



ALERT

Processing Time for ATF Form 6, Application and Permit for Importation of Firearms, Ammunition and Implements of War

We have recently been advised by personnel from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives that the government shutdown in September combined with staffing shortages have resulted in significant delays in processing ATF import applications. ATF's customer service standards for processing Form 6 import permits remain at 4-6 weeks. **However, actual processing time for Form 6 Part I (ATF Form 5330.3A) is currently 12 weeks.** ATF advises that requests for expedited processing will not be entertained except for law enforcement agencies with an immediate need for imported products.

Licensed importers should monitor approved permits for expiration dates and submit new applications well in advance of ATF's 12-week timeframe. Applications to import new products should also be submitted with this timeframe in mind. We have been advised that new examiners are currently being trained and will be ready to assist in processing new applications after the first of the year. However, the existing backlog and a growing volume of imports of defense articles into the United States may result in continued delays in processing import permits.

Importers who have not done so should consider submitting ATF Form 6 via ATF's e-forms process. Submitting forms in hard copy adds 4-5 weeks to the processing time due to data entry after receipt by ATF.

Importers should also expect delays in ATF's issuance of International Import Certificates, ATF Form 4522. ATF is processing the certificates for articles on ATF's United States Munitions Import List and recently took over issuance of the certificates for articles on the Department of State's United States Munitions List. **Processing time for International Import Certificates is currently 12 weeks.**

Additional Information or Questions

This alert is for informational purposes only and is not intended to be construed or used as legal advice. Questions about this information can be directed to:

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