

From: Kateri Candee  
To: All ACCESS Users  
Date: March 15, 2023  
Subject: Transition of FFL's to use SAFE

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Hello – Please pass this message along to anyone who processes firearm transfers or may have an interest in the upcoming process change as it may affect staffing levels, budgets, etc.

The Washington State Patrol (WSP) Firearms Background Division (FBD) will begin a pilot program of processing firearm transfers using the Secure Automated Firearms E-Check (SAFE) in June 2023 and concluding by November 2023. We are required to be fully operational by January 2024, but hope to complete the migration prior to the holiday shopping season.

We have developed a transition plan, to ensure a smooth and efficient process for the affected local law enforcement agencies (LEAs) and Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs). Please see below:

### LEAs

The LEAs will continue to process Concealed Pistol Licenses (CPLs) and Disposition of Firearms (DOF - release of a firearm from evidence). **WSP FBD will only be taking over firearm transfers.**

So what does this mean for you and your agency?

- You will continue to process Firearm Transfer Applications (FTAs) for any FFLs in your jurisdiction that have not transitioned to using SAFE
- After we have concluded that all FFLs in a given county have migrated to SAFE, we will send out a notification to all Terminal Agency Coordinators (TACs). Upon receipt of that notification, your agency should no longer receive FTAs from FFLs. If you do, refer the FFL to the WSP FBD for further guidance. Paper FTAs will not be allowed by DOL once an FFL has been migrated.

### FFLs

WSP FBD will migrate the FFLs by county, based on the number of FFLs in each county, reflected in the table below.

- June 2023 - A small number of FFLs (small, medium and large from across the state) will conduct their background checks through SAFE. These FFLs have already volunteered to be part of the pilot. After a successful completion of the pilot program the WSP FBD will include the remaining FFLs.
- July - October 2023 - The bulk of FFLs should be migrated.
  - FFLs with multiple locations in multiple counties that use an integrated point of sale system, such as Sportsman's Warehouse or Cabela's, will go live at the same time. The WSP FBD will be in communication with these FFLs to determine the best time for their transition
- November to December 2023 – The WSP FBD allowed a cushion of time for any system issues or other hurdles encountered.

Phase One Starting in July			Phase Two Starting in August			Phase Three Starting in September	
County	# of FFLs		County	# of FFLs		County	# of FFLs
Mason	10		Benton	29		King	114
Walla Walla	10		Island	26		Snohomish	77
Okanogan	9		Kitsap	24		Pierce	69
Ferry	5		Thurston	24		Spokane	54
Jefferson	5		Clallam	20		Clark	52
Pacific	5		Cowlitz	19		Yakima	31
Whitman	5		Lewis	19			
Franklin	4		Whatcom	18			
Klickitat	4		Grays Harbor	17			
Adams	3		Grant	15			
Lincoln	3		Stevens	15			
Pend Oreille	3		Kittitas	12			
Asotin	2		Skagit	12			
Douglas	2		Chelan	11			
Wahkiakum	2						
Columbia	1						
Garfield	1						
San Juan	1						
Skamania	1						

If you have any questions please email [firearms@wsp.wa.gov](mailto:firearms@wsp.wa.gov)

Thank you,

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