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From: Baird, Kevin (WSP)
Sent: Thursday, August 31, 2023 9:16 AM
Subject: WSP Firearms Background Division Update - September 2023

Hello FFLs –

The September 2023 installment of the WSP update email is a little early as we have exciting information to share with you!

As you likely already know, we started our Pilot for the Secure Automated Firearms E-check (SAFE) system on August 8, 2023. After a little bit of a slow start due to a browser time out issue we were off to the races with our three pilot participants. We were pretty amazed at how fast SAFE is able to process background checks. We actually had a background check for a handgun that was fully adjudicated and proceeded in 59 minutes...! (And...a denial in 2 minutes!!!!)

Because of the early success, as I reported on August 17th, we decided to begin sending out the official onboarding letters to the “Phase 1” FFLs, many of whom are already using SAFE daily, and who are the FFLs located in the following counties:

Mason	Walla Walla	Okanogan	Ferry	Jefferson	Pacific	Whitman	Franklin	Klickitat	Adams
Lincoln	Pend Oreille	Asotin	Douglas	Wahkiakum	Columbia	Garfield	San Juan	Skamania	

On August 21st, we sent out the onboarding letters to the “Phase 2” FFLs, who are the FFLs located in these counties:

Benton	Island	Kitsap	Thurston	Clallam	Cowlitz	Lewis
Whatcom	Grays Harbor	Grant	Stevens	Kittitas	Skagit	Chelan

We strongly encourage FFLs in all of these counties to onboard with SAFE as soon as possible. Some of the benefits of not waiting...

1. Fast background check responses! And, with the exception of semiautomatic rifles (SARs) with their 10 business day waiting period, you may hand over the firearm as soon as you get the proceed from us.
2. No fees! We’re not assessing ANY fees until January 1, 2024...that includes the \$18 SAR fee that you currently have to send a check to DOL for.
3. We take care of the Firearm Transfer Application (FTA) for you. No need to mail it in or report in via Firearms Online.
4. We take care of reporting denied firearm applicants for you. Since we’re the ones making the denial, there is no longer a requirement for you to report denials to <https://www.wafirearmsreport.org/ffl-access>

A few hiccups we’ve noted with onboarding, that we want to point out to try help smooth the process:

1. UBI numbers, part 1: Our system requires a 16 digit UBI number. Some of you may have a 9 or 12 digit number on your State Firearm Dealer License. If that’s the case, look at your State Business license from the Department of Revenue. It should have the additional numbers listed like this:
 - Unified Business IS # 6612229999
 - Business ID # 001
 - Location 0001

For this example, we need you to enter 66122299990010001, along with your unique SAFE code from the onboarding letter, into SAFE to onboard.

2. State Firearm Dealer License Expiration: Our letters were generated based on the UBIs that Department of Licensing had on file on June 26, 2023. This means, if you attempt to onboard, but your State Firearm Dealer License has expired since June 26, the system will give you a warning that your license has expired, or that we do not have any state license information available associated with the UBI entered.
 - a. If you have recently renewed your State Firearm Dealer License, there is nothing for you to do, as our database will get updated from DOL.
 - b. However, if you have not renewed, you will need to obtain a current Firearm Dealer License as soon as possible, because after 30 days, you will no longer be able to use SAFE to submit background checks.
3. UBI numbers, part 2: We have also had a few instances where the UBI reported to DOL by the law enforcement agency processing the State Firearm Dealer License was enter incorrectly. And in one case, the FFL had actually gotten a completely new UBI number in the time span between when we generated the mailing list and the date they received the letter.
 - a. If something like this happens, please email firearms@wsp.wa.gov with both the incorrect and the correct information, so that we can have DOL update their system. A picture of your State Business License and the State Firearm Dealer License would be appreciated, and helpful, if you can include that as well.
4. ATF ID numbers: Once you are in SAFE and setting up your FFL Business account, if you get an error about your ATF ID not being on file, or it is no longer valid, please email firearms@wsp.wa.gov with the current ATF ID and expiration, and we'll get DOL to update their system.

Thank you all for your patience and understanding, as we strive to provide you the fastest, yet thorough background checks possible!

Kevin

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