



SPECIAL MESSAGE from the Director

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20220

Dear Federal Explosives Licensee or Permittee:

We are pleased to provide you with this guide to Federal explosives laws, regulations, and related information. Since the last publication, several changes have been made to explosives laws and regulations.

Explosives play a large role in the production of materials and services that affect virtually all facets of modern life. The vast majority of explosives produced in the United States are used in mining, quarrying, and construction. In 1998, over 6 billion pounds of explosives were produced here. We look forward to working with industry members to achieve voluntary compliance with the Federal explosives laws without creating an unnecessary burden to explosives businesses, and we welcome ideas and input that might help us become more effective and efficient in our regulatory efforts.

Unfortunately, we have become all too familiar with scenes of violence and destruction in which explosives were used for illegitimate purposes, or in which accidental explosions have caused loss of life and untold hardship. In our efforts to reduce violent crime through regulation and criminal enforcement, we rely upon the explosives industry to maintain accurate records and inventories, keep explosives secure from theft, and report any theft or loss within 24 hours. As always, we will provide guidance and assistance regarding these issues whenever possible.

I wish to express my appreciation for your past cooperation. By responsibly and lawfully distributing and storing explosives, licensees play an important role in protecting the American public from violent crime involving explosives.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Bradley A. Buckles", is centered below the text "Sincerely yours,".

Bradley A. Buckles