



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

Assistant Director

Washington, DC 20226

April 12, 2007

Dear Interested Party:

This is in response to your letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), in which you express your concern about ATF's recent classification of the Akins Accelerator.

As you may know, ATF is responsible, among other things, for the enforcement of the Gun Control Act of 1968 and the National Firearms Act. In response to a request from the Akins Group, ATF's Firearms Technology Branch classified a device called the Akins Accelerator as a machinegun. This classification was incorporated into ATF Ruling 2006-2. The ruling explains that the Akins device is designed to attach to a firearm and when activated by a single pull of the trigger, initiates an automatic firing cycle that continues until either the finger is released or the ammunition supply is exhausted. Accordingly, ATF classified the device as a machinegun under the National Firearms Act and the Gun Control Act. Under the law, machineguns manufactured on or after May 19, 1986, may only be transferred to or possessed by Federal, State, and local government agencies for official use.

We trust this information has been responsive to your inquiry.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lewis P. Raden".

Lewis P. Raden
Assistant Director
(Enforcement Programs and Services)