



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, WV 25405

www.atf.gov

OCT 28 2014

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Dear (b) (6)

This refers to your correspondence to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), pertaining to the attachment of an AR-15 type buffer tube and SigTac SB15 pistol stabilizing brace to an AK-type pistol. Specifically, you wanted to verify that a firearm in this configuration is outside the purview of the National Firearms Act (NFA). Your letter was forwarded to ATF's Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch (FTISB), Martinsburg, West Virginia, for reply.

As background, the amended Gun Control Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), defines the term "firearm" to include *...any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may be readily converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive...[and]...the frame or receiver of any such weapon....*

With respect to the definitions of "handgun" and "pistol" under Federal statutes and implementing regulations, you may be aware that the amended Gun Control Act of 1968, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(29), defines "handgun" as, in part, *...a firearm which has a short stock and is designed to be held and fired by the use of a single hand....*

Additionally, 27 CFR § 479.11 defines "pistol" to mean *...a weapon originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having (a) a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s); and (b) a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand and at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s).*

Finally, the National Firearms Act (NFA) defines "firearm" to include *...a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length....* (See 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a)(3).)

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We thank you for your inquiry and trust the foregoing has been responsive.

Sincerely yours,

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Acting Chief, Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch