

# FFL NEWSLETTER

### FEDERAL FIREARMS LICENSEE INFORMATION SERVICE

September 2013 Volume 1

In an effort to keep Federal firearms licensees (FFLs) abreast of changing Federal firearms laws and regulations, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) will provide semiannual FFL Newsletters. Previous editions of the FFL Newsletters are available on ATF's Web site (http://www.atf.gov/publications/newsletters/).

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### **Customer Service Standards**

It is the goal of the Firearms and Explosives Industry Division (FEID) to respond to requests from firearms and explosives industry members within 90 days of receipt. Requests may include variances, determinations, classifications, and exemptions. Please be aware that although we generally complete requests sooner than our 90 day goal, our ability to respond to industry-related inquiries is impacted by a number of factors, such as available staffing resources, the sufficiency of information received from the requestor, existing precedent for granting the request, necessary technical research and/or testing, and any applicable legal review process. Additionally, it is FEID's priority to serve the needs of the law enforcement community first, to include ATF, other Federal agencies, and State and local law enforcement entities. We attempt to balance and address exigent circumstances—which the requestor shall articulate in writing and include with the original request-with the routine needs of all firearms and explosives industry members.

This customer service goal applies to all branches of the Firearms and Explosives Industry Division—Firearms Technology Branch, Firearms Industry Programs Branch, and Explosives Industry Programs Branch.

# Active Federal Firearms License (FFL) Records

ATF may lawfully collect firearms transaction records from active dealers where those records are more than 20 years old. ATF uses these records to complete firearms trace requests for law enforcement agencies in furtherance of criminal investigations. If these records are discarded, information contained in those records will be lost forever and a vital investigative tool will be unavailable for use in law enforcement investigations. The ATF National Tracing Center (NTC) has been prevented in the past from completing urgent traces related to violent crimes, to include homicide, where licensees had destroyed records over 20 years old.

Therefore, ATF strongly encourages licensees to send to ATF Out of Business Records Center those records greater than 20 years old that they may otherwise destroy. Please enclose a copy of the "Active" Federal firearms license and appropriately indicate that the records are over 20 years old. Records can be sent to:

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives Out of Business Records Center 244 Needy Road Martinsburg, WV 25405

ATF recommends that you send your records in a manner that can be tracked, i.e. via Federal Express (Fed Ex), United States Postal Service (USPS), United Parcel Service (UPS), or any service that provides delivery confirmation. Should you have any questions on shipping of these records, please contact the NTC Industry Records Branch at 1-800-788-7133.

Please be aware that the NTC cannot accept records that are less than 20 years old, unless the licensee is discontinuing business.

### **Best Practices**

### Employee Screening

ATF encourages all Federal firearms licensees to give great care to the selection of employees who will be authorized to conduct business under their license. Reluctance to embarrass or offend strangers or acquaintances must be set aside to ensure the security of the business. It is neither lawful nor in the licensee's interest to knowingly allow a prohibited person to possess firearms or engage in firearms sales. The importance of conscientiousness and trustworthiness is underscored by the high level of responsibility placed upon persons who are in a position to transfer firearms.

ATF recommends that you institute an employee screening process. Further, you should conduct background checks on all employees and applicants (even relatives) prior to hiring them or allowing them access to firearms. Many private companies are available to perform these checks on a fee basis. Background checks should be repeated after an established period of time has elapsed. You should require that applicants and/or employees provide references. You should contact those references, interview them, and ask them to provide the names of other potential references not listed by the applicant or employee.

You should also require proof of identity. Require that each applicant and/or employee produce a government-issued identification card—a driver's license, for example—and a social security card.

Discuss questions with the local police or ATF. If it appears that an applicant or employee may not be eligible to possess or transfer firearms, contact the local police or local ATF office for guidance. For assistance in locating the nearest ATF office, visit <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office">http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office</a>.

For more helpful tips regarding how to protect your business, please read the ATF P 3317.2 (*Safety and Security Information for Federal Firearms Licensees*), found at: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/files/publications/download/p/atf-p-3317-2.pdf">http://www.atf.gov/files/publications/download/p/atf-p-3317-2.pdf</a>.

#### Use FFL eZ Check

ATF is aware of several instances involving the use of fraudulent Federal firearms licenses. ATF is providing you with the guidance and assistance below in identifying scenarios where fraudulent licenses may be used to acquire firearms illegally.

When a Federal firearms licensee (FFL) is involved in a licensee to licensee transfer, the requesting FFL is required to provide a signed copy of his or her Federal firearms license when purchasing a firearm from another FFL. In the August 2005 FFL Newsletter, ATF informed licensees that they may accept a faxed, SIGNED copy of a Federal firearms license for a licensee to licensee transfer. Also, in the January 2007 FFL Newsletter, ATF further clarified the licensee to licensee transfer process by also allowing scanned and emailed, SIGNED copies of Federal firearms licenses. This has made the transfer between licensees easier and quicker; however, it has also increased the possibility of a fraudulent license being used to obtain firearms illegally. Federal law makes altering and/or fraudulent use of any Federal firearms license a felony punishable by a fine, jail, or both.

FFL eZ Check allows an FFL to confirm that the requesting FFL is a current and valid holder of a Federal firearms license. Always use FFL eZ Check to verify all FFL transfers, including checking the names and addresses, even if it looks original. Also, if the certified copy of the license looks suspicious, do not hesitate to call your local ATF office for guidance. A listing of the offices may be found at: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office">http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office</a>.

Using FFL eZ Check can help you conduct lawful business and can strengthen your internal controls. If you only check to see if the license is valid you may miss the fact that the address, shipping address, or name on the license is different than the copy sent from the requesting FFL. If all of the information is not correct, you may be dealing with someone attempting to acquire firearms using a fraudulent license. If the information is different in any way, contact your local ATF Industry Operations office for further guidance before shipping to this FFL.

Remember, the FFL is ATF's first line of defense in preventing firearms from getting into the hands of criminals.

#### NFA Paperwork

ATF has become aware of fraudulent misuse of paperwork associated with National Firearms Act (NFA) firearms. ATF strongly recommends that you never give anyone a copy of the applicable form that is to stay with your NFA firearm. In addition, please be aware that there are several areas to inspect if you are examining an NFA form for transfer. The ATF NFA Branch assigns a control number to every transfer, which is stamped on the applicable NFA form. Also, the serial number for the firearm is included in the tax stamp that is affixed to the applicable NFA form.

Should you suspect any misuse of NFA approved forms, please contact your local ATF office. A listing of the offices may be found at: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office">http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office</a>.

### News and Tips from the Federal Firearms Licensing Center (FFLC)

- 1. FFLC highly encourages applicants/licensees to provide an email address on any submitted applications. Email addresses can aid in the processing of applications and provide an alternate means of communication that is quick and reliable.
- 2. FFLC reminds all licensees that an ATF Form 5330.20-Certification of Compliance with 18 U.S.C. 922(g)(5)(B) (COC) is currently required for each and every responsible person (RP) every three years, when submitting your renewal application (as indicated in Part C, question 6 on the ATF Form 8 Part II). The Chief Law Enforcement Officer (CLEO) information is required on all renewals as well. The CLEO information should be entered in Part C, question 4 by the RP completing the renewal form. The CLEO should not complete any part of the application and should not sign the application. The RP completing the renewal should sign the renewal, thereby certifying that all of the information provided is true and correct to the best of his or her knowledge, and that a copy of the application has been provided to the CLEO, as required. The failure to complete the COC and CLEO information on renewals generate the most returns from the FFLC, which ultimately delays the issuance of the renewed license.
- 3. FFLC highly encourages you to maintain a copy of all applications and correspondence submitted to the FFLC. In the event an application is misplaced or never received, a copy can be used to promptly process the application; otherwise, the applicant must complete another application.

- 4. FFLC reminds everyone to submit applications and fees via the U.S. Postal Service (USPS) to the address shown on the application: ATF, P.O. Box 409567, Atlanta, GA 30384-9567. This is the address of the bank that processes the application fees. Sending an application directly to FFLC or an ATF field office delays the processing of your application, as the FFLC or field office has to then send it to the bank for payment processing before it can be acted upon. If you wish to rush delivery, we recommend purchasing a rush delivery service through USPS. The deliveries of applications by other common carriers are routed to a different department in the bank, which can cause delays in the processing of your application.
- 5. FFLC reminds all licensees of the requirement to report deceased responsible persons (RP) to the FFLC within 30 days, so the RP can be deactivated in FFLC's system. The deactivation of a deceased RP may lead to the right of business succession. Certain persons other than the licensee may secure the right to continue business with the license at the same address on, and for the remainder of the term of, the current license. Upon expiration of the license, the successor would be required to apply for a new license if they wish to continue operating. (A successor cannot renew the existing license.) The guidance for Right of Succession (27 CFR 478.56) is also located on the face of the license. In the case of a Corporation, only a legal corporate entity may continue to be licensed. If after the death of an individual the Corporation is dissolved under State law, the entity no longer exists and may no longer be licensed. For further information or clarification on how the deactivation of a deceased RP may affect your license, please contact ATF Customer Service at 1-866-662-2750.
- 6. Navigating/Accessing FFLC data via the ATF website:
  - FFLC Contact Information: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/contact/service-centers/index.html">http://www.atf.gov/contact/service-centers/index.html</a>
  - To find your examiner, please visit: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/files/contact/service-centers/fflc-distribution-map.pdf">http://www.atf.gov/contact/service-centers/index.html</a>.
  - Corporate account examiners can be found at: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/contact-4TF-service-centers">http://www.atf.gov/contact/service-centers/index.html</a>.

- A staff directory can be found at: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/contact-ATF-service-centers">http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/contact-ATF-service-centers</a>.
- Ordering Forms: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/">http://www.atf.gov/content/</a> distribution-center-order-form
- FAQs on firearms licensing issues: <a href="http://www.atf.gov/firearms/faq/licensing.html">http://www.atf.gov/firearms/faq/licensing.html</a> or visit <a href="https://www.atf.gov/content/Firearms/firearms-industry">https://www.atf.gov/content/Firearms/firearms-industry</a> and click on the FAQs tab.

### **ATF** Outreach Activities

ATF conducts informational seminars throughout the year. In addition to providing information at numerous gun shows across the United States, here are some examples of outreach activities ATF has conducted since the last publication of the ATF FFL Newsletter:

- On June 6, 2013, ATF conducted a seminar at the Reppert Auction School located in Indianapolis, IN. The presentation material included an overview of ATF's mission, the requirements for applying for a Federal firearms license, and the purpose of qualification and compliance inspections.
- On May 23, 2013, ATF conducted a seminar for licensees in Fresno, CA. The presentation covered general regulatory requirements.
- On May 15, 2013, ATF provided a presentation to Federal firearms licensees in Reno, NV. The presentation covered general regulatory requirements.
- On April 23, 2013, ATF conducted a seminar for licensees in Phoenix, AZ. The presentation covered recordkeeping requirements, the inspection process, and best practices.
- On April 5, 2013, ATF conducted a seminar at the Ohio Auction School located in Groveport, OH.
  The presentation covered licensing requirements, as well as the purpose of application and compliance inspections.
- On March 11, 2013, ATF provided a presentation at the Wisconsin Auctioneers Convention held in Madison, WI. The presentation covered licensing requirements and activities requiring a license.

Should you have questions about upcoming informational seminars near you, please contact your local ATF office. A listing of the offices may be found at: (<a href="http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office">http://www.atf.gov/content/contact-us/local-atf-office</a>).

### **New Moves in EPS**

# Debra Satkowiak Selected as Chief, Firearms and Explosives Industry Division

In May 2013, Debra Satkowiak was named as the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Industry Division (FEID). Ms. Satkowiak began her career with ATF in 1991 in the Flint, MI satellite office and the Detroit Field Division. After 10 years as an Inspector and Special Operations Inspector, she served four years in the Career Development Division, where she was responsible for advanced and basic inspector training courses, and then as an Area Supervisor in the Detroit Area Office. After serving for three years in that capacity, she worked in the Office of Public and Governmental Affairs. In September 2008, she became the Chief of the Explosives Industry Programs Branch in the Arson and Explosives Programs Division. In May 2010, she advanced to the position of Deputy Chief, FEID, where she served until her appointment as the Chief, FEID. Ms. Satkowiak looks forward to continuing the industry relationships that she has developed throughout her career and fostering new partnership opportunities.

## Alphonso Hughes Selected as Chief, Firearms and Explosives Services Division

Alphonso Hughes was appointed on April 7, 2013, to his current position as Division Chief, Firearms and Explosives Services Division (FESD) at the ATF-Martinsburg, WV Facility. He served a brief stint as the Deputy Division Chief in Martinsburg before being promoted. His ATF tenure includes serving as Director, Industry Operations of the ATF-Philadelphia Field Division—Office of Field Operations.

Mr. Hughes brings a variety of unique leadership experiences to FESD. He has previously served as Area Supervisor of the ATF-Harrisburg PA Field Office and as a Field Investigator in the Center City Philadelphia Field Office. Mr. Hughes also brings over 20 years of military service and has since retired with the U.S. Air Force and respective reserve component. He has served as an Ordnance & Armament Systems Specialist, deployed on several Middle East contingencies and several other operations during his Air Force tenure.

Mr. Hughes studied Armament Technology and Professional Aeronautics through the Community College of the Air Force and Embry Riddle Aeronautical University respectively. Lastly, in his almost 21 years of Federal civil service, his ATF experience is coupled with service as a Defense Department civilian and a Quarantine Inspector at the U.S. Ports of Newark-Elizabeth and Philadelphia.

### Michael Fronczak Selected as Deputy Chief, Firearms and Explosives Industry Division

Mr. Fronczak began his career with ATF in 1987 as an Inspector in the Baltimore, MD Area Office. In 1996, he transferred to Washington, DC, to work as a Specialist in the Office of Field Operations, Field Management Staff. In 1998, he returned to the field as a Special Operations Inspector for the Baltimore Field Division and in 2002 became the Baltimore Area Supervisor. Mr. Fronczak is looking forward to enhancing ATF's working relationships with the firearms and explosives industries.

### Earl Griffith Selected as Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

In January 2013, Earl Griffith was named as the Chief, Firearms Technology Branch. Mr. Griffith began his career with ATF in 2002 as a Firearms Enforcement Officer (FEO) in ATF HQ's, Washington, D.C. After serving

for eight years in the capacity as an FEO, he advanced to the Assistant Chief, Firearms Technology Branch. Mr. Griffith looks forward to continuing the industry relationships that has been fostered by his predecessors and expanding new partnership opportunities.

### Max Kingery Selected as Assistant Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

On May 6, 2013, Max Kingery became the Assistant Chief, ATF Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), Martinsburg, WV. Mr. Kingery, a Firearms Enforcement Officer with FTB since 2006, graduated in April of this year from the Step Up to Leadership Program sponsored by the ATF Office of Human Resources and Professional in Development. He has an extensive law enforcement and military background, having served as a Trooper, Corporal, and Sergeant with the West Virginia State Police from 1995 to 2005, with the Army Special Forces from 1984 to 1986 and the Marines from 1986 to 1994. As a Marine, Mr. Kingery took part in the combat operations of Operation Desert Storm, which freed Kuwait from Iraqi occupation.

### FBI/NICS News

The FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Section Proudly Announces NICS E-Check 2.0.

# FBI NICS E-Check 2.0—New and Improved (Get Registered Before Peak Season)

The FBI NICS E-Check was upgraded on July 16, 2013, and now provides a much more user-friendly experience in navigating firearm checks. The upgraded FBI NICS E-Check is a valuable tool for the Federal firearms licensee (FFL) throughout the year but especially during the peak gun purchasing season. The biggest obstacle many FFLs identified with the old version of the FBI NICS E-Check was that it was difficult to set up on additional computers. Additionally, the old version of the FBI NICS E-Check was not compatible with many browsers. The FBI NICS E-Check 2.0 allows you to access the system from any computer or any browser. The FFL and/or manager receives administrative controls, which includes the ability to create and modify accounts. The FBI NICS E-Check 2.0 does not require a digital certificate to be downloaded to your computer. This makes it easier to use the NICS E-Check from any browser using a computer, laptop, tablet, smart phone, etc. You will log into FBI NICS E-Check using a user name and password similar to how you log in to most on-line accounts.

In addition to being more efficient and easier to maneuver than the old version, the FBI NICS E-Check 2.0 still offers the same additional benefits, many of which are listed below:

- Added customer protection against identity theft
- Added safeguard against theft of license number and codeword
- Ability to retrieve NICS background check results 24/7
- Ability to retrieve background checks initiated on NICS E-Check or at the NICS Contracted Call Center
- Ability to print completed NICS background check search requests
- The availability of messages regarding NICS operational status

- No hold times waiting for the NICS Contracted Call Center
- No hold times waiting for an FBI NICS representative to review a transaction

### Register to Use the FBI NICS E-Check 2.0

You may register to use the FBI NICS E-Check 2.0 by doing the following:

- Visit the FBI NICS E-Check Web site at <u>www.nicsezcheckfbi.gov</u>
- Click on the link that states "Register to use the FBI NICS E-Check"
- Agree to the Terms and Conditions
- Complete the Account Request form
- Click on the "Registration" block at the bottom of the page
- An Account Request Confirmation page appears
- Click "Show populated enrollment form" block at bottom of page
- Print the completed enrollment form
- Fax form to 1-888-550-6427 or e-mail it to <a href="mailto:fbinicsteamcc@leo.gov">fbinicsteamcc@leo.gov</a>

A user name will be e-mailed to the e-mail address you provided during registration.

Additional instructions will be provided in the e-mail on how to obtain your password.

### New features of the Upgraded FBI NICS E-Check 2.0

- You will have administrative controls and can create accounts for all employees you wish to have access to the FBI NICS E-Check
- You will be able to lock or suspend accounts for employees that have left the company or are on extended leave
- You will be able to reset passwords for employees that have forgotten their password
- You will be able to access the FBI NICS E-Check using any computer or browser

### FBI/NICS News (cont'd.)

\*\*\*Submit only one registration and enrollment form for one employee— This employee will be the administrative user and will create accounts for other employees. You may designate other employees as primary users (administrative users) and they will also be able to create and modify accounts.

If you have questions regarding the new and improved FBI NICS E-Check 2.0, please contact FBI NICS E-Check Customer Service at 1-877-FBI-NICS (324-6427), option 2, then option 5.

## General FBI NICS Information and Reminders for the FFL

FFLs Calling in Personal Sales to the FBI NICS

Currently, the states of New York and Colorado have legislation in place requiring private firearm sale background checks and other states also allow these types of checks to be done through FFLs, if agreeable with all parties. The FBI NICS has the ability, as of August 4, 2013, to note private sale transactions through the Purpose Code field. Please be sure to advise the NICS Contracted Call Center, Point-of-Contact State, or select the correct type of check on NICS E-Check to indicate a Private Sale.

## Returning a Call from the NICS Section on a Final Status

The NICS Section no longer accepts calls from the FFL for status checks. The FFL will receive notice of a final status shortly after the NICS Legal Instruments Examiner (NICS Examiner) has made a final decision. The NICS Section processes NICS transaction numbers (NTN) in the order that they were received. Once a transaction is completed, it is instantly put in a queue for the FFL to be contacted with a final status. Also, when an FFL is conducting a NICS background check during transfer calls to the NICS Section, if an FFL has additional completed transactions, then they will be provided all final statuses prior to concluding the call.

If the FFL has received a voice message of a final status, they can return the call to the NICS Section by calling 1-877-FBI-NICS (324-6427), press option 2, then option 4 for General FFL Questions. The FFL should

advise the NICS Examiner that they are returning a call for a final status. A final status is not considered a "status check."

In order to check the status of a delayed NTN, the FFL must enroll with the FBI NICS E-Check (processing your NICS background checks via the Internet). The NICS E-Check allows the FFL to check the status of their transactions (conducted both on the phone and Internet) 24/7. Therefore, if you choose to initiate your NICS background checks via the Internet, you may continue to call the NICS Contracted Call Centers and then log into the FBI NICS E-Check to view your NTN statuses.

# FBI NICS FFL-Dedicated Web Site at <a href="https://www.fbi.gov/nics-ffl">www.fbi.gov/nics-ffl</a>

Additional Information/Resources:

- FBI NICS FFL User Manual
- Enrollment Information
- NICS E-Check Enrollment Information
- Sign up to receive FBI NICS e-mail messages/ updates:
  - FFLs and their employees can receive updates through a group e-mail address. The group e-mail address will allow the FFL to be informed of system changes/outages/general updates, etc. The FFL can add their e-mail address, request the e-mail address on file to be replaced with a new e-mail address, or ask to be removed from the e-mail list. The FBI NICS updates will be sent to you from the following e-mail address: <a href="mailto:nicsfflupdates@leo.gov">nicsfflupdates@leo.gov</a>.
- FBI NICS FFL Quick Reference Guides Appeal Information
- Order NICS Resolution Cards for your Denied/ Extended Delayed Customer
  - If a prospective transferee had extended delays or has been denied the transfer of a firearm, the FFL should give the individual a NICS Resolution Card. The FFL should circle the word DELAY or DENIED on the top portion of the card and write the NTN on the line provided on the bottom portion of the card.

### FBI/NICS News (cont'd.)

The NICS Resolution Card directs the customer to the NICS Appeal Web site, <a href="www.fbi.gov/nics-appeals">www.fbi.gov/nics-appeals</a>, for customers to begin their appeal process. For customers without Internet access, they may contact the NICS Section's Customer Service at 1-877-FBI-NICS (324-6427) for a packet to be sent via U.S. mail.

- FBI NICS Process Videos for the FFL and their Customers
  - Two separate videos are available to provide NICS background check process and other valuable NICS information. One version is for the FFL specifically and the other version is for the FFL's customers.

### Help Minimize Unnecessary/Duplicate Work

- Have the ATF Form 4473 completed prior to making the call to the NICS Section.
- Please do not conduct duplicate NICS background checks for the same transaction. For example: Calling the NICS Contracted Call Centers multiple times or calling the NICS Contracted Call Center then initiating a FBI NICS E-Check transaction. This can be considered misuse of the NICS and only adds to the workload which, in turn, slows down the final statuses from the NICS Section to the FFL.
- Once the FFL receives an NTN, the transaction will be processed. In the event you are disconnected during the transfer or must hang up—IF you have already been provided an NTN—please do not void or call in a new transaction as this causes duplicate work. These transactions will automatically be sent to the NICS delay queue to be processed. In the event this does happen, mark the ATF Form 4473 "delayed." Then the transfer date can be established by going to the NICS FFL website at <a href="www.fbi.gov/nics-ffl">www.fbi.gov/nics-ffl</a> and choosing "A NICS Delay" under "NICS Information."

The NICS Section is diligently working to process delayed transactions. When the NICS Section calls your store with a final status, please take the information at that time. This will eliminate duplicate calls for both parties.

#### Protect Your FFL Number and Codeword

Your FFL number and codeword are confidential and very important to your business practice. Protect this information by keeping them out of sight and off your store counters, walls, phone, etc. Do not provide this information to your customers. The customer is not permitted to contact the NICS Section to check the status of their delay or to find the reason for delay/denial. If your FFL information is compromised, potentially NICS background checks could be called in on noncustomers under your license. The NICS Section highly recommends FFLs utilize the FBI NICS E-Check. This allows you to keep your FFL information private. Using the FBI NICS E-Check is also the best way to prevent someone from acquiring personal information on a customer.

# NICS Examiner's Name and Brady Identification (ID) Number

Question 21f on the ATF Form 4473 asks for the name and Brady identification number of the FBI NICS Examiner. This is optional for the FFL to complete. Once the call has been terminated, it is not necessary to call the NICS Section to retrieve this information. Since the NICS Section is not permitted to provide the reason for delay or denial over the phone, please do not provide your customer with the NICS Examiner's name and Brady ID number. Provide your customer with a NICS Resolution Card.

#### More Information is Best

NICS background checks are name based and dependent upon the descriptive information provided on the ATF Form 4473. Question 8 asks for the customer's social security number. This descriptive identifier question is optional but, if provided, may help prevent a misidentification, which would result in an erroneous deny and a possible loss of sale. If your customer provides their social security number when completing the ATF Form 4473, please use it when conducting your NICS background check via phone or the FBI NICS E-Check.

### FBI/NICS News (cont'd.)

### Call the Correct NICS Phone Number

Currently, the NICS Section has one Customer Service phone number. The number is 1-877-FBI-NICS (324-6427). Please disregard any previous documentation (NICS brochures, Resolution Cards, etc.) that provides other listed numbers.

### Information on Canadian Nonimmigrant Aliens Obtaining I-94 Numbers

Per the Customs and Border Protection, nonimmigrant aliens entering the United States are admitted under different classes/categories. Canadians are considered noncontrolled aliens and commonly admitted under class/category V (Visitor for business or pleasure). Nonimmigrant aliens receiving an I-94 number are normally entered under categories E and K. The issuance of an I-94 number is a manual process (may include a small fee) and not necessary for visitors of business or pleasure, including Canadians. For firearm sales, a nonimmigrant alien must possess an I-94 number. Therefore, for a Canadian to purchase a firearm in the United States through an FFL, they will need to obtain an I-94 number.