

## Baird, Kevin (WSP)

---

**From:** Baird, Kevin (WSP)  
**Sent:** Thursday, September 1, 2022 6:20 AM  
**Subject:** WSP Firearms Background Division Update - September 2022

Hello! This month we will be answering a question that was sent to us last month that we feel many of you may also be wondering about...

**Question:** *Can you elaborate on what firearms will be processed through safe and what will still go through direct FBI NICS check? Also what will those of us with ATF approved virtual storage of 4473s do with our processing once the Secure Automated Firearms E-check (SAFE) system is launched?*

**Answer:** Once we are operational late next year, any and all firearms (including frames/receivers aka 'other') requiring a background check will go through us; the FBI NICS eCheck system will no longer be used by anyone in Washington State. However, to try to make it easy on FFLs, we will have an API that will allow a 'direct connection' to SAFE for those FFLs using third party software systems that may already connect to FBI NICS eCheck. This API should allow you to continue with your current virtual storage of 4473s. SAFE will also automatically send the Department of Licensing (DOL) Firearm Transfer Application (FTA) data to DOL. But, for those folks who don't have a software system, they'll be able to print off or save as a .pdf, the 4473 and the DOL FTA for their required retention. And finally, since we'll be doing all the background checks and know who has been denied, FFLs will no longer need to report denied firearm applicants to the Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs (WASPC), we'll take care of that too!

We're trying our hardest to make this system as low-impact to the FFLs as possible, while at the same time adding features that make the process more efficient and modern.

If you, too, have a question or comment, please don't hesitate to respond to this email and we'll do our best to find an answer!

Thank you,

Kevin

### **Kevin L. Baird**

Assistant Commander  
Firearms Background Division  
Phone: (360) 704-7842 | VoIP: 11842  
Email: [Kevin.Baird@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:Kevin.Baird@wsp.wa.gov)  
Washington State Patrol – "Service with Humility"