

*U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE*  
BUREAU OF ALCOHOL, TOBACCO,  
FIREARMS AND EXPLOSIVES

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*F*IREARMS  
*T*ECHNOLOGY  
*B*RANCH



# **Overview**

**The goal of the Firearms Technology Branch (FTB) at the 2011 Importers Conference is to provide an overview of what FTB has been doing to support law enforcement, the firearms industry and the public this past fiscal year.**

**FTB will also address several topics of interest to the firearms community.**

**FTB will briefly address the marking requirements and discuss how to obtain a marking variance.**

**Finally, FTB will provide information on where to ship samples for evaluation and how to obtain destruction diagrams.**

**Questions regarding the status of conditional imports may be answered by contacting our Customer Service Representative at 304-616-4300.**



# FTB Mission / Vision Statement

## Mission Statement:

The Firearms Technology Branch's (FTB) purpose is to serve the Nation as the Federal technical authority relating to firearms and their classification under Federal law and by regulation. FTB is responsible for responding to and acting upon law enforcement agencies' requests to test, evaluate, and provide expert testimony and training on firearms and ammunition, and to provide technical services and assistance to the firearms industry and the public.

## Vision Statement:

To become a world leader in the development of technical firearm standards based on our knowledge, training and customer relationships in the field of firearms and ammunition. Our expertise will enable us to better support law enforcement, the firearms and ammunition industry and the general public.



## FTB Functions

- Evaluates evidence in criminal cases for ATF and all other law enforcement agencies
- Evaluates requests/submissions for importation of firearms
- Supports entire firearms industry with firearms classifications
- Provides marking variances to the firearms industry
- Responds to inquires from the general public regarding firearms
- Provides call-in service for all ATF agents and inspectors
- Provides call-in service for all firearms industry
- Performs training to federal, state, local & international agencies regarding the use, identification and handling of firearms
- Performs training to ATF agents prior to war time deployment
- Provides testimony as experts in federal criminal cases
- Provides technical support/assistance to ATF counsel for legal determinations

## **FTB Functions** *(continued)*

- Repairs and maintains all ATF issued firearms
- Provides firearms to ATF in support of criminal investigations
- Maintains and procures firearms for the National Reference Collection
- Provides assistance to ATF agents during search warrants
- Provides assistance to ATF agents to identify firearms
- Provides information in response to FOIA and congressional inquiries
- Provides training to the military in support of Operations overseas
- Conducts testing and evaluation of firearms and ammunition
- Assists with training of new Industry Operations Investigators and Special Agents
- Operates and supports the Interstate Nexus Academy
- Conducts research with firearms and ammunition

# FTB Support to External Agencies & Organizations



# FTB Attendance at Conferences/Expos/Seminars





# Industry / Public Statistics

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
Total Correspondence	884	1247	1158
Variance Requests	269	627	574
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests	14	2	16
Congressional Responses	2	5	3
Email Responses from Public/Industry	231	128	346
Industry Visits	58	45	43
Public Visits	7	8	12
Estimated Phone calls per day	40	40	40



# Field Support Statistics

	FY 2008	FY 2009	FY 2010
<b>ATF Case Assignments (Evidence Evaluations)</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>604</b>	<b>575</b>
<b>Number of evidence exhibits evaluated</b>	<b>1475</b>	<b>1733</b>	<b>1512</b>
<b>Evidence Evaluation Expedites</b>	<b>95</b>	<b>115</b>	<b>112</b>
<b>Trial Testimony</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>47</b>
<b>Search Warrant Assistance</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>21</b>
<b>Travel to assist Agents with firearms identification</b>	<b>13</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>31</b>
<b>Training Provided by FTB</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>61</b>
<b>PGA Support (Range shoots)</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>Seminars/Meetings Attended</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>20</b>	<b>26</b>



# Bump Fire Stocks





# Bump Fire Stocks





## Submitting Samples

- FTB will provide classification of a sample upon written request from the industry and public.
- FTB will work from diagrams and drawings, but will request to review a physical sample before a final classification letter is submitted.
- The person or persons requesting the classification is responsible for shipping to and from FTB.
- All samples should be shipped to FTB at the Martinsburg, WV address.



## Conditional Imports

- ATF Form 6 is Required
- Block 8D - Request a Quantity of One (1)
- Section 10 – Conditional Importation / FTB Evaluation & Testing
- Imports Responds with a Conditional Approval in Block 16 on the ATF Form 6 with a Letter of Instruction
- The sample should be shipped from OCONUS to FTB



## Conditional Imports

- Importation Evaluation conducted by FTB
- Classification Letter is forwarded to the Importer that requested it and a copy is forwarded to the Imports Branch
- Firearm Disposition after Evaluation

# Required Markings on Firearms Imported into U.S.

1. NAME OF THE MANUFACTURER
2. COUNTRY OF ORIGIN
3. IMPORTER'S NAME, CITY & STATE
4. MODEL (if assigned)
5. CALIBER or GAUGE
6. SERIAL NUMBER

- Must be on the frame or receiver
- Cannot duplicate a serial number

Do not forget the height/depth requirements

Ref: 27 CFR 478.82 - 1/16 & .003 of an inch



## Acceptable Destruction Standards

The minimum acceptable standards that the ATF will accept are: Completely severing the receiver in at least 3 critical locations, that we specify by model, with an oxy/acetylene torch, that has a cutting tip which removes at least  $\frac{1}{4}$  inch of metal per cut.



## Requesting an Alternate Method of Destruction

1. Send in a photo or drawing of your desired alternate method of destruction.
2. FTB will evaluate and either accept or recommend additional destruction.
3. After receipt of FTB's determination, for final determination and approval you must submit a physical sample.

## Contact Us

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