

Jamie Weimer

Subject: FW: WA FFLs: Extension on the current processing of "Other" NICS Background Check

From: NICSLiaison <nicслиason@fbi.gov>

Sent: Thursday, June 18, 2020 4:52 PM

Subject: WA FFLs: Extension on the current processing of "Other" NICS Background Check

To Washington Federal Firearms Licensees (FFL),

The following information is being provided on behalf of the FBI Criminal Justice Information Services Division's National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) Section, the Washington Department of Licensing (DOL), and the Washington State Patrol (WSP), to provide information to Washington FFLs regarding updated information on the processing of "other" transfers occurring at Washington FFLs.

Washington's current role as a NICS Partial Point of Contact (POC) requires the state to be responsible for processing handgun and "other" transfers occurring at FFLs within their state. However, Washington's recent House Bill 2467 establishes Washington will be transitioning to a NICS Full POC, as the bill directs the WSP to establish a centralized single POC background check system for all firearm transfers occurring at Washington FFLs. At the request of the Washington Governor's Office and the WSP, the NICS Section has agreed to continue to be the POC for Washington FFLs for "other" transfers until the earlier of (a) **Washington's single point firearms system is live** or (b) **January 31, 2023**.

The following is a synopsis of the processing of firearm transfers occurring at Washington FFLs:

- **HANDGUN transfers:** Washington FFLs will contact a Washington law enforcement agency (LEA) to process the NICS check. This is for all handgun transfers to include those involving pawn redemptions, pre-pawns, and rentals. Handgun transfers also includes transfers to individuals with a valid Washington Concealed Pistol License.
- **SEMIAUTOMATIC RIFLES (SAR), per Initiative 1639:** Washington FFLs will contact a Washington LEA to process the NICS check.
- **"OTHER" transfers:** Washington FFLs will contact the NICS Section to process the NICS check.
- **LONG GUN transfers (not meeting the Washington SAR definition):** Washington FFLs will contact the NICS Section to process the NICS check.

Note: The term “Other” includes frames and receivers. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) provided guidance that “other” shall not be transferred across state lines or to persons under the age of 21. Washington FFLs needing further clarification determining which firearms are included in the category of “other” may contact their local ATF office. The ATF will not answer questions pertaining to the *process* of conducting NICS checks for “other” transactions but will assist with determining if a firearm is within the “other” category.

Questions or concerns regarding the changes related to the NICS Section may be directed to the NICS Business Relations Team via e-mail at NICSLiaison@fbi.gov.

Helpful Washington State Contacts:

- Washington DOL Firearms Unit: www.dol.wa.gov/business/firearms/index.html
- The WSP: www.wsp.wa.gov/
- Washington House Bill 2467: [ESSHB 2467](#)
- WA Attorney General FAQs: <https://www.atg.wa.gov/initiative-1639>
- Initiative 1639: https://www.sos.wa.gov/assets/elections/initiatives/finaltext_1531.pdf