U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Martinsburg, West Virginia 25405
www.atf.gov

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This refers to your recent correspondence and accompanying sample sent to the Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), for evaluation. You are asking if the addition of this sample, a buffer tube forearm brace, would convert a firearm in a manner that would cause it to be classified as a "rifle" and thus a "firearm" regulated by the National Firearms Act (NFA), specifically, 26 U.S.C. § 5845(a).

The FTB evaluation revealed that the submitted device is constructed of a foam-type rubber (similar to that used in developing prosthetic devices) and two Velcro straps. The device (see enclosed photos) is molded to a pistol style buffer tube for an AR-type firearm, and is shaped to form an upside down "U".

A shooter would insert his or her forearm into the device while gripping the pistol's handgrip—then tighten the Velcro straps for additional support and retention. Thus configured, the device provides the shooter with additional support of a firearm while it is still held and operated with one hand. We find that the device is not designed or intended to fire a weapon from the shoulder.

Based on our evaluation, FTB finds that the submitted forearm brace, when attached to a firearm, does not convert that weapon to be fired from the shoulder and would not alter the classification of a pistol or other firearm. While a firearm so equipped would still be regulated by the Gun Control Act, 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3), such a firearm would not be subject to NFA controls.

To facilitate the return of your submitted sample, please arrange for return shipping. This may be done via a UPS "cal-tag" pick-up or simply by using a return shipping label from the U.S. Postal Service or any common carrier. If you wish to accomplish return via "call-tag," please give FTB prior notice so the item can be readied for shipping since UPS will only make three pick-up attempts.

We thank you for your inquiry and trust the foregoing is responsive.

Sincerely yours,

John R. Spencer
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch