



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25405

www.atf.gov

JUN 07 2010

903050:MMK  
3311/2010-434

This is in reference to your submission and accompanying letter to the Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), asking for an evaluation of a replacement shoulder stock for an AR-15 type rifle. Your letter advises that the stock (referenced in this reply as a "bump-stock") is intended to assist persons whose hands have limited mobility to "bump-fire" an AR-15 type rifle. Your submission includes the following: a block to replace the pistol grip while providing retention for the selector stop spring; a hollow shoulder stock intended to be installed over the rear of an AR-15 fitting with a sliding-stock type buffer-tube assembly; and a set of assembly instructions.

The FTB evaluation confirmed that the submitted stock (see enclosed photos) does attach to the rear of an AR-15 type rifle which has been fitted with a sliding shoulder-stock type buffer-tube assembly. The stock has no automatically functioning mechanical parts or springs and performs no automatic mechanical function when installed. In order to use the installed device, the shooter must apply constant forward pressure with the non-shooting hand and constant rearward pressure with the shooting hand. Accordingly, we find that the "bump-stock" is a firearm part and is not regulated as a firearm under Gun Control Act or the National Firearms Act.

Per your telephoned instructions, we will contact you separately to make return delivery arrangements.

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

Sincerely yours,

  
John R. Spencer  
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25405

www.atf.gov

903050:MRC  
3311/2012-196

APR 02 2012

This is in reference to your correspondence to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), requesting FTB to evaluate an accompanying stock and determine if its design would violate any Federal statutes.

As background information, the National Firearms Act (NFA), 26 U.S.C. Section 5845(b), defines "**machinegun**" as—

*"...any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, **any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.**"*

The FTB evaluation confirmed that you have submitted a plastic shoulder stock designed to function on an AR-15 type rifle (see enclosed photos). For your stock to function in the manner intended, it has to be attached to an AR-15 type platform that is assembled with a collapsible-stock receiver extension. Along with the shoulder stock, you have submitted what you have identified as a "receiver module." This module is a plastic block approximately 1-5/16 inches high, about 1-3/8 inches long, and approximately 7/8-inch wide. Additionally, there are two extensions, one on each side, that are designed to travel in the two slots configured on the shoulder stock. The receiver module replaces the AR-15 pistol grip.

Further, the submitted custom shoulder stock incorporates a pistol grip. This grip section has a cavity for the receiver module to move forward and backward. Additionally, two slots have been cut for the receiver module extensions to travel in. The upper section of the shoulder stock is designed to encapsulate the collapsible receiver extension. Further, the custom stock is

designed with a "lock pin." When the handle on the lock pin is facing in the 3- to 9-o'clock positions, the stock is fixed and will not move; and when the handle on the lock pin is facing in the 12- to 6-o'clock positions, the stock is movable.

The FTB live-fire testing of the submitted device indicates that if, as a shot is fired, an intermediate amount of pressure is applied to the fore-end with the support hand, the shoulder stock device will recoil sufficiently rearward to allow the trigger to mechanically reset. Continued intermediate pressure applied to the fore-end will then push the receiver assembly forward until the trigger re-contacts the shooter's stationary firing hand finger, allowing a subsequent shot to be fired. In this manner, the shooter pulls the firearm forward to fire each shot, the firing of each shot being accomplished by a single trigger function. Further, each subsequent shot depends on the shooter applying the appropriate amount of forward pressure to the fore-end and timing it to contact the trigger finger on the firing hand, while maintaining constant pressure on the trigger itself.

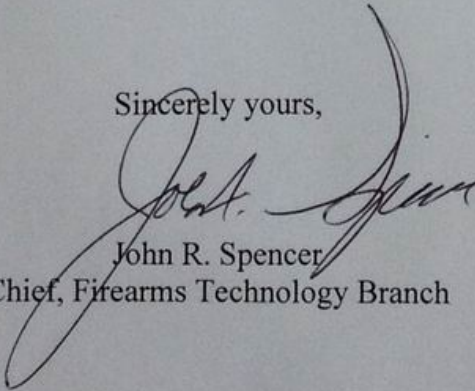
Since your device is incapable of initiating an automatic firing cycle that continues until either the finger is released or the ammunition supply is exhausted, FTB finds that it is not a machinegun as defined under the NFA, 26 U.S.C. 5845(b), or the Gun Control Act, 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(23).

Please be advised that our findings are based on the item as submitted. Any changes to its design features or characteristics **will void** this classification. Further, we caution that the addition of an accelerator spring or any other non-manual source of energy which allows this device to operate automatically as described will result in the manufacture of a machinegun as defined in the NFA, 5845(b).

To facilitate the return of your sample, to include the module, please provide FTB with the appropriate FedEx or similar account information within 60 days of receipt of this letter. If their return is not necessary, please fax FTB at 304-616-4301 with authorization to destroy them on your behalf.

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

Sincerely yours,



John R. Spencer  
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

Enclosure



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

*Assistant Director*

Washington, DC 20226

www.atf.gov

APR 16 2013

The Honorable Ed Perlmutter  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressman Perlmutter:

This is in response to your letter dated March 5, 2013, to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to rescind a previous evaluation letter and to classify all bump-fire stocks (to include specifically the Slide Fire Solutions stock) as machineguns.

As you have indicated, machineguns are defined in the National Firearms Title Act, 26 United States Code Chapter 53 Section 5845(b). The definition has four distinct parts. The first, as you point out, states that a machinegun is “any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a *single function of the trigger*.” The remaining portions of the definition go on to state that: “[t]he term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts *designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun*, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.”

In the course of examining a number of bump-fire stocks, ATF found that none of these devices could shoot nor did they constitute firearm frames or receivers; therefore, the first portion of the machinegun definition can not apply. Those bump-fire stocks which were found to convert a weapon to shoot automatically were classified as machineguns and regulated accordingly—most notably, the Akins Accelerator. Other bump-fire stocks (such as the SlideFire Solutions stock) that ATF determined to be unable to convert a weapon to shoot automatically were not classified as machineguns.

Reviewing findings with respect to the Akins and Slide Solutions, ATF, in Ruling 2006-2, found that the Akins Accelerator incorporated a mechanism to automatically reset and activate the fire-control components of a firearm following the single input of a user. Thus, the Akins Accelerator acted to convert a semiautomatic firearm to shoot automatically. Conversely, the Slide Fire Solutions stock requires continuous multiple inputs by the user for each successive

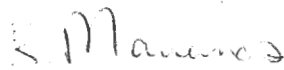
The Honorable Ed Perlmutter

shot. Similarly, other devices exist, such as the HellFire Trigger, which attach to and act upon the trigger of a firearm and also work to increase the rate or volume of fire of the firearm. Like the Slide Fire Solutions stock, the HellFire Trigger does not provide an automatic action—requiring instead continuous multiple inputs by the user for each successive shot.

Public safety is always a primary concern of ATF. We remain committed to the security of our Nation and the fight against violent crime. However, bump-fire stocks that do not fall within any of the classifications for firearm contained in Federal law may only be classified as firearms components. Stocks of this type are not subject to the provisions of Federal firearms statutes. Therefore, ATF does not have the authority to restrict their lawful possession, use, or transfer.

We hope this information proves helpful in responding to your constituent. Please let me know if we may be of further assistance.

Sincerely yours,



Richard W. Marianos  
Assistant Director  
Public and Governmental Affairs