



**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and  
Explosives (ATF)  
Summary of the PGA Process for Filing in ACE**

**February 24, 2016**

**Version 1.1**

**Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF)**

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## 1. Introduction

The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) is a law enforcement agency in the United States Department of Justice. ATF's responsibilities include the investigation and prevention of federal offenses involving the unlawful use, manufacture, and possession of firearms and explosives; acts of arson and bombings; and illegal trafficking of alcohol and tobacco products. ATF also regulates licensing, the sale, possession, and transportation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in interstate commerce.

## 2. Commodities

ATF regulates firearms, explosives, ammunition and implements of war. ATF does not utilize HTUS number flagging associated with its regulated commodities. ATF utilizes commodity type descriptions and commodity type codes in order to identify its regulated commodities, please see the table below. The table also indicates when a license, permit or certification (LPC) is required for each weapon category code. (In the table below FEL = Federal Explosives License, FFL=Federal Firearms License, Permit = Form 6 permit, AECA = Arms Export Control Act Registration.)

Weapon Category Code	Weapon Type Description	FFL (AT2) Required	FEL (AT3) Required	Permit (AT4) Required	AECA (AT5) Required	Note
ADD	AMMO FOR ESTRUCTIVE DEVICE	Y		Y	Y	
AMM	SPORTING AMMO	Y		Y	Y	3
AMP	AMMO COMPONENTS	Y		Y	Y	3
AMX	AMMO ACCESSORIES			Y	Y	3
AOW	ANY OTHER WEAPON	Y		Y	Y	
AP	ARMOR PIERCING AMMO	Y		Y	Y	
API	ARMOR PIERCING INCENDIARY	Y	Y	Y	Y	
AR	AIRCRAFT			Y	Y	
ARP	ARTILLERY PROJECTORS	Y		Y	Y	
ARPP	ARTILLERY PROJ PARTS			Y	Y	
AV	AMPHIBIOUS VEHICLES			Y	Y	
AW	ANY OTHER WEAPON	Y		Y		6
BAC	BARRELED ACTIONS	Y		Y	Y	
BBL	BARRELS			Y	Y	3
BMB	BOMB	Y		Y	Y	
BMP	BOMB PARTS			Y	Y	
C	COMBINATION GUN	Y		Y	Y	

Weapon Category Code	Weapon Type Description	FFL (AT2) Required	FEL (AT3) Required	Permit (AT4) Required	AECA (AT5) Required	Note
CH	CHEMICALS			Y	Y	
DD	DESTRUCTIVE DEVICE	Y		Y		6
DDE	DEST DEVICE EXPLOS	Y	Y	Y	Y	
DDF	DEST DEVICE FIREARM	Y		Y	Y	
DET	DETECTION DEVICES			Y	Y	
DETP	DETECTION DEVICE PARTS			Y	Y	
ESP	SMOKELESS POWDER	Y	Y	Y	Y	
EXP	EXPLOSIVES		Y			
EXX	DEMO BLCKS BLST CAPS		Y	Y	Y	
FG	FLARE GUN			Y	Y	
FP	FIREARM PARTS			Y	Y	3
FT	FLAMETHROWER			Y	Y	
FWK	FIREWORKS		Y			5
GRN	GRENADE	Y		Y	Y	
GRP	GRENADE PARTS			Y	Y	
HTZ	HOWITZER	Y		Y	Y	
IN	INERT AMMO	Y		Y	Y	
INC	INCENDIARY AMMO	Y	Y	Y	Y	
LAU	LAUNCHER	Y		Y	Y	
LAUP	LAUNCHER PARTS			Y	Y	
MAG	MAGAZINE			Y	Y	
MG	MACHINEGUN	Y		Y	Y	
MIN	MINE	Y		Y	Y	
MINP	MINE PARTS			Y	Y	
MIS	MISSILE	Y		Y	Y	
MISP	MISSILE PARTS			Y	Y	
MTR	MORTAR	Y		Y	Y	
MTRP	MORTAR PARTS			Y	Y	
MV	MILITARY VEHICLES			Y	Y	
MVP	MILITARY VEH PARTS			Y	Y	
NSA	NON-SPORTING AMMO	Y		Y	Y	
NSG	NONSPORTING SHOTGUNS	Y		Y	Y	4

<b>Weapon Category Code</b>	<b>Weapon Type Description</b>	<b>FFL (AT2) Required</b>	<b>FEL (AT3) Required</b>	<b>Permit (AT4) Required</b>	<b>AECA (AT5) Required</b>	<b>Note</b>
NSP	NONSPORTING AMMO COMPONENTS	Y		Y	Y	
NV	NAVAL VESSELS			Y	Y	
NVP	NAVAL VESSEL PARTS			Y	Y	
NW	NUCLEAR WEAPONS					1
NWD	NUC WPN DESIGN EQUIP			Y	Y	
OCEP	OCEANOGRAPHIC EQ PTS			Y	Y	
PI	PISTOLS	Y		Y	Y	
RE	REVOLVERS	Y		Y	Y	
REC	RECEIVERS/FRAMES	Y		Y		3
RI	RIFLES	Y		Y	Y	
ROC	ROCKET	Y		Y	Y	
ROCP	ROCKET PARTS			Y	Y	
SBR	SHORT BARREL RIFLE	Y		Y	Y	
SBS	SHORT BARREL SHOTGUN	Y		Y	Y	
SG	SPORTING SHOTGUNS	Y		Y		3
SI	SILENCER	Y		Y	Y	
SR	SHORT BARRELED RIFLE	Y		Y		6
SREK	SPORTING SHOTGUN RECEIVERS	Y		Y		4
SS	SHORT BARRELED SHOTGUN	Y		Y		6
SSA	SPORTING SHOTGUN AMMO	Y		Y		4
SSAP	SPORTING SHOTGUN AMMO COMPONENTS	Y		Y		4
SSAX	SPORTING SHOTGUN AMMO ACCESSORIES					1, 4
SSBL	SPORTING SHOTGUN BARRELS			Y		4
SSP	SPORTING SHOTGUN PARTS					1, 4
SUB	SUBMERSIBLE VESSELS			Y	Y	
SUBP	SUB VESSEL PARTS			Y	Y	
TG	TEAR GAS LAUNCHER			Y	Y	
TOX	TOXICOLOGY AGENTS			Y	Y	
TRA	TRACER AMMO	Y	Y	Y	Y	
TRP	TORPEDO	Y		Y	Y	
TRPP	TORPEDO PARTS			Y	Y	

Weapon Category Code	Weapon Type Description	FFL (AT2) Required	FEL (AT3) Required	Permit (AT4) Required	AECA (AT5) Required	Note
UNK	UNKNOWN	Y		Y	Y	
WHD	WARHEAD	Y		Y	Y	
WHP	WARHEAD COMPONENTS			Y		
NOTE (1): These items are no longer regulated by the ATF.						
NOTE (3): Some commodities previously contained in this category have been moved to a different category.						
NOTE (4): This is a new category to differentiate between previous categories.						
NOTE (5): These items are further restricted to specific licensees.						
NOTE (6): Exports only						

### 3. Forms/Documents

Please use the table below to identify the forms or documents that are eligible for electronic submission through ACE. Understand that the submission of the forms through ACE does not eliminate the requirement to submit these forms to ATF for preapproval electronically through ATF's eForms system ([www.atfonline.gov](http://www.atfonline.gov)) or by submitting the paper forms:

Form	Form Description	Collected Using the PGA Message Set	Using DIS	CFR Citation for applicable regulations
6 (5330.3 A)	Application & Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements	Yes	No	27 CFR 478.112; 27 CFR 478.113; 27 CFR 478.113a
6A (5330.3 C)	Release & Receipt of Imported Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War	Yes	No	27 CFR 478.112(d)(1); 27 CFR 478.113(c)(1); 27 CFR 478.113a(c)(1); 27 CFR 478.114(b)(1)

### 4. Downtime Procedures

CBP has established standard operating procedures (SOPs) to address the continuity of operations in the event of a system outage, and decisions on implementing SOPs during an outage consider projected system downtimes. ACE maintains data redundancy. It buffers all messages sent to the trade and has the capacity to resend any message that failed delivery due to a system outage on either side. The delivery status of each message is also retained for audit and recovery purposes. Transmission of data buffered during the outage can be initiated to bring the systems back in sync.

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The ability of the system to support operations despite an outage depends on the extent of the outage within the various components of the system. In the case of a fatal crash, plans are in place to allow inter-agency operations via manual means of communication such as e-mail and phone calls until system capabilities are restored.

## **5. Filing ATF PGA Data**

A broker submits entry data via ACE for cargo release (it is encouraged that the filer submits the entry data as early as possible).

1. If the PGA information submitted is free of syntax errors, ACE will process the data for cargo release. If there are errors missing and/or incomplete data, the entry will be rejected and the appropriate notification message will be sent to the filer.
2. If the entry is rejected because of syntax errors, it is the responsibility of the filer to make corrections or contact ATF directly to resolve the matter. ACE does not automatically notify ATF of discrepancies within the submitted data. Once the information is accepted, the entry will have to pass business rules.
3. Should the entry passes all business rules, an automatic May Proceed Message will be sent to the filer. CBP will not need to sign and mail a paper copy of an automated Form 6/6A entry. Entry data is sent to ATF on a nightly basis which makes paper collection unnecessary. ATF's internal system also passes updated license and permit information on a daily basis through ACE to validate information provided by the filer.
4. If the entry does not pass all business rules, the entry will be rejected. It is the responsibility of the filer to correct the errors in order to receive a May Proceed.
5. Once a May Proceed message is issued, and there is no other unreleased PGA requirements for the entry, ACE will automatically generate a 1USG message to the filer.

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## 6. Points of Contact

Role	Point Of Contact	Responsibilities
<b>ATF Imports Helpdesk</b>	Imports-Helpdesk@atf.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Provides ATF-CBP/ACE assistance (for Imports)</li></ul>
<b>ATF Export Helpdesk</b>	Exports-Helpdesk@atf.gov	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• ATF-CBP/ACE assistance (for Exports)</li></ul>