



# ATF EXPLOSIVES Industry Newsletter

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## New Deputy Assistant Director

**C**urtis Gilbert was recently named as the Deputy Assistant Director, Enforcement Program and Services. Mr. Gilbert joined ATF as an inspector in 1988 before becoming an Area Supervisor in San Diego, California, in 2004. Mr. Gilbert has held positions as Operations Officer and Special Operations Inspector in Chicago, Director Industry Operations (DIO) in Detroit, and Deputy Chief of the Field Management Staff in Washington, DC. Curtis Gilbert served as the Deputy Assistant Director (Field Operations) before coming to EPS and is looking forward to addressing the 21st century business needs of the firearms and explosives industries within ATF's purview. Mr. Gilbert succeeds Marvin Richardson who became Assistant Director of EPS following Arthur Herbert's retirement earlier this year.

## Regulation of Explosives in Transit Web Page

**A**TF regulations at 27 CFR 555.205 require that all explosive materials be kept in locked magazines meeting the construction standards of Part 555, Subpart K—Storage, unless they are: In the process of manufacture; being physically handled in the operating process of a licensee or user; being used; or being transported to a place of storage or use by a Federal explosives licensee or permittee or by a person who has lawfully acquired explosive materials.

The U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) regulates the transportation of hazardous materials in commerce. The Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA), within DOT, has regulatory and civil enforcement authority over the transportation of explosive materials in commerce. As specified under 18 U.S.C. § 845(a)(1), aspects of transportation that are regulated by DOT or the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) that pertain to safety or security are not regulated by ATF. However, ATF

**Firearms & Explosives Industry Division (FEID)**  
Division Chief **Michael F. Fronczak**

**Explosives Industry Programs Branch (EIPB)**  
Branch Chief **Paul W. Brown**

**Firearms Industry Programs Branch (FIPB)**  
Branch Chief **Vacant**

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has received numerous inquiries concerning activities associated with the actual movement of explosives in transit. Questions such as:

When are materials considered in “transportation” according to DOT?

What about loading, unloading, or storage incidental to the actual movement in transportation?

What do FMCSA regulations say about parking a motor vehicle containing Division 1.1, 1.2, or 1.3 materials?

Do I follow ATF’s or DOT’s regulations if I am making deliveries at multiple locations and park my vehicle overnight? What if I stop overnight at a hotel?

ATF and the PHMSA have developed guidance and scenarios to help answer these and similar questions. We invite all persons who transport or receive explosives to visit the new Regulation of Explosives in Transit website at <http://www.atf.gov/sites/default/files/assets/Explosives/Industry/explosives-in-transit.pdf> for the answers to these questions and to learn more about DOT and ATF storage requirements.

Please note that in addition to DOT and ATF requirements, there may also be local, State or Federal laws that apply to your explosives-related activities.

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## Black Powder Open Letter

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**A**TF has issued an open letter concerning the black powder exception under the Federal explosives laws.

Except for certain criminal offenses, Federal law, 18 U.S.C. § 845(a)(5), excepts the purchase and possession of black powder from the Federal explosives laws and regulations provided the black powder is commercially manufactured; (2) the quantity of black powder does not exceed 50 pounds; and (3) the black powder is intended to be used in antique firearms or antique devices solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes.

No explosives permit is required if a person only intends to purchase and use commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds for the above stated purposes in antique firearms or antique devices.

However, any individual or company purchasing any amount of black powder for any other purpose, including for use in fireworks or pyrotechnics, must obtain a Federal explosives license or permit. Such persons must also store the black powder in an explosives magazine compliant with the regulations.

Because the exception only applies to certain intended uses by the consumer, persons engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing, or dealing in any quantity of black powder must be licensed, maintain records, and store such explosive material in accordance with regulations. Black powder users are encouraged to read the entire open letter at <http://www.atf.gov/content/library/explosives-open-letters>.

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## How to Address a Loss?

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**G**enerally, any person who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials from his/her stock must report such theft or loss within 24 hours of discovery to ATF and to appropriate local authorities. A carrier of explosive materials who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials must report such theft or loss within 24 hours of discovery to ATF and to appropriate local authorities. This theft/loss reporting requirement in the Federal explosives laws at 18 U.S.C. § 844(p) and 27 CFR 555.30 refers to explosive materials when the owner, authorized possessor or operator has unintentionally lost possession, care, or control of the explosives materials and cannot account for their absence.

In many cases, an apparent loss can be the result of an administrative error in recordkeeping. If there is no indication that a theft or breach in security has occurred, *e.g.*, broken fence or signs of prying, the following should be considered:

### *Missing from Storage*

If explosive materials are missing from storage, you should reconcile the Daily Summary of Magazine Transactions (DSMT) against a physical inventory. We strongly encourage conducting a full physical inventory to reconcile the discrepancies and to prevent future inventory losses. Update the DSMT if the discrepancy is due to an accounting error. If the loss cannot be accounted for through a reconciliation of explosives records, you must comply with the regulations at 27 CFR 555.30, including reporting the theft or loss on the [ATF F 5400.5, Report of Theft or Loss—Explosive Materials](#) and notifying the local authorities.

Explosives industry members have expressed concern about reporting a theft or loss of explosive materials when they have reason to believe that the theft or loss occurred prior to receipt of an explosive materials shipment (*e.g.*, during transportation or packing at the manufacturer’s premises). ATF has interpreted the theft/loss reporting requirement in the Federal explosives laws at 18 U.S.C. § 844(p) and 27 CFR 555.30 to require any licensee or

permittee, carrier, or other person discovering a theft or loss of explosive materials under their ownership and/or control, to report this theft or loss.

The fact that the theft or loss may have occurred prior to the discovering person's receipt of the explosive materials does not affect the immediate reporting objective. The primary purpose of the reporting requirement is to help ensure that ATF is notified, as soon as possible, of the potential that explosive materials may have fallen into the hands of prohibited persons, persons intent on committing a crime, or other unauthorized persons. While determining the point of theft or loss is one of the goals of an investigation by ATF and other authorities, ATF encourages persons discovering the theft or loss to notify the distributor or manufacturer of the explosive materials after filing the report of theft or loss, if they believe the theft or loss could have resulted from activities at the distributor's or manufacturer's premises.

### ***Missing from Worksite***

If the explosive materials appear to be missing from the worksite or the site of operation and cannot be accounted for, we strongly recommend conducting a thorough search for the explosive materials in the area to prevent future theft or injury. Explosives licensees and permittees must complete and send an ATF Form 5400.5, *Report of Theft of Loss—Explosive Materials* to ATF as well as notify the local authorities, under the following examples:

- If the whereabouts of the explosive materials is unknown. For example, an employee misplaces a booster while loading shot holes.
- If the whereabouts of the explosive materials is generally known but they cannot be retrieved due to bad weather or terrain. For example, explosives dropped into deep snow from a helicopter for avalanche control on a mountain.
- If the materials cannot be retrieved because they are inaccessible, and all attempts to retrieve and/or destroy the materials have failed. For example, explosives that failed to function in a shot hole and cannot be retrieved by the operator.

ATF has determined the aforementioned examples are losses and require an ATF Form 5400.5 because the owner, authorized possessor, or operator is no longer in the possession, care, or control of the explosive materials. It is important to notify ATF as soon as possible after discovery of the potential that explosives may have fallen into the hands of criminals, terrorists, or other unauthorized persons.

### ***Unintentional Destruction***

If explosive materials are known to have been destroyed—e.g., by mistaken or accidental initiation, destruction of the container or delivery vehicle, spillage which cannot be recovered—the explosive materials are considered to have been used and no report of theft or loss to ATF is required. Federal explosives licensees and permittees should properly record the explosives materials as used in the appropriate required records.

### ***Reporting a Theft or Loss***

ATF understands that some industry members may see the act of reporting a theft or loss in a negative light even though there is no statutory or regulatory penalty for reporting such. While the actual theft or loss is of greatest concern, prompt reporting can help mitigate incidents that may occur because of the theft or loss and help ATF to identify areas where security improvements could be made to prevent future thefts or losses of explosive materials.

ATF field personnel and the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) staff are available to provide guidance to industry members on how to properly complete reports of theft or loss. In the event that missing explosives are found, or stolen explosives are recovered and returned, please notify the U.S. Bomb Data Center (USBDC) at 1-800-461-8841 and any local authorities to whom the initial report of loss was made.

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## **Pyrotechnic Hobby Fuse Exemption**

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**T**he Federal explosives laws at 18 U.S.C. § 845(a)(4) and the implementing regulations at 27 CFR 555.141(a)(4) generally exempt small arms ammunition and components of small arms ammunition. The regulation at 27 CFR 555.11 defines “Ammunition” in relevant part, as, “Small arms ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or smokeless propellants designed for use in small arms, including percussion caps, and  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch and other external burning pyrotechnic hobby fuses...”. ATF has long held that the term “small arms ammunition” pertains to .50 caliber or smaller rifle or handgun ammunition, as well as certain shotgun ammunition.

The regulations at 27 CFR 555.141(a)(7) generally exempt the importation, distribution, and storage of fireworks classified as UN0336, UN0337, UN0431, or UN0432 explosives by the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) at 49 CFR 172.101—consumer fireworks and articles pyrotechnic as defined in 27 CFR 555.11.

Consumer fireworks are typically manufactured and initiated with pyrotechnic fuse designed specifically to meet DOT and Consumer Product Safety Commission requirements.

Therefore,  $\frac{3}{32}$  inch and other external burning pyrotechnic hobby fuses are exempt from the provisions in 27 CFR, Part 555—Commerce in Explosives, only when: 1) they are designed for use in small arms ammunition; or 2) integrated into consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic during the manufacturing process. Pyrotechnic fuses (e.g., time fuse, quickmatch, sticky match) designed for use in fireworks manufacturing or in other fireworks activities and that are not integrated into consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic are not exempt from ATF's explosives regulations.

Hence, persons engaged in the business of importing, manufacturing, or distributing pyrotechnic fuse not designed for use in small arms ammunition, and not integrated in consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic, must possess an ATF explosives license. Persons acquiring pyrotechnic fuse not designed for use in small arms ammunition and not integrated in consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic must, among other requirements: 1) possess an ATF explosives license or permit appropriate for their operations; 2) store the fuse in an explosives storage magazine pursuant to the requirements at 27 CFR 555, Subpart K—Storage; and 3) maintain records pursuant to the requirements at 27 CFR 555, Subpart G—Records and Reports.

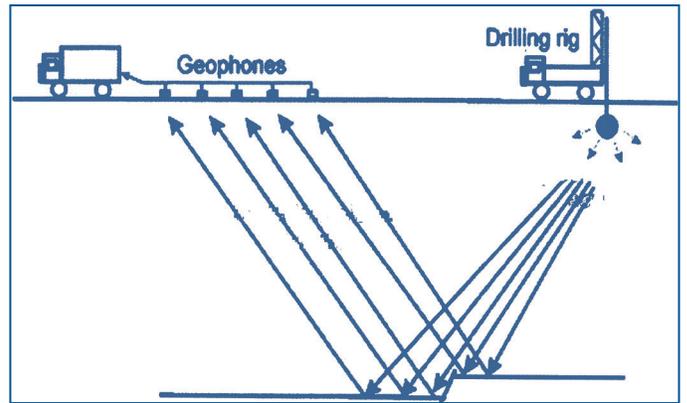
Individuals may contact ATF's Explosives Industry Programs Branch for specific pyrotechnic fuse determinations.

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## Seismic Exploration and Geophysical Operation Requirements

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**S**eismic exploration and data acquisition involves the introduction of acoustic energy through either mechanical or impulsive (explosive) sources to generate a graphic representation of subsurface geology. The use of explosives as an energy source involves the drilling of shot holes that are loaded with one or more detonators and explosive charges. Once a sufficient number of shot holes are drilled and loaded, charges are detonated in a systematic manner and the resulting reflected energy signal is recorded by surface motion sensors. ATF has been asked how the Federal explosives regulations apply to seismic operations when several companies are involved in the delivery, placement, and use of the explosive materials.



Seismic field operations typically involve at least three distinct entities: An explosives company (supplier), a shot hole drilling company, and the seismic company that ultimately detonates the explosives and records geophysical data. Each of these entities has certain licensing and operating requirements under the Federal explosives regulations at 27 CFR, Part 555.

It should be noted that some companies fulfill multiple entity roles. However, regardless of which role or roles an entity undertakes, each company must follow the appropriate regulations for that specific role. For the sake of simplicity this article assumes three separate roles and entities, supplier, drilling company, and seismic company. This article provides introductory guidance and does not provide an exhaustive list of the Federal explosives law requirements for each role.

### *Supplier*

The company supplying explosive materials must have a Federal explosives license for dealing in explosives (a manufacturer's or importer's license covers the licensed dealer activities as well so long as the activities are conducted on the licensed premises), and must maintain records of acquisition and disposition in compliance with 27 CFR 555.122–124. The supplier delivers the materials (e.g., detonators and seismic charges/boosters) to a drilling company, who places the materials in an explosives magazine.

The supplier should only distribute explosive materials to a drilling company after confirming that the recipient possesses a valid Federal explosives license or permit. When a supplier delivers explosive materials to the drilling company, the drilling company must store all materials in accordance with regulatory requirements.

### *Drilling Company*

The drilling company's receipt of explosive materials from the supplier constitutes an acquisition of explosive materials, so they must maintain records of acquisition in compliance with 27 CFR, Part 555. An employee of the

drilling company removes explosive materials from the magazine and delivers them to each drilling crew along with a list of shot-holes to be drilled and the amount of explosive materials to be loaded. The powder man collects and returns unused explosive materials to the magazine at the end of the day's drilling operations and records the return of the explosive materials in the daily summary of magazine transactions, as required under section 555.127. Each drilling crew employee must be cleared as a Responsible Person (RP) or an Employee Possessor (EP). After each shot-hole is drilled, the drilling crew places the explosive materials in the holes, plugs and/or stems each hole in compliance with State and local regulations, and records this information in a drill log. The explosive materials are then ready to be used by the geophysical company.

The "transfer" of explosive materials from the driller to the control of the geophysical company is considered a distribution. Therefore, the driller must have a Federal explosives dealer's license and maintain records of distribution. The drill log may suffice as the required record, provided that it contains all of the information required under 27 CFR, 555.124.

### ***Seismic Company***

Upon arrival at the site to conduct the blasting and data collection operations, the seismic company "receives" the explosive materials while maintaining control over them until initiation. Therefore, the seismic company must have a Federal explosives license or permit, and must maintain records of acquisition.

### ***Variance***

Federal explosives licensees and permittees are required to maintain records of explosive materials acquisition and distribution as specified in 27 CFR, Part 555, Subpart G—Records and Reports. This requirement applies to the seismic company as well as to the supplier and drilling company involved in these geophysical operations. Some geophysical industry members have suggested that, because the seismic company cannot physically verify the actual explosive materials received in loaded shot-holes, the seismic company's records of acquisition—based solely on the drilling company's records—does not further ATF's ability to trace the materials. If the drilling company's records of distribution are accurate and complete, ATF may extract the same accountability and tracing information by referring to the drilling company records of the materials they place in the shot holes. Therefore, ATF will consider variances on a case-by-case basis, to allow a seismic company to forgo the acquisition record requirement, provided the company agrees to include

certain conditions in their contract with the drilling company, and to supply the drilling company with a copy of their variance.

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## **Inventories and Records**

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**T**he regulations under 27 CFR, Part 555, Subpart G—Records and Reports require explosives licensees and permittees (FEL/Ps) to conduct true and accurate physical inventories of all explosive materials on hand required to be accounted for at least once during each calendar year unless a special inventory is conducted. See 27 CFR 555.122–125. Further, requirements in 27 CFR 555.127, require FEL/Ps to record the annual inventory in the daily summary of magazine transactions (DSMT), which must remain on file for ATF inspections. A separate record of the annual inventory is not required unless a special inventory is conducted.

FEL/Ps must conduct special inventories when: 1) the business commences (the effective date of the license issued upon original qualification); 2) the business premises is moved to another region; 3) the explosives business or operations is/are discontinued; and 4) when written notification is provided by the ATF Director, Industry Operations. FEL/Ps must prepare special inventories in duplicate, submit the original to the ATF Director, Industry Operations, and retain the duplicate as part of their records. (The inventory should be entered into the DSMT with some type of notation that the particular entry is for the inventory.) FEL/Ps must maintain all required ATF explosives records—including special inventories and DSMT annual inventory entries—for five years from the date the transaction occurs or until the explosives business or operations is discontinued.

Upon conducting the inventory, FEL/Ps should compare the physical inventory with the recorded amounts in the DSMT to determine if discrepancies exist. FEL/Ps must report any unresolved losses to ATF within 24 hours of discovery as prescribed in 18 U.S.C. 842(k) and 27 CFR 555.30.

We strongly recommend that FEL/Ps consider conducting multiple inventories throughout the year to prevent or reduce accountability issues with their explosives inventory. FEL/Ps who conduct more frequent inventories will more quickly discover discrepancies and reduce the amount of paperwork to be reviewed when an inventory discrepancy is discovered.

The 7-day magazine inspection requirement prescribed in 27 CFR 555.204 does not require a physical inventory of explosive materials on hand but it must be sufficient to determine if there has been any unauthorized entry or attempted entry into the magazines, or unauthorized removal of the contents of the magazines.

## No. 8 Blasting Caps

**F**ootnote 3 of the Table of distances for storage of explosive materials at 27 CFR 555.218 states, “All types of blasting caps in strengths through No. 8 cap should be rated at 1½ lbs. (1.5 lbs.) of explosives per 1,000 caps. For strengths higher than No. 8 cap, consult the manufacturer.” Recently, this note has generated the question, “What is a number 8 blasting cap, and how is it used to calculate the explosives weight of detonators for storage purposes?” Generally speaking, the term “blasting cap” is rarely used today; the preferred term is detonators. In fact, number 8 blasting caps are not commonly used, but they are still considered the industry standard to which other detonators are compared.

### *Development of the Blasting Cap*

In 1865, Alfred Nobel invented the blasting cap, which consisted of a small metal cap containing mercury fulminate. Mercury fulminate was the only substance known at the time which could be used with reasonable safety for manufacturing. The invention of the blasting cap was the start of the modern era of high explosives. The original blasting caps were numbered according to the amount of fulminate they contained as can be seen in the following chart:

Detonator	Weight of Mercury Fulminate*
No. 2	0.40 Grams
No. 4	0.65 Grams
No. 6	1.00 Grams
No. 8	2.00 Grams

\*Bigg-Wither, H., Notes on detonators: Trans. Inst. Min. Eng., vol. 21, 1900, p. 442.

While the number 6 cap was the early industry standard, the number 8 cap became more prevalent in response to the need for stronger initiators when using water-based

explosives and cast primers (typically less sensitive than nitroglycerin explosives). Different mixtures of explosive material were later developed for cost effectiveness and safety. This in effect changed the explosive weight of the caps. For example, a number 8 blasting cap containing 2 grams of mercury fulminate could be replaced by a number 8 copper capsule containing 1 gram of picric acid on top of which 0.023 grams of silver azide had been compressed. Eventually the U.S. Bureau of Mines established a standard number 8 test blasting cap, from which ATF adopted the current definition found under the 27 CFR 555.11 definition of blasting agent.

### *Measuring Weights*

According to the 27 CFR 555.11 definition of a blasting agent, “a number 8 test blasting cap is one containing two grams of a mixture of eighty percent mercury fulminate and twenty percent potassium chlorate, or a blasting cap of equivalent strength. An equivalent strength cap comprises 0.40-0.45 grams of PETN base charge pressed in an aluminum shell with bottom thickness not to exceed 0.03 of an inch, to a specific gravity of not less than 1.4 g/cc., and primed with standard weights of primer depending on the manufacturer.” Modern detonators generally still use PETN with a wide range of net explosive weights and are typically made to function ideally in combination with a particular explosive product or range of products.

The net explosive weight of explosive material is used for determining safe storage distances. However, the strength of a blasting cap, as noted in the regulation, is measured not so much by the net explosive weight but by tests developed by the former U.S. Bureau of Mines. Even though for table of distances purposes the strengths of blasting caps through number 8 caps are weighed at 1½ lbs. per 1,000 caps, detonators are more accurately measured by their efficiency—that is, the output of the energy released.

Taking into consideration a detonator’s development and testing, the regulations require that for table of distances purposes, modern detonators that have up to the same strength results as the number 8 caps, as established by the tests developed by the U.S. Bureau of Mines, should have an assigned weight of 1½ lbs. per 1,000 detonators, regardless of the actual net explosive weight. However, if the detonator’s strength is greater than a number 8 cap, then the manufacturer should be consulted and the rate for safe distances adjusted.

In reviewing this issue we have determined that few companies store more than a couple thousand detonators at any one time and therefore typically do not exceed the minimal separation distances established by 27 CFR

555.218. If there is reason to believe that a particular detonator has an energy output stronger (higher strength) than a number 8 test cap, the manufacturer should be consulted. If the manufacturer advises that a detonator is considered stronger than a number 8 test cap, the net explosive weight may be used, as appropriate. Otherwise, the rate of 1½ lbs. of explosives per 1,000 detonators should continue to be applied.

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## Acquiring, Changing or Discontinuing an Explosives Business

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**A**TF has recently been asked to provide guidance on Federal explosives requirements when a company possessing a Federal explosives license or permit acquires another company (or their assets) possessing an explosives license or permit. The guidance provided here is based in part on provisions in 27 CFR 555, Subpart D—Licenses and Permits, is not comprehensive for all situations, and is not a substitute for complete statutory and regulatory compliance. Explosives licenses and permits are generally not transferable to another person except for: (1) a surviving spouse, partner, or child of a deceased Federal explosives licensee or permittee (FEL/P), (2) an executor, administrator, or other legal representative of a deceased FEL/P, and (3) a receiver or trustee in bankruptcy, or an assignee for benefit of creditors. The lawful successor of the explosives business or operations may continue operating under the explosives license or permit for the remainder of the term of the license or permit provided they submit the license or permit to the ATF Federal Explosives Licensing Center (FELC) for endorsement within 30 days from the date on which the succession begins.

Changes in ownership require a new Federal explosives license or permit unless the aforementioned successor requirements are met. For example, a new license or permit is required if a corporation is purchased or is part of a merger where it will not survive. If the acquiring FEL/P is adding explosives storage magazines from the discontinuing FEL/P, they must notify ATF of the newly acquired magazines by telephone or in writing pursuant to the requirements in 27 CFR 555.63. The FEL/P discontinuing their explosives business or operations must: 1) conduct a special inventory of all explosive materials on hand and submit such to ATF's local field division's Director of Industry Operations; 2) submit its ATF explosives license or permit (and all copies) to ATF's FELC within 30 days from the date of discontinuance; and 3) submit all required

explosives records to any local ATF office or ATF's Out-Of-Business Records Center within 30 days of the business or operations discontinuance.

If the discontinuing FEL/P is transferring its explosives inventory to the acquiring FEL/P, it should do so before submitting its explosives license or permit to the FELC. The acquiring FEL/P must create a record of acquisition for the explosives and the discontinuing FEL/P must create a record of disposition pursuant to the requirements in 27 CFR 555, Subpart G – Records and Reports. Holders of user permits may transfer surplus explosives stock to other FEL/Ps provided they comply with the license/permit verification requirements in 27 CFR 555.103(b). Further, ATF generally requires FELs to place marks of identification on all explosives they distribute. An FEL/FEP transferring their explosives inventory—not affixed with the marks of identification prescribed in 27 CFR 555.109—to an acquiring FEL/FEP, must obtain variance approval from ATF prior to transferring the explosives. Discontinuing FEL/Ps maintaining their explosives inventory cannot transport the explosives without obtaining another explosives license or permit.

Finally, a FEL/P can acquire another company holding a license or permit that is a corporation or association through a change of control rather than a change of ownership. This event involves a majority change in stock or membership interest distribution or a majority change of organization officers/directors-members. The company being acquired survives intact. The “receiving” company must provide written notification of the change of control executed under penalties of perjury to ATF's FELC within 30 days of the event. In addition, information related to changes in responsible persons or employee possessors must be reported to the FELC within 30 days of the change.

FEL/Ps should direct their licensing questions to ATF's FELC at 877-283-3352 or at [FELC@atf.gov](mailto:FELC@atf.gov).

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## New Publication

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**A**TF has issued a new pamphlet for all persons storing ATF regulated explosive materials. ATF P 5400.25, *Table of Distance Requirements*, includes guidance on using tables of distances at 555.218 and 555.220 for blasting agents stored near high explosives, other blasting agents, and ammonium nitrate; distances for fireworks process and non-process buildings; and calculating measuring distances to highways. The new publication may be found at <http://www.atf.gov/content/library/arson-explosives-publications>. This publication is intended as an

aid for compliance with statutory and regulatory requirements—not as a replacement. The Federal explosives law at Title 18, United States Code, Chapter 40, provides statutory requirements and implementing regulations at 27 CFR, Part 555, provide specific regulatory requirements for explosive materials.

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## ATF Employees Receive ISEE President's Award

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**T**he International Society of Explosives Engineers (ISEE) presented former Firearms and Explosives Industry Division Chief, and current president of the Institute of Makers of Explosives, Deb Satkowiak, and Explosives Industry Programs Branch (EIPB) Industry Liaison, Bill O'Brien, with its President's Award in February at the ISEE 40th Annual Conference on Explosives & Blasting Technique in Denver, Colorado.

The ISEE presents the award to those who have unselfishly contributed their time, talents, and effort to the Society. The ISEE formed in 1974 as a professional society dedicated to promoting the safety, security and controlled use of explosives in mining, quarrying, construction, manufacturing, demolition, aerospace, forestry, avalanche control, special effects, exploration, seismology, agriculture, law enforcement, and many other peaceful uses of explosives. Through regional and national conferences, ISEE has long supported ATF's efforts to provide explosives industry members with the safety and security information essential to their operations.

EIPB attends the ISEE annual event to meet with the explosives industry to provide guidance and to educate industry members on current ATF regulatory issues, projects, and programs. Deb and Bill attended the conference to speak about the Executive Order on Improving Chemical Facility Safety and Security and explosives theft and loss issues. ISEE outgoing President John Capers presented the President's Award to Deb and Bill.

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## ATF Would Like To Hear Back From You!

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**W**e encourage you to take our online survey to bring you a better experience on our website ([www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)). Tell us what you think when you see the pop-up that says "We'd welcome your feedback!"



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The Explosives Industry Newsletter is now available online and is no longer distributed to licensees and permittees in “hard copy” format unless specifically requested. Current and previous issues of the newsletter are available on-line at <http://www.atf.gov/publications/newsletters/index.html>. Licensees and permittees are encouraged to use ATF’s new email update subscription service to receive notice whenever a new newsletter is posted to the ATF site at [www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov).

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