



MARYLAND STATE POLICE

Maryland Department of State Police / Licensing Division
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ADVISORY

LD-FRU-19-002

December 18, 2019

FBI NICS HANDGUN TRANSACTIONS IN MARYLAND

This advisory is being issued to clarify a recent notification sent out by FBI NICS regarding Handgun transfers in Maryland, including "Other" background checks. The purpose of the notification was to advise FFLs that beginning on January 1, 2020, all handgun transactions requiring a NICS check and an NTN number, will be processed through the State, including transactions previously performed by FBI NICS directly. These include the following transaction types as defined by FBI NICS:

- Pre-Pawn of a Handgun
- Pre-Pawn of Other (Frame, Receiver, etc.)
- Redemption of Handgun
- Redemption of Other (Frame, Receiver, etc.)

This change in processing of NICS checks does not change the scope or requirements of Maryland's regulated firearms laws. The frame of a handgun (or the receiver of an assault weapon) is a "regulated firearm" under State law and the transfer of that frame or receiver requires the submission of an application (77R) to the State Police and a Federal (NICS) and State background check. However, the transfer of a receiver of a long gun, not enumerated as an assault weapon under State law (an "Other" category firearm under Federal law), does not require the submission of an application (77R) to the State Police. Further, the pre-pawn and redemption of any firearm (including "Other" category frames and receivers) does not require a State application (77R) and State background check. Pre-pawn and redemption checks of State regulated firearms (handguns and assault weapons, and the frames and receivers of such firearms) will be submitted to the State Police for a FBI NICS check. **All non-regulated long gun, including long gun frame or receiver transactions, will continue to be submitted directly to FBI NICS for a NICS check and NTN number.**

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A NICS check and NTN number request for the above transaction types, including the return of a regulated firearm placed on consignment, can be initiated by visiting the NICS Request for Pawn / Redemption page located on the Maryland State Police Licensing Division website or by clicking the following link:

[NICS Request for Pawn / Redemption](#)

The NICS Request for Pawn / Redemption page is password protected. All registered type 02 FFLs will be notified and provided the password to access the request form. All type 02 FFLs not already registered, and all Maryland regulated firearms dealers who accept consignment and/or pawn firearms, must contact the Maryland State Police Licensing Division to register for access to the NICS Request for Pawn / Redemption system.

Maryland State Police Licensing Division

Phone: 410-653-4621

Email: mSP.firearmsregistration@maryland.gov

There has been no policy change regarding the frames or receivers of assault weapons (assault long guns) that can be built into a legal firearm. The purchase/transfer of a regulated firearm, including the frame or receiver of a regulated firearm, continues to require the submission of a 4473 and a 77R. For additional information on receivers of banned assault long guns, please see Maryland State Police Licensing Division Advisory [LD-FRS-14-003](#).

Should you have any further questions, please contact the Firearms Registration Unit, via the Livehelp feature from within your Licensing Portal, via email at mSP.firearmsregistration@maryland.gov, or you may contact us during regular business hours at 410-653-4500.

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