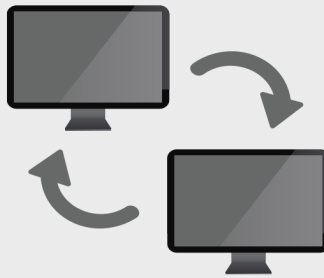


HOW ATF TRACES FIREARMS



A firearm is recovered by law enforcement



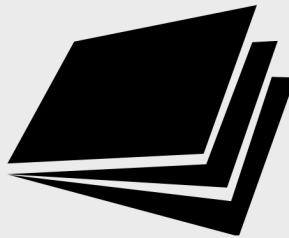
ATF receives recovery information in e-Trace



Trace reveals origin of firearm manufacturer or importer



The first purchaser is identified and the investigative process is initiated **



FFL manually looks through firearm transaction records to find the first purchaser **



Trace leads to the original Federal Firearms Licensee (FFL) *

373,000+
trace requests in FY15



* Not all traces may lead to original FFL; sales sometimes lead beyond that to a subsequent FFL.
** First purchaser is not always identified; traces sometimes lead to a more recent purchaser or an unlicensed purchaser.



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