Hello -

This is a reminder that RCW 9.41.1135 requires Washington State Federal Firearm Licensees (FFLs) to use the Washington State Patrol’s Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) system starting no later than February 1, 2024.

On February 1, 2024, the FBI NICS E-check system will be disabled for background check submissions and all Washington State Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) will no longer accept Firearm Transfer Application forms.

Also, on February 1, 2024, FFLs will be invoiced in SAFE for each background check transaction (not per gun) submitted since January 1, 2024. Each transaction will incur an $18 fee as required by RCW 43.43.580 (4)(a), but which replaces the previous semiautomatic rifle (SAR) fee:

(4)(a) The Washington state patrol shall require a dealer to charge each firearm purchaser or transferee a fee for performing background checks in connection with firearms transfers. The fee must be set at an amount necessary to cover the annual costs of operating and maintaining the firearm background check system but shall not exceed eighteen dollars. The Washington state patrol shall transmit the fees collected to the state treasurer for deposit in the state firearms background check system account created in RCW 43.43.590. It is the intent of the legislature that once the state firearm background check system is established, the fee established in this section will replace the fee required in *RCW 9.41.090*(7).

If you are not already onboarded with the SAFE system, you must have a valid State Firearm Dealers License (see example below):

If you don’t have one, you’ll need to obtain one from the LEA with jurisdiction over your business location. Further information is available here: [https://www.dol.wa.gov/professional-licenses/firearms-dealers](https://www.dol.wa.gov/professional-licenses/firearms-dealers)

If you DO have one, please send a picture of it to firearms@wsp.wa.gov with a request to ‘Onboard with SAFE’, and we’ll provide you the onboarding information.
Thank you,

WSP Firearms Background Division

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Washington State Patrol – “Service with Humility”