use of force and deadly force in the course of his or her duties.

(B) The Chief of Police, upon determining that the information submitted in accordance with this paragraph is satisfactory, shall issue permanent registration approval to the private operator for the firearms in the private operator's possession in the District of Columbia.

(b) A private operator who is issued firearms registration approval pursuant to this section shall be subject to the duties and revocation provisions set forth in §§ 7-2502.08 and 7-2502.09, and other applicable rules and laws of the District of Columbia. A private operator shall notify the Chief of Police whenever any private

correctional officer authorized to carry and use firearms leaves the private operator's employment at a facility in the District or otherwise ceases to be authorized to carry and use firearms.

(c) Nothing in § 24-261.02 or this section shall be construed to allow any private correctional officer or any other person to remove any weapon registered to the private operator from the premises and grounds of the private operator's facility except in the performance of assigned duties and in accordance with laws and rules of the District and federal governments.

**[Current through D.C. Law 18-8, Effective June 2, 2009 and through D.C. Act 18-97]**