

IMPORTERS CONFERENCE 2012



*FIREARMS
TECHNOLOGY
BRANCH*

Industry / Public Statistics

	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011
Total Correspondence	1247	1158	1191
Variance Requests	627	574	625
Freedom of Information Act (FOIA) requests	2	16	14
Congressional Responses	5	3	2
Email Responses from Public/Industry	128	346	576
Estimated Phone Calls per day	50	50	50



Overview

The goal of the Firearms Technology Branch (FTB) at the 2012 Importers Conference is to make you aware of the sporting criteria used for determining whether a shotgun can be imported into the United States.

FTB will also address the different aspects of the recent shotgun study to include those features that are not particularly suitable or readily adaptable for sporting purposes.

FTB will also briefly discuss the public comments received and the impact the study may be perceived to have had on previously approved shotguns for importation.

Questions regarding the importation of any shotgun may be answered during the Q&A session or during the breaks.

Gun Control Act of 1968

18 U.S.C. 922 (I)

Except as provided in section 925(d) of this chapter, it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to import or bring into the United States or any possession thereof any firearm or ammunition; and it shall be unlawful for any person knowingly to receive any firearm or ammunition which has been imported or brought into the United States or any possession thereof in violation of the provisions of this chapter.





Import Exception

Pursuant to **18 U.S.C. 925(d)(3)**:

The Attorney General shall approve applications for importation when the firearms are generally recognized as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes (**the “sporting purposes test”**).



Sporting Purposes Test

To qualify for importation under **18 U.S.C. § 925(d)(3)**, a firearm or ammunition must be of a type **generally recognized** as particularly suitable for or readily adaptable to sporting purposes.

Prior to the Shotgun Study:

1968: A panel was convened to provide input on the sport suitability standards which resulted in the factoring criteria for handgun importation.

1989: A study determined that certain semiautomatic rifles contained a variety of physical features that distinguished them from traditional sporting rifles.



Sporting Purposes Test Continued

1998: This study concurred with the conclusions of the 1989 study, but determined that the ability to accept a large capacity military magazine should be a separate disqualifying “military feature.”

2012: Shotgun Study Published



Sporting Firearms

All the studies concluded that pursuant to legislative history, the scope of “**sporting purposes test**” did not include all lawful activity, but was limited to traditional sports such as hunting, skeet shooting and trap shooting.



Non-Sporting Features for Shotguns

- Folding, telescoping stocks or collapsible stocks
- Bayonet lugs
- Flash suppressors
- Magazines over 5 rounds or a drum magazine
- Grenade launcher mounts
- Light enhancing devices
- Excessive weight (greater than 10 pounds)
- Excessive bulk (greater than 3" width and 4" depth)



What Has Changed

- Clarifies the sporting suitability and importability of shotguns
- Currently allows for a separate pistol grip that is not part of an integral shoulder stock
- Allows for an integrated rail system on the forearm
- Authorizes the use of a forward pistol grip
- Already approved one shotgun for importation that would have been denied prior to the study being conducted



Conclusion

- Current Shotgun Study is posted on the ATF Website at www.atf.gov
- Shotguns that have never been approved for importation should still be reviewed by FTB
- Questions on the study should be directed to FTB
- Comments
- Questions



Thank You!

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