



NATIONAL SHOOTING SPORTS FOUNDATION, INC.

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Frequently Asked Questions on Connecticut Gun Laws

Connecticut Public Act 03-13, An Act Concerning Gun Violence.

Over the past couple of months, NSSF has sent questions concerning Connecticut Public Act 03-13, An Act Concerning Gun Violence and Children's Safety to the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection (DESPP), State Police for answers. All the necessary supporting documents and communications with the State Police are also included for your reference.

It is imperative that any manufacturer or retailer dealing with Connecticut residents make sure that all parts of a transaction are properly documented. Copies of all the appropriate records and licenses need to be confirmed and filed for any future inquiries. Your company needs to keep a file with copies of ALL the necessary licenses, i.e. pistol permit, ammunition eligibility certificate, long-gun eligibility certificate and of course the certificate of possession when dealing with what Connecticut deems an "assault weapon" (modern sporting rifle).

Issue #1: Is it legal for a manufacturer to sell an unassembled component of an "assault weapon" (e.g., a stock with one "assault weapon" feature) to a distributor with a warehouse in Connecticut, but for sale outside of Connecticut?

Answer: Yes it is legal. Manufacturers are exempt under Public Act 13-220 since they possess a federal firearms license.

Issue #2: Is it legal to sell a one-feature unassembled component of a firearm (e.g., a stock with a telescoping stock) if it is designed and intended for *both* a firearm that would make it an "assault weapon" (e.g., a centerfire semi-automatic rifle with a detachable magazine) and a firearm that would not (e.g., a rimfire rifle)?

Answer: Yes it is legal. The individual components alone are not considered illegal; it is only once they are assembled on a non-registered rifle which makes them non-compliant with Public Act 03-13. Individuals will have situations where registered rifles could need repairs and replacement components.

Issue #3: Is it legal to sell an unassembled component of an "assault weapon" to a manufacturer of "assault weapons" in Connecticut who certifies that the finished "assault weapon" will only be sold outside of Connecticut? Note the law exempts Connecticut manufacturers possessing the components if they sell them outside of Connecticut, but it does not specifically exempt manufacturers of components from selling them in the state to those exempt manufacturers.

Answer: Yes it is legal. Manufacturers are exempt under Public Act 13-220 since they possess a federal firearms license. Transactions between licensed parties are in fact exempt.

Issue #4: A company is located outside Connecticut and receives a request from a customer in Connecticut to purchase ammunition. Can the non-Connecticut company sell and ship ammunition to that Connecticut customer provided that consumer meets all the other legal requirements to purchase ammunition (over 21 etc., permits)?

Answer: Yes ammunition can be sold by a non-Connecticut company to that Connecticut individual provided they comply with the necessary requirements, e.g. provide the seller with a copy of his/her pistol permit, ammunition eligibility certificate, or long-gun eligibility certificate which matches the shipping address and the sale is otherwise lawful.

Issue #5: Are special permits needed in order to purchase components, or even tools for reloading ammunition?

Answer: No special permits are needed to purchase components or tools for reloading ammunition.

Issue #6: If a company based outside Connecticut has a Connecticut customer who received ammunition they are unsatisfied with, e.g. believe it is not functioning properly, may the company a) ask the Connecticut consumer to return the ammunition to the out-of-state company for inspection and/or b) ship replacement ammunition to the consumer?

Answer: Yes the ammunition can be replaced and shipped to that individual if they comply with the necessary requirements, e.g. provide a copy of his/her pistol permit, ammunition eligibility certificate, or long-gun eligibility certificate which matches the shipping address.

Issue #7a: In a warranty or repair situation may a company based outside of Connecticut ship to a customer located in Connecticut an inspected and/or repaired firearm?

Answer: These are warranty issues and simply confirming the necessary requirements (pistol permit, long gun eligibility certificate) from the consumer will allow the company to return the firearm and if it is what is now defined as an assault weapon a certificate of possession. In this scenario, if the firearm was registered as an assault weapon and a certificate of possession accompanies it can be returned to the consumer.

Issue #7b: In a warranty or repair situation where a lawfully-owned, damaged firearm cannot be repaired and under the warranty the company is legally obligated to replace the damaged firearm, which replacement firearm could not be sold at retailer today under Act 03-13, may the company ship to the consumer a replacement firearm of the same model (caliber and features etc.) or, if the model is no longer available, a similar model firearm?

Answer: Even though these would seemingly be warranty issues the State Police has absolutely no authority to allow a replacement receiver OR complete firearm to be transferred into the state. The State Police has no authority to issue a revised or amended certificate of possession of a lawfully possessed firearm that was damaged or failed. There is no procedure in place to allow for the transfer into the state of a new receiver OR firearm with a new serial number to be used as a replacement or warranty claim.

Issue #8: In a warranty or repair, if a Connecticut customer includes magazines with the firearm to be repaired or serviced magazines that are now banned in Connecticut, may the company return those magazines to the Connecticut customer?

Answer: If the magazines sent in with the firearm were legally owned and declared through a magazine declaration form by the firearm owner, then the magazines can be returned to the original owner.

Issue #9: Will Connecticut firearms retailers each time they sell ammunition to a consumer be required to contact the Connecticut state police in order to verify that a facially valid and current ammunition eligibility certificate, pistol permit, or long-gun eligibility certificate is still in fact valid?

Answer: The retailers will only have to confirm that the person possesses a non-expired pistol permit, ammunition eligibility certificate, or long-gun eligibility certificate and a second form of state issued ID. The retailer will not have to call the state police to conduct ammunition transactions.

Issue #10: May an out-of-state resident apply for and receive an ammunition eligibility certificate that would allow them to purchase ammunition and magazines at retail in the state of Connecticut?

Answer: Yes, an out-of-state resident can apply for and receive an ammunition eligibility certificate from the state of Connecticut that would allow them to purchase ammunition and magazines at retail in the state of Connecticut, subject to compliance with all applicable laws.

Issue #11: May an out-of-state resident apply for and receive a long gun eligibility certificate that would allow them to purchase long guns, ammunition and magazines at retail in the state of Connecticut?

Answer: Yes, an out-of-state resident can apply for and receive a long gun eligibility certificate from the state of Connecticut that would allow them to purchase long guns, ammunition and magazines at retail in the state of Connecticut, subject to compliance with all applicable laws. Out of state residents must apply in person in Middletown at the State Police Headquarters.