



Department of Treasury

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms

Washington, DC 20226

July 12, 2000

Open Letter to All Federal Firearms Licensees

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) announces the launching of "[FFL eZ Check](#)" — an online Federal firearms license (FFL) authenticator web site at www.atf.gov.

The prevention of violent crime in America is among ATF's primary goals. The online "FFL eZ Check" is another new measure in our continuing efforts to decrease firearms violence and to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and youth.

We are reaching out to develop new working relationships with the firearms industry and consumers, and to strengthen existing relationships.

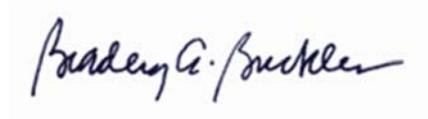
Online "[FFL eZ Check](#)" was created to aid the firearms industry in preventing the fraudulent use of their licenses by individuals who alter copies of licenses to illegally acquire and supply firearms to criminals and youth.

"FFL eZ Check" allows a Federal Firearms Licensee who has a copy of an FFL to verify or authenticate the license prior to shipping or disposing of a firearm(s) to the licensee. The web site will verify the information shown on the license.

To access the "FFL eZ Check," logon to the ATF web site at www.atf.treas.gov. The "FFL eZ Check" page will allow you to enter the first 3 digits and the last 5 digits of the license number, and then click on Submit to verify the license. You can click on the Reset button to clear previously entered data. If the data entered is valid, when you click the Submit button, the License Number, Expiration Date, License Name, Trade Name, Premises Address, and Mailing Address will appear. If there is a problem with the data you entered, an error (problem?) report will appear on the screen. The report will list the FFL entered, provide you with instructions for reporting the problem, and display a link to a Problem Submission Form that you can submit to ATF.

In the event that the license you are attempting to verify is not found in FFL eZ Check; the data does not match the data on the license you have; or you have questions concerning the information displayed in eZ Check, you will be prompted to contact the National Licensing Center using the Problem Report link on the web page. You also will be advised that if you have reason to believe the license you are working with has expired, is fraudulent, or has been altered, you should call the National Licensing Center at (404) 679-5079 as soon as possible.

This new web site, along with ATF's other programs, will contribute to a safer, sounder America by helping keep guns out of the hands of criminals and youth. We want to make the streets safer for citizens; law enforcement personnel; and, especially, our children. It is imperative that they have the opportunity for a childhood free from the threat of illegal firearms violence.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Bradley A. Buckles". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line at the end.

Bradley A. Buckles
Director