



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Washington, DC

www.atf.gov

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Selling Firearms AFTER Revocation, Expiration, or Surrender of an FFL

Former Federal Firearms licensees (FFL's) who continue to sell firearms after the revocation, expiration, or surrender of their license are subject to the same rules as persons who have never been licensed in determining whether they are "engaged in the business" of selling firearms without a license in violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A). Accordingly, former licensees who wish to dispose of any remaining business inventory must adhere to the following guidance:

Business inventory must be disposed of by the former FFL in a manner that, objectively, does not constitute being engaged in the business of dealing in firearms using the same facts and circumstances test that would apply to persons who have never been licensed.

The preferred manner of disposition is for the former licensee to:

- Arrange for another FFL to purchase the business inventory (and other assets) of the business; or
- Consign the inventory to another FFL to sell on consignment, or at auction.

Should a former FFL decide against those options, he/she should be aware that future sales – whether from his/her personal firearms collection or otherwise – will be evaluated for a potential violation of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A), just as would occur with a person who had never been licensed.

If a former FFL is disposing of business inventory, the fact that no purchases are made after the date of license revocation, expiration, or surrender does not immunize him/her from potential violations of 18 U.S.C. § 922(a)(1)(A). Instead, business inventory acquired through repetitive purchases while licensed are attributed to the former FFL when evaluating whether subsequent sales constitute engaging in the business of dealing in firearms without a license.

ATF remains committed to assisting former licensees in complying with Federal firearms laws. If you have questions, please contact your local ATF office.

Andy R. Graham
Deputy Assistant Director (Industry Operations)
Field Operations