



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25405

www.atf.gov

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Dear (b) (6) :

This refers to your recent correspondence to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), with accompanying sample semi-auto only, AK-type "folded flat" with an attached template. Enclosed with this response are photos depicting your sample. In your correspondence, you have requested FTB to evaluate the submitted sample pursuant to 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(3). The template affixed to the "folded flat" shows the locations and dimensions for milling the following critical features (as well as other minor operations):

- The magazine well.
- Opening for the trigger.
- The left and right mounting pin holes for:
 - The trigger.
 - The hammer.
 - Safety/selector.
- Outline and shape of the top bolt guide rails.

The AK-type firearm receiver can be milled from a single billet of metal; but is usually formed from a flat, rectangular sheet of steel approximately 1mm in thickness. It is bent into a "U" shaped channel, with certain openings machined into its sides and bottom. These openings allow attachment of a front or rear trunnion, certain furniture features, and internal fire-control-components. However, none of these items has to be attached for the receiver itself to be classified as a firearm receiver in accordance with Federal law.

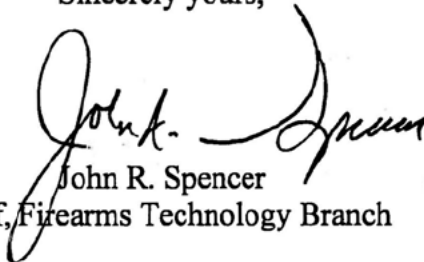
For your information, FTB has held that an AK-type receiver flat, having all openings formed, but not being bent into the "U" shape, is not a "firearm receiver." Likewise, a flat that has been bent into the "U" shape, but lacks certain critical holes (such as trigger, hammer, and selector) is not a "firearm receiver." Our Branch has determined that the indexing of the critical holes is essentially the same act as forming them since the indexing is so critical to properly making the holes. However, based on our examinations of receiver-blanks that have had a template affixed to them, we have concluded that affixing a template does not equate to "indexing."

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Accordingly, FTB finds that your submission does not meet the definition of a "firearm," but instead would constitute a simple firearm part. Firearm parts are subject to the Arms Export Control Act with respect to their importation or their export from the United States. However, those firearm parts that are not classified as "firearms" under the NFA; which are made in the U.S; and are possessed, sold, shipped, or otherwise disposed of inside the U.S. are not regulated under the GCA or NFA.

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

Sincerely yours,



John R. Spencer
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

Enclosure

