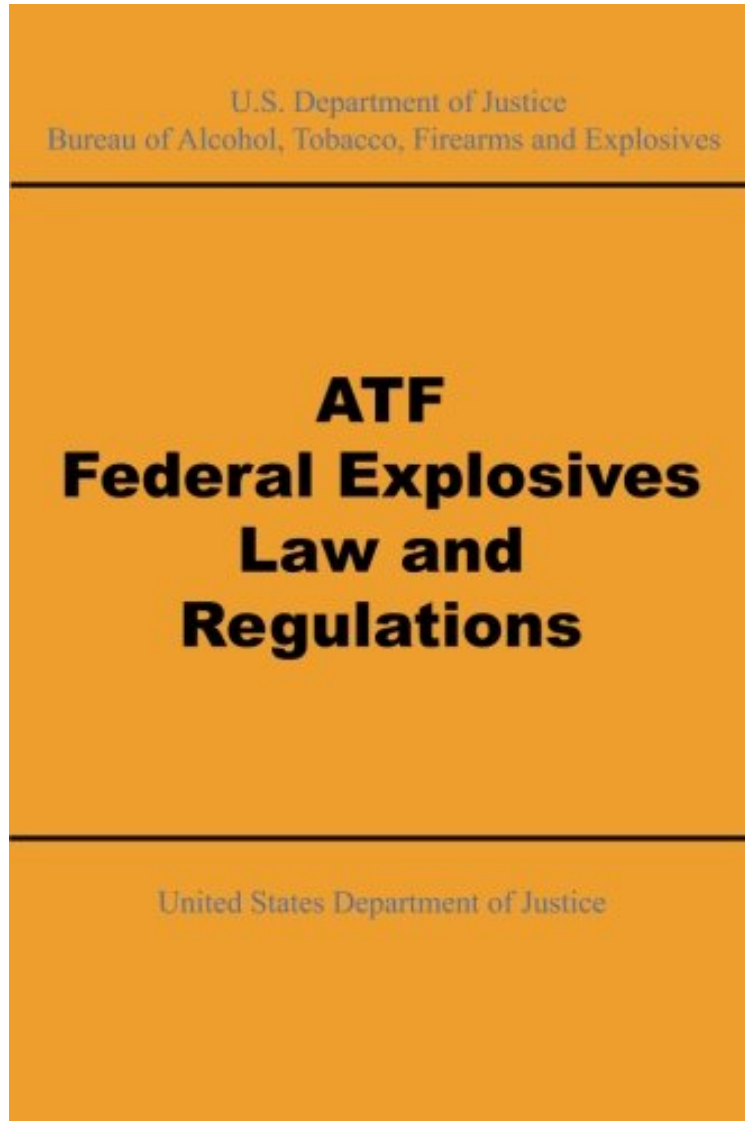


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ATF Federal Explosives Law and Regulations

*Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ATF Bureau of Alcohol
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ATF Federal Explosives Law and Regulations: the updated Federal Explosives Law and Regulations (ATF P 5400.7), generally known as the "orange book." One of the goals of this publication is to help the industry ensure the safety and security of explosive materials involved in commerce. The updates include enhancements to the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 stemming from the enactment of the Safe Explosives Act. Three of the major changes are requirements that all persons who receive regulated explosive materials in intrastate commerce have a Federal explosives license or permit, and that ATF conduct background checks on all employees possessing explosives in the course of their employment with a licensee or permittee, and an expansion of categories of persons prohibited from possessing explosives. In addition, the publication provides updated questions and answers, and addresses new rulings that give the industry flexibility through alternate methods or procedures for specific explosives regulations.

About the Author The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (abbreviated ATF) is a federal law enforcement organization within the United States Department of Justice. Its 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. The ATF also regulates via licensing the sale, possession, and transportation of firearms, ammunition, and explosives in interstate commerce. ATF, as a bureau, consists of several different groups that each has their own respective role, commanded by a director. Special Agents are empowered to conduct criminal investigations, defend the United States against international and domestic terrorism, and work with state and local police officers to reduce violent crime on a national level. ATF Special Agents have some of the broadest authority of any federal agency; 18 U.S.C. 3051 empowers them to enforce any statute in the United States Code. Specifically, ATF special agents have lead investigative authority on any federal crime committed with a firearm or explosive, as well as investigative authority over regulatory referrals and Cigarette smuggling. ATF special agents also often enforce violations of the Uniform Controlled Substances Act, and have the statutory authority to conduct narcotics cases independently of the Drug Enforcement Administration or any other agency. ATF Special Agents consistently rank at the top or near the top of all federal agencies in cases referred for prosecution; arrests made, and average time per defendant on an annual basis. Special Agents currently comprise around 2,400 of the Agency's approximately 5,000 personnel. Regulation of firearms: ATF is responsible for regulating firearm commerce in the United States. The Bureau issues Federal Firearms Licenses (FFL) to sellers, and conducts firearms licensee inspections. The Bureau is also involved in programs aimed at reducing gun violence in the United States, by targeting and arresting violent offenders who unlawfully possess firearms. ATF was also involved with the Youth Crime Gun Interdiction Initiative, which expanded tracing of firearms recovered by law enforcement, and the ongoing Comprehensive Crime Gun Tracing Initiative. ATF also provides support to state and local investigators, through the National Integrated Ballistic Identification Network (NIBIN) program.