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From: Baird, Kevin (WSP)
Sent: Monday, October 3, 2022 5:32 AM
Subject: WSP Firearms Background Division Update - October 2022

Hello!

This month's update will be more excellent questions and answers that we think you'd be interested in knowing about:

1. *Do dealers have a choice to use their own digital 4473 separate from Secure Automated Firearms E-check (SAFE)? I use compliance software and the 4473 is generated, digitally signed, and stored within their cloud. I am not sure I would meet ATF digital storage requirements if I were to use the SAFE version of the 4473.*

Answer:

The SAFE version will simply be the fillable .pdf 4473 that you can find online. SAFE will just fill it in for you. Then you can print it for hard copy retention or save it as a .pdf document for electronic saving. However, for FFLs with systems already in place, they'll be able to continue to use their system as they do now and ignore the .pdf generated by SAFE. Dealers will be required to use SAFE for the background check itself, but if anyone wishes to continue to use paper 4473's they will still be able to do so (they'll just have to type the information into SAFE from the 4473). We're offering the 4473 .pdf to try to make things easier on FFLs by not making them have to enter the same data two or three times.

2. *How are you supporting the ATF requirement for the buyer to populate Section B of the 4473*

Answer:

SAFE will have the ability for the buyer/transferee the ability to enter their information (and the attestations) on their own device (phone, laptop, PC, tablet) or on a 'kiosk device' should the FFL choose to provide one. This will generate a six (6) digit code that the FFL will then enter to populate the fields in SAFE. They will also have an option to retain the code to use again, for those folks that purchase multiple times a month.

3. *What about digital signatures?*

Answer:

If your system allows for creating/accepting electronic signatures now, it will still be able to do that.

4. *What if I find that a mistake has been made on the 4473?*

Answer:

SAFE will provide a 'summary' screen for the FFL to review prior to submitting the background check. All information entered up to that point can be changed without any issue. Once the background has been submitted, then SAFE will generate both the 4473 and the Department of Licensing Firearm Transfer Application (FTA) as 'fillable .pdfs'. Meaning that SAFE will enter information into those fields based on the information entered into SAFE, but if you choose to save the .pdf, you'll be able to make changes before printing out (for physical storage), or saving as a permanent document. SAFE will only retain the data used to fill out the 4473 and FTA for 24 hours after the FFL has reviewed the background check results to comply with Federal and State laws.

Please keep those questions coming!

Thank you,

Kevin

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