



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25405

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903050 (b) (6)  
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(b)(3)-(26 USC 6103), (b) (6)

SEP 13 2012

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This is in reference to your recent correspondence to the Firearms Technology Branch, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), asking for classification, per National Firearms Act (NFA) provisions, of a proposed (b)(3)-(26 USC 6103)

(b)(3)-(26 USC 6103) For reference, you have provided a sample of your device (see our enclosed photographs) and instructions for mounting a pistol onto it.

For your information, we find that the (b)(3)-(26 USC 6103) accessory rail sleeve is an accessory for a firearm and the combination of this device with a pistol does not change the classification of the pistol.

As background to our discussion, the NFA, 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a), defines the term “firearm” to include:

... (3) a rifle having a barrel or barrels of less than 16 inches in length....

Further, a “rifle” is defined by the NFA, 26 U.S.C. § 5845(c), to mean:

... a weapon designed or redesigned, made or remade, and intended to be fired from the shoulder and designed or redesigned and made or remade to use the energy of the explosive in a fixed cartridge to fire only a single projectile through a rifled bore for each single pull of the trigger, and shall include any such weapon which may be readily restored to fire a fixed cartridge.

Additionally, Title 27 CFR § 478.11 defines a “pistol” as:

A weapon originally designed, made, and intended to fire a projectile (bullet) from one or more barrels when held in one hand, and having (a) a chamber(s) as an integral part(s) of, or permanently aligned with, the bore(s); and (b) a short stock designed to be gripped by one hand and at an angle to and extending below the line of the bore(s).

(b) (6)

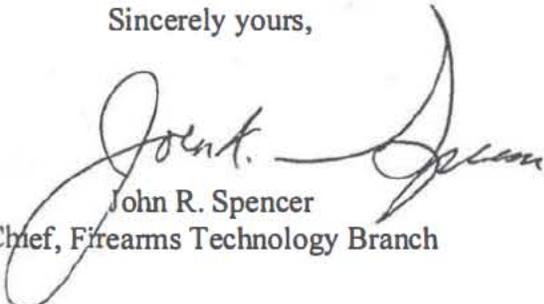
The <sup>(b)(3)-(26 USC 6103)</sup> accessory rail sleeve for Glock pistols is designed to enclose the pistol within extended length accessory mounting rails while providing an attachment point for a forearm brace. The brace allows the shooter to support the weight of the firearm and attached accessories in one hand without excessive strain upon the wrist.

As you can see from a reading of the above definitions, when a pistol is redesigned so that it is intended to be fired from the shoulder, it ceases to be a "pistol" and becomes a "rifle." If this particular rifle also has a barrel or barrels less than 16 inches in length, then it is a "short barreled rifle" subject to all NFA controls and supporting regulations.

Thus, we would caution that use of the device other than that described above would likely result in a change of classification.

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

Sincerely yours,



John R. Spencer  
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch

