



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

AUG 19 2004

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3311/2004-564

www.atf.gov

Mr. Robert Serva
Dan Wesson Firearms
5169 Highway 12 South
Norwich, NY 13815

Dear Mr. Serva:

This refers to an unfinished 1911-type semiautomatic pistol frame sample, which was received by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Branch (FTB), on July 25, 2004, for examination and classification.

Examination of the submitted unfinished frame revealed that the following machining operations have been made, implementing these essential features:

- Slide stop crosspin holes.
- Sear pin hole.
- Hammer pin hole.
- Thumb safety pin hole.
- Main spring housing pin hole.
- Disconnecter port.
- Stock screw bushing threads.
- Frame plunger tube mounting holes.
- Feed ramp.
- Barrel link surfaces.
- Frame interior passages/slots.
- Frame safety lever cutout.

In an accompanying letter, you note that the submitted slide rails have not been cut and that there is an additional .015 inch of material left on top of the rail area. Additionally, you state that the sides are approximately .004 inch in width.

The only critical operation yet to be made is the cutting of the slide rails. Although critical, this work can be completed in a minimal amount of time by a competent individual having the necessary equipment.

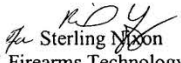
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Mr. Robert W. Serva

Based on our review of the submitted frame, including the features enumerated above, FTB has determined that the number and complexity of the operations made are sufficient to classify this sample as a "firearm" as defined in 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3).

We trust the foregoing has been responsive to your inquiry. If we can be of any further assistance, please contact us.

Sincerely yours,


Sterling Nison
Chief, Firearms Technology Branch
