



**U.S. Department of Justice**

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,  
Firearms and Explosives

*Martinsburg, WV 25405*

[www.atf.gov](http://www.atf.gov)

DEC 15 2014

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Dear (b) (6)

This refers to your correspondence and accompanying sample sent to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch (FTISB), for evaluation. You are asking if the addition of this sample, a pistol stabilizer forearm brace, would convert a firearm in a manner that would cause it to be classified as a "rifle" and thus a "firearm" regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA), specifically, 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a).

The FTISB evaluation revealed that the submitted device is constructed of plastic. Based upon your correspondence, the Blade AR Pistol Stabilizer incorporates a flexible stabilizing "fin", which the user rests against the inside of their forearm when in the firing position. Doing so stabilizes the firearm in the horizontal plane. The friction created between the user's forearm and the fin then stabilizes the firearm in the vertical plane. If a user so desires, they can wrap a standard sling around the Blade AR and their forearm and secure it with the thumb of their firing hand to further stabilize their firearm in both the horizontal and vertical planes.



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You explain further, that the shooter gains additional support of a firearm while it is still held and operated with one hand—without the discomfort of the SIG SB15. The SIG SB15 Stabilizing Brace was originally designed and intended to aid handicapped individuals when firing with the support of the forearm. The Blade AR Pistol Stabilizer as stated in the literature, is neither designed nor intended to enable a user to fire a weapon from the shoulder.

Based on our evaluation, FTISB finds that the submitted forearm brace, when attached to a pistol is a “firearm” subject to the GCA provisions; however, it is not a “firearm” as defined by the NFA provided the Blade AR Pistol Stabilizer is used as originally designed and NOT used as a shoulder stock.

We thank you for your inquiry and trust the foregoing has been responsive to your request. The item will be returned utilizing your USPS Priority shipping label.

*ms* Sincerely yours,

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Acting Chief, Firearms Technology Industry Services Branch