

United States Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives
Information Collection Request
1140-0055
Identification of Explosive Materials
Supporting Statement

A. Justification

1. ATF is charged with the responsibility for enforcing Title XI of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 and the implementing regulations at 27 CFR Part 555. One of the primary purposes of the Act was to reduce the hazards to persons and property arising from misuse of explosives materials.

In an effort to protect the public from misuse of explosive materials, ATF requires that explosives manufacturers mark all explosives manufactured with specific information, such as the name of the manufacturer and the date and shift of manufacture.

These requirements help ensure that explosive materials can be effectively traced for criminal enforcement purposes. That is, the explosives can be tracked through the records kept by licensees and permittees. This process often provides valuable information in explosion and bombing investigations, and is useful for inspection purposes in verifying inventory and proper conduct of business practices.

2. Each licensed manufacturer of explosive materials shall legibly identify by marking all explosive materials he manufacturers for sale or distribution. The marking of explosives is used in the process of tracing recovered explosive materials. In furtherance of criminal investigations, the ATF United States Bomb Data Center conducts explosives traces by contacting the manufacturer of the materials and “tracing” them through successive dealers.

Additionally, ATF inspectors rely on the manufacturer’s markings in the required records to verify inventories and proper conduct of business practices.

3. The collection does not involve the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology.

4. ATF is not aware of any similar marking requirements for explosive materials. ATF is the only entity charged with enforcing the implementing regulations for this information collection.

5. The collection of this information does not have any impact on small business.

6. Failure to collect this information would hinder explosive trace efforts for criminal enforcement cases. Additionally, compliance inspection activities, such as inventory verifications for public safety, would be adversely affected.

7. Respondents are required to report information only as often as necessitated by criminal enforcement or regulatory activities. Respondents are required to record information by the close of the next business day following the manufacture or receipt of explosive materials. This is to ensure that records are available for tracing or inspection purposes. Respondents are required to maintain records for 5 years. This is to ensure availability for criminal enforcement (tracing) purposes.

8. ATF employs Industry Analysts whose major responsibility is keeping their fingers on the pulse of the industry. The industry was consulted for this information collection. A 60-day and 30-day notice was published in the Federal Register in order to solicit comments from the public. No comments were received.

9. No payment or gift is associated with this information collection.

10. Confidentiality is not assured. The records that contain the information regarding the markings of explosives are maintained on the premises of an explosive licenses or permittee.

11. No questions of a sensitive nature are asked.

12. There are 2,184 respondents associated with this information collection. Each respondent responds one time. The total number of responses is 2,184. The average amount of time estimated for a respondent to respond is 3 seconds. Manufacturers customarily place markings on their manufactured explosive products, therefore, the burden to include additional information for this collection is 3 seconds per respondent for a total annual burden of 1 hour (2,184 respondents x .03 divided by 60).

13. There is no cost to the respondent for this collection of information.

14. There is no cost to the Federal Government.

15. There are no program changes or adjustments associated with this information collection.

16. The results of this collection will not be published.

17. ATF does not request approval to not display the expiration date of OMB approval for this information collection.

18. There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. Collections of Information Employing Statistical Methods

This collection of information employs no statistical methods.