Assault Weapon Registration (AWR) Background

Pursuant to Assembly Bill 1135 (Stats. 2016, ch. 40) and Senate Bill 880 (Stats. 2016, ch. 48) effective January 1, 2017, the definition of assault weapon is revised. This revision defines the meaning of “fixed magazine” to mean an ammunition feeding device contained in, or permanently attached to, a firearm in such a manner that the device cannot be removed without disassembly of the firearm action. Furthermore, this new legislation closes the “bullet button” loop hole and categorizes “bullet button” firearms as assault weapons.

These bills stipulate that any person who, from January 1, 2001, to December 31, 2016, inclusive, lawfully possessed an assault weapon that does not have a fixed magazine, as defined in Penal Code section 30515, including those weapons with an ammunition feeding device that can be readily removed from the firearm with the use of a tool, shall register the firearm by December 31, 2017. Assembly Bill 103 extended the registration period to end June 30, 2018.

Additional stipulations require the firearms registration to be submitted electronically via the Internet utilizing a public-facing application made available by the Department of Justice (DOJ). The registration must contain specified information, including, but not limited to, a serial number applied to the firearm pursuant to federal law.

Pursuant to Penal Code section 30900, subdivision (b)(1), and California Code of Regulations (CCR), title 11, section 5472, subdivisions (f) and (g), DOJ will not register as an assault weapon if the following applies:

- A firearm manufactured by a federally-licensed manufacturer – if the firearm does not have a serial number applied pursuant to federal law.
- A Firearm Manufactured By Unlicensed Subject (FMBUS) – if the firearm does not have a serial number assigned by the DOJ and applied by the owner or agent pursuant to CCR, title 11, section 5474.2.

To read the full text of regulations adopted by the DOJ regarding bullet-button assault weapons, reference CCR online.

Overview for AWR Applicants

If you are in lawful possession of an assault weapon that is a FMBUS, you will need to apply for a DOJ issued serial number prior to initiating the assault weapon registration process. You can do so by completing a New Serial Number Application Form – BOF 1008 – and emailing it to dojserialnumber@doj.ca.gov. DOJ will issue a unique serial number to each applicant for each FMBUS.

The serial number issuance process is separate from the assault weapon registration process and must be done before the assault weapon application will be accepted by DOJ.
New Serial Number Application Instructions

BOF 1008 Form Instructions

I. REQUESTING A SERIAL NUMBER

To request a serial number for a FMBUS you must complete a New Serial Number Application Form – BOF 1008, (Rev. 07/2017) – and submit it to BOF. The form can be found here: https://oag.ca.gov/sites/all/files/agweb/pdfs/firearms/forms/bof-1008.pdf

II. COMPLETING THE FORM

1. You must first complete the “Applicant Information” section.

   ![Applicant Information Table]

2. The following information is required and must be completed on the form:
   a. **Last and First Names.**
   b. **Physical Residence Address** (no P.O. Box entries will be accepted).
   c. **City, State, and Zip Code** (cannot be all zeros).
   d. **Date of Birth** as mm/dd/yyyy (e.g., 01/01/1998). Must be a valid birthdate. **Note:** You must be at least 18 years old for all transactions and firearm types.
   e. **Place of Birth** (if you were born in the U.S., you must provide the name of the state in which you were born).
   f. **Sex** (options are female or male only; “F” for female and “M” for male).
   g. **Phone Number**, including the area code. Phone number entries cannot be all zeros; you must provide a real point of contact.
   h. Identify if you are a **U.S. citizen**.
      i. If you select “NO,” you must provide the **Alien Registration** or **I-94** number and your **Country of Citizenship**.
   i. **Type of ID**, you must provide either a California Driver License (CDL), California Identification Card (CID), or Military ID (MIL).
j. **ID Number** that corresponds with the **Type of ID** you selected. The business rules for each are as follows:
   i. CDL – The first character must be an alpha followed by 7 numeric digits (no alpha plus all zeros).
   ii. CID – The first character must be an alpha followed by 7 numeric digits (no alpha plus all zeros).
   iii. MIL – Must be a 9 or 10 digit number (cannot be all zeros). If you are providing your MIL, you must send a copy of your permanent duty station orders stating you are stationed in California.

k. If applicable, provide either the **Handgun Safety Certificate (HSC) Number** or the **Firearm Safety Certificate (FSC) Number**.

3. Next, complete the “Firearm Information” section.
   **Note:** You can provide information for up to three (3) firearms on one New Serial Number Application. For additional firearms, you must complete an additional application.

![Firearm Information Table]

4. The following information is **required** and must be completed on the form:
   a. **Date of Manufacture** as mm/dd/yyyy (e.g., 01/01/1998). It must be a valid date.
      **Note:** Pursuant to CCR, title 11, section 5472, subd. (a) and (b), DOJ will not register as an assault weapon a firearm unless it was lawfully possessed on or before December 31, 2016, nor will it register a firearm that was required to be registered under prior assault weapon registration laws in effect before January 1, 2017.
   b. Firearm **Make** shall be entered as your **First and Last Name** (e.g., John Smith).
   c. Firearm **Model**. If you have not already designated a model for your firearm, please provide the name of a model that you think most closely matches your firearm.
   d. Firearm **Type**. You may choose from: pistol, rifle, or shotgun. No other entries will be accepted.
   e. Firearm **Caliber**. If your firearm has an interchangeable barrel, please enter “MULTI” as your caliber.
   f. **Barrel Length**. Include the unit of length (e.g., “cm” for centimeter or “in” for inch).
   g. **City, State**, and **Country of Where the Firearm was Manufactured**.
   h. **Additional Identification Mark(s)** that can be found on your firearm (e.g., barrel stamp).
   i. **Material(s)** that your firearm is made out of (e.g., steel, aluminum, plastic).
5. Once you have completed the New Serial Number Application, you may submit it by email to: dojserialnumber@doj.ca.gov or mail:

Department of Justice  
Bureau of Firearms – AWR  
P.O. Box 160367  
Sacramento, CA  95816-0367

6. If it is determined that your application is complete, you will either receive an email or a letter in the mail (depending on your method of submission) with your newly assigned unique serial number(s) and further instructions on next steps.