



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Assistant Director

Washington, DC 20226

JUN 25 2008

**OPEN LETTER TO FEDERALLY LICENSED FIREARMS IMPORTERS
AND REGISTERED IMPORTERS OF U.S. MUNITIONS IMPORT LIST
ARTICLES-CLARIFICATION ON THE IMPORTABILITY OF FIREARM BARRELS
UNDER 18 U.S.C § 925(d)(3)**

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) is committed to keeping industry members informed of statutory and regulatory developments affecting them. In furtherance of this commitment, we have prepared this open letter, which contains information about a recent clarification on the importation of barrels for official use by a government agency.

Importation of Frames, Receivers or Barrels of Firearms Under Title 18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3)

By way of an Open Letter dated July 13, 2005, ATF advised Federally licensed firearm importers and registered importers of U.S. Munitions Import List articles that, pursuant to the provisions of 18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3), ATF would no longer approve ATF Form 6 applications for the importation of any frames, receivers, or barrels for firearms that would be prohibited from importation if assembled.

After ATF issued its July 13, 2005, Open Letter, questions were raised regarding the importation of barrels for the official use of a government agency. Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. § 925(a)(1), ATF has the authority to approve ATF Form 6 applications seeking to import barrels for nonsporting, NFA, and surplus military firearms when the application is accompanied by a purchase order or government contract indicating that the barrels are for the official use of a Federal, State, or local government agency.

Importers are reminded that the exemption is only for the importation of barrels for, or on behalf of government agencies. ATF will continue to deny **all other** ATF Form 6 applications seeking to import frames, receivers, or barrels for firearms that would be prohibited from importation if assembled

Maintaining open lines of communication is vital to the successful future of ATF's partnership with the import community. The Firearms and Explosives Imports Branch staff is available to

answer your questions about the issues addressed in this letter. You may reach them by phone at (304) 616-4550 or by fax at (304) 616-4551.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Audrey Stucko', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Audrey Stucko
Deputy Assistant Director
Enforcement Programs & Services