



Firearms Training and Interstate Nexus Consulting, LLC
5557 28th Street SE Ste 205
Grand Rapids, MI 49512

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Kevin C. Maxwell, Esquire
Law Offices of Kevin C. Maxwell
733 West Colonial Drive
Orlando, Florida 32804

Dear Mr. Maxwell,

My firearms consulting company, Firearms Training and Interstate Nexus Consulting, LLC was asked to provide an opinion on the classification of the Rare Breed Triggers FRT-15 and whether or not it is a machinegun as defined in Title 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b). I recently retired from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives after 22 years as a special agent, (29 years total law enforcement). My career at ATF included being an instructor at ATF's National Academy teaching the GCA and NFA firearms identification block of instruction to new employees attending either the Special Agent Basic Training or the Industry Operations Investigator Basic Training academy courses. I was also an ATF Firearms Instructor and attended numerous firearms armorer training classes. In my last position at ATF I was a Supervisory Special Agent and the Chief of the Advanced Firearms and Interstate Nexus Branch, a branch within the Firearms and Ammunition Technology Division (FATD).

The pertinent authority under consideration for this evaluation is the Gun Control Act of 1968 (GCA) and the National Firearms Act (NFA) of 1934 and the definitions contained in them.

The Gun Control Act in Title 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(3)(A) defines the term "**firearm**" (in part) as "*any weapon (including a starter gun) which will or is designed to or may readily be converted to expel a projectile by the action of an explosive*". Additionally, the Gun Control Act in Title 18 U.S.C. § 921(a)(28) defines the term **semiautomatic rifle** as "*any repeating rifle which utilizes a portion of the energy of a firing cartridge to extract the fired cartridge and chamber the next round, and which required a separate pull of the trigger to fire each cartridge.*"

The National Firearms Act in Title 26 U.S.C. §5845(b) defines the term “**machinegun**” as “*any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.*”

On March 30, 2021, I examined and test fired two Spike’s Tactical AR-15 style rifles which both had Rare Breed Triggers FRT-15 installed in them. The test firing was conducted using factory MAGTECH ammunition at a range in Florida. Both firearms functioned as designed and as semiautomatic rifles. I also examined the components of the FRT-15, which is a self-contained trigger unit consisting of three major parts identified as a locking bar, hammer, and trigger.

I have reviewed the Firearm Trigger Mechanism’s Patent Number US10,514,223, previous ATF (FTB & FATD) classification letters, an animation showing the semiautomatic function of the FRT-15 trigger during the cycle of operation, other opinion letters, and federal court opinions.

I have also read the March 25, 2021 Sixth Circuit Court of Appeals ruling in *Gun Owners of Am., Inc., et al. v. Garland, et al.* No. 21a0070 (CA6 Mar. 25, 2021). Although that case involved “Bump Stocks”, I think what the court ruled is applicable to the Rare Breed Triggers FRT-15, because it emphasized and applied the actual definition of a machinegun in Title 26 U.S.C. § 5845(b) and rejected ATF’s newly made up machinegun definition. The Court ruled “And because we find a single function of the trigger applies to the mechanical process of the trigger, we further hold a bump stock cannot be classified as a machine gun because a bump stock does not enable a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one shot each time the trigger is pulled”.

Due to the design of the FRT-15, the locking bar does not allow it to function as a “hammer follow” machinegun. Rather, during the cycle of operation the bolt carrier cocks the hammer and resets the trigger. The locking bar pivots forward locking the trigger in place until the bolt carrier comes back forward to the locking position and the locking bar is unlocked. The FRT-15 trigger can now be pulled. The FRT-15 allows for very fast semiautomatic trigger pulls due to the quick resetting trigger.

The Rare Breed Triggers FRT-15 is designed and functions as a semiautomatic trigger. The FRT-15 does not enable a semiautomatic firearm to fire more than one shot each time the trigger is pulled. Therefore, it is my opinion, Rare Breed Triggers FRT-15 is not a firearm or a machinegun, and is a legal semiautomatic trigger.

Sincerely,



Brian Luettker
Resident Agent/Owner FTINC, LLC