

Department of Justice
Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF)
Information Collection Request (ICR)
OMB 1140-0020

Firearms Transaction Record
ATF Form 5300.9 and 5300.9A (“Form 4473”))

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

A. JUSTIFICATION

1. Explain the circumstances that make the information collection necessary.

The subject form is necessary to implement the provisions of 18 U.S.C. §§ 922 and 923 and 27 CFR 478.124. These sections of the Gun Control Act (GCA) prohibit certain persons from shipping, transporting, receiving, or possessing firearms. The information and certification on the Form 4473 are designed so that persons licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 923 (Federal firearms licensees, or FFLs) may determine if they may lawfully sell or deliver a firearm to the person identified in Section B, and to alert the transferee/buyer of certain restrictions on the receipt and possession of firearms. All persons, including FFLs, are prohibited from transferring firearms to persons prohibited under the law from possessing firearms. FFLs, as well as non-licensed sellers, are also subject to other restrictions regarding the disposition of a firearm to an unlicensed person under the GCA. For example, age and State of residence also determine whether a person may lawfully receive a firearm. The Form 4473 should only be used for sale or transfers of firearms where the seller is licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 923 and the transferee is a non-licensed person. The seller of a firearm must determine the lawfulness of the transaction and maintain proper records of the transaction.

The subject form is also made available in a Spanish-language version, i.e. Registro de Transacción de Armas de Fuego - ATF Form 4473 (5300.9). The Spanish-language version is made available so that persons who only understand Spanish will understand their obligations under the GCA, and accurately respond to the questions and certification on the form. Additionally, should a particular firearm transferee-purchaser knowingly make materially false statements on the form to acquire a firearm unlawfully, law enforcement can use the form as evidence that the Spanish language purchaser was aware of the requirements and prohibitions of the law when buying the firearm. Transferee/buyers are not required to complete the Spanish-language version of the form. They may choose to complete the English-language version.

A continuation sheet, Firearms Transaction Record Continuation Sheet/Registro de Transacción de Armas de Fuego Hoja de Continuación - ATF Form 4473 (5300.9A) has been developed when more than three firearms are transferred in a single transaction.

2. Indicate how, by whom, and for what purpose the information is to be used.

A person purchasing a firearm from an FFL must complete Section B of the Form 4473. The buyer's answers to the questions determine if they are eligible to receive the firearm. If those answers indicate that the buyer is not prohibited from receiving a firearm, the licensee completes

Section C of the Form 4473 and contacts the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) National Instant Criminal Background Check System (NICS) or the State point of contact (POC) to determine if the firearm can be legally transferred to the purchaser.

3. Describe whether, and to what extent, the collection of information involves the use of automated, electronic, mechanical, or other technological collection techniques or other forms of information technology, e.g., permitting electronic submission of responses, and the basis for the decision for adopting this means of collection.

The Form 4473 will be mailed to all licensees. In addition, the Form will be available electronically via the ATF internet site (www.atf.gov) to download and print. For licensees unable to access the form electronically, additional forms will be made available at ATF's Distribution Center. The Distribution Center will continually stock the Form 4473 for distribution. Licensees who wish to utilize a commercial version of electronic 4473 software must do so in compliance with the variance provisions of 27 CFR 478.22(a) and ATF Ruling 2016-2.

4. Describe efforts to identify duplication.

ATF uses a uniform subject classification system for its forms to identify duplication and to ensure that any similar information already available cannot be used or modified for use for the purpose of this information collection.

5. If the information collection impacts small businesses or other small entities, describe any methods used to minimize burden.

The Form 4473 will not have a significant economic impact on small businesses.

6. Describe the consequences to federal programs or policy activities if the collection is not conducted or is conducted less frequently, as well as any technical or legal obstacles to reducing burden.

The consequences of not conducting this collection of information, or conducting it less frequently, are that the licensee might transfer a firearm to a person who is prohibited from possessing firearms under Federal law and to trace a firearm involved in a crime to the retail purchaser listed on the form. Collection of this information is necessary for compliance with the statutory requirements to verify the eligibility of an individual receiving or possessing firearms under the GCA. There is no discretionary authority on the part of ATF to waive these requirements. Respondents are required to supply this information as often as necessary to comply with statutory provisions. The form is critical to the prevention of criminal diversion of firearms and enhances law enforcement's ability to trace firearms that are recovered in crimes.

7. Explain any special circumstances that would cause an information collection to be conducted in a manner inconsistent with 5 CFR 1320.6.

After the FFL has completed the firearms transaction, he or she must retain the completed original Form 4473 (*which includes the Notices, General Instructions, and Definitions*) and any supporting documents, as part of his or her official records for twenty years, as required by 27 CFR 478.129(b). There are no special circumstances that would cause or allow the information collection to be conducted in any other manner than is currently proposed.

8. If applicable, provide a copy and identify the date and page number of the agency's notice published in the *Federal Register* as required by 5 CFR 1320.8(d), soliciting comments on the information collection prior to submission to OMB.

The 60-Day Notice was published in the *Federal Register* on May 8, 2026 (91 FR 25448), and proposed numerous changes to the ICR. The comment period ended on July 7, 2026. ATF received numerous comments on the proposed changes in response to the 60-day notice, as well as additional comments on the ICR proposed changes in public comments on the accompanying proposed rulemaking (91 FR 25432, published on the same date, but with a public comment period ending on August 8, 2026). ATF needs more time to consider all the public comments, as well as the comments received on connected portions of the proposed rule, but this existing ICR expires at the end of August.

As a result, ATF published an interim notice on the existing ICR on July 29, 2026 (91 FR 47857) informing the public that, for the purposes of allowing sufficient time to consider all the public comments, ATF would submit an extension request of the existing ICR without change, and would subsequently submit the normal 30-day notice on the proposed changes, including summaries and responses to the public comments. Thereafter, ATF would submit the change package to OMB for review and approval of the proposed revisions.

This supporting statement therefore proposes no changes to the existing ICR and is the same as the 2023 supporting statement last approved by OMB except this response to Item 8, the itemized changes that were made during 2023's renewal, and the response to Item 15 on program changes. ATF will submit a new supporting statement to OMB along with a request to revise the ICR after ATF publishes the 30-day notice responding to public comments on the original proposed changes.

9. Explain any decision to provide any payments or gifts to respondents, other than remuneration of contractors or grantees.

No payment or gift is offered to the respondent.

10. Describe any assurance of confidentiality provided to respondents and the basis for the assurance in statute, regulation, or agency policy.

All records regarding this collection are kept on the licensee's business premises. Confidentiality is not assured.

11. Provide additional justification for any questions of a sensitive nature, such as sexual behavior and attitudes, religious beliefs, and other matters that are commonly considered private.

Questions of a sensitive nature are asked to ensure that firearms are not sold to or received by persons who are prohibited by law from receiving and possessing firearms. The information and certification on the form are designed and intended to assist a person licensed under 18 U.S.C. § 923, to determine at the point of sale, whether they may lawfully transfer a firearm to the transferee.

12. Provide estimates of the information collection's hour burden.

The number of respondents associated with this information collection is 16,102,962 per year. Each respondent completes the form prior to acquiring a firearm. It is estimated that it takes 30 minutes to complete the form. The total annual burden hours associated with this information collection is 8,051,482.

13. Provide an estimate of the total annual cost burden to respondents or recordkeepers resulting from the information collection. (Do not include the cost of any hour burden shown in Items 12 and 14).

There is no cost to respondents because the purchaser completes the form on the premises in front of the licensee. Licensees may receive the Form 4473 at no charge from the ATF Distribution Center. In addition, the form will be available electronically, via the ATF Web site to download and print.

14. Provide estimates of the annualized cost to the federal government.

Cost of printing, distributing, and mailing the form is estimated at \$1,500,000. The cost estimate includes printing an estimated 6,000,000 forms, shrink-wrapping the forms, inserting them in envelopes, and mailing the packages to all FFLs, as well as delivering a bulk supply of forms to the ATF Distribution Center for stock.

15. Explain the reasons for any program changes or adjustments.

ATF is making no changes to the ICR for this extension request. ATF will submit a revision package once it publishes the 30-day notice for the originally proposed changes.

16. For information collections whose results will be published, outline plans for tabulations, and publication.

The results of this information collection will not be published.

17. If seeking approval to not display the expiration date for OMB approval of the information collection, explain the reasons that display would be inappropriate.

ATF is requesting that the expiration date not be posted on the ATF Form 4473, to prevent confusion among industry members and applicants, if a date provided on the form is later extended. Additionally, because ATF mails the forms to respondents, displaying the expiration date will incur additional re-printing and mailing costs should the expiration date be extended.

18. Explain each exception to the certification statement.

There are no exceptions to the certification statement.

B. INFORMATION COLLECTIONS EMPLOYING STATISTICAL METHODS.

This collection does not contain statistical data.