

Baird, Kevin (WSP)

From: Baird, Kevin (WSP)
Sent: Tuesday, August 1, 2023 6:19 AM
Subject: WSP Firearms Background Division Update - August 2023

Good morning!

For any of you who have ever dealt with a long term project with many moving parts, the following statement will come as no surprise to you: *"We're a bit behind schedule."*

Last month I announced that we were closing in on conducting our pilot for the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) system. But, as we started to move SAFE from the development data connections to the actual testing and production endpoints, we found that things didn't quite line up the way we expected. I can tell you from personal experience, this is very common, if not expected, in any technology project. But...it's disappointing just the same.

However, we and our vendor have conducted intensive testing and retesting of the specific connections, code, functions, etc. over the last three weeks and we do believe we are very close to being able to launch the pilot (which will lead into the actual migration of all FFLs to using SAFE shortly thereafter).

Also, since last month, several of you have called or emailed about the 'letter' that will be sent to you with the secret code for signing into SAFE for the first time. The letters HAVE NOT been sent out. I will send an email out when we send the first group's letters out (and subsequent emails as we send more out). We have to stagger the mailings, so that we don't suddenly have all of you trying to sign in and use SAFE at the same time.

Additionally we wanted to take this opportunity to address some of the questions that came up in our last survey:

- Some of you asked about the website and where it was located. It is here <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/firearms-background-division/>
- *Does the buyer/transferee have to login and get a "code" in order to have the FFL submit their background check?*
 - No, the buyer-code function is optional, and only there to help the FFLs have a smoother, easier, faster background check process.
- *With Washington State's Assault Rifle ban (SHB 1240) and ongoing talk about banning other guns/gun accessories, will there be a new form for the gunlock acknowledgement form going out? Or any new updates on any form for the WA State side of any forms indicating anything about semiautomatic firearms?*
 - Unfortunately, we can't speak to this question, as it is outside of our scope of authority as a background check unit.
- *Does the waiting period include weekends and holidays OR just business days?*
 - The current wait period of semiautomatic rifles is 10 business days, per RCW 9.41.092. Engrossed Second Substitute House Bill (E2SHB) 1143 extends the language in 9.41.092 to all firearms starting January 1, 2024.
- *I have been receiving updates, but there is no mechanism to begin the process of establishing a SAFE account. When will this become available? Will step-by-step processes be provided?*
 - Once we have successfully completed our pilot shakedown of SAFE in August, we will move to migrating FFLs to SAFE. At that time, FFLs will begin to receive a letter via US Postal Service mail containing a secret code to use for the initial onboarding process. All of the steps required are covered in our online training that will be available on our webpage <https://www.wsp.wa.gov/firearms-background-division/> once we are in the migration phase of the project.
- *What will the SAFE system check?*

- SAFE will check the same systems currently checked by local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) when conducting background checks for semiautomatic rifles and handguns...plus a little bit more!
 - Currently checked by LEAs
 - FBI NICS
 - Washington State and national hot files – warrants, protection orders, etc.
 - Health Care Authority (HCA) for mental health commitments
 - Their own records
 - What will be checked by SAFE
 - The firearm will be checked to see if it's stolen or involved in a felony
 - FBI NICS
 - Washington State and national hot files – warrants, protection orders, etc.
 - Health Care Authority (HCA) for mental health commitments
 - Administrative Office of the Courts for non-fingerprinted arrests and convictions
 - LInX-NW for statewide local records

Again, thank you all for your support and patience as we shake out the last few bugs and get the system ready for you to use!

Thank you,

Kevin

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