



C A L I F O R N I A

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

OFFICE OF GUN VIOLENCE PREVENTION

CALIFORNIA GHOST GUN LAWS REFERENCE GUIDE

(Updated December 2025)

BACKGROUND AND TERMINOLOGY

Over the past decade, California's communities faced a fast-growing safety threat from the "ghost gun" industry, which has sold a range of products and services designed to enable unlicensed individuals to assemble or produce firearms without any background check, serial number, or other vital protections.

In recent years, California has enacted a set of new civil and criminal laws to address the proliferation of ghost guns in crime. These laws provide critical new enforcement and accountability tools to disrupt illegal ghost gun manufacturing and trafficking operations and the dangerous ghost gun industry practices that promote this conduct. Implementation and enforcement of these laws has contributed to significant reductions in gun violence and crime gun recoveries in California, as detailed in an October 2024 report from the California Department of Justice Office of Gun Violence Prevention (OGVP) on "[California's Fight Against the Ghost Gun Crisis: Progress and New Challenges](#)."

The OGVP developed this [California Ghost Gun Laws Reference Guide](#) to provide a quick reference summary of civil and criminal statutes governing the ghost gun industry and the unlawful manufacture of firearms, in order to promote safety through education, compliance, enforcement, and accountability. Originally published with the 2024 report on ghost guns, this Ghost Gun Laws Reference Guide has been updated to reflect new laws taking effect January 1, 2026.

TERMINOLOGY

"Ghost guns" are firearms manufactured without valid serial numbers by individuals who do not have a license to manufacture firearms. The absence of a serial number makes it more difficult to trace a firearm in criminal investigations, and importantly, also indicates that the firearm was likely assembled from components sold without a sale or manufacturing record and without a background check. Ghost guns are distinct from firearms produced by licensed firearm manufacturers, who are required to engrave serial numbers on the frame or receiver of any firearm they produce. Ghost guns are also distinct from serialized firearms produced by unlicensed individuals from regulated, serialized frames or receivers sold as "firearms" under state and federal law.

Most ghost guns have been assembled using frames or receivers sold in nominally unfinished form for the purpose of circumventing firearm laws like background check requirements. These products have frequently been marketed as **"80%" frames or receivers** to convey that they are close to fully completed. California law uses the term **"firearm precursor part"** to refer to products, including so-called 80% frames or receivers, that may be readily completed, assembled, or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm or that are marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled or converted. (See Penal Code Section 16531). For the purposes of California laws governing the sale, manufacture, or possession of firearms, the definition of "firearm" now generally includes both completed frames or receivers and unfinished firearm precursor parts. (See Penal Code Section 16520).

Increasingly, ghost guns are also produced using consumer-level computer-operated machines, including **3-D-printers** and **computerized numerical control (CNC) milling machines**, that can be programmed to produce or finish frames and receivers and other firearm components, as well as devices used to convert firearms into assault weapons or machine guns. **"Digital firearm manufacturing code"** is used to program these machines to produce firearm components and items such as machine gun conversion devices; this code is sold or distributed over the internet or on physical storage devices. California has adopted laws to restrict distribution of this code to unlicensed individuals, regulate the sale of firearm manufacturing machines and related products, and prohibit individuals from using 3-D printers or CNC milling machines to manufacture firearms without a license.

SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA'S CRIMINAL GHOST GUN LAWS

Subject to relevant exceptions, the **California Penal Code** makes it unlawful to:

- (1) Sell, transfer, possess, import into the state, or manufacture any frame or receiver, including completed frames or receivers and unfinished “firearm precursor parts,”¹ without complying with California’s laws governing the sale, transfer, possession, importation, or manufacture of firearms, such as requirements that sales and transfers must be processed through licensed firearms dealers² pursuant to background checks,³ age restrictions,⁴ Firearm Safety Certificate requirements,⁵ waiting periods,⁶ and sale records.⁷
- (2) Knowingly or willfully cause another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or knowingly or willfully aid, abet, promote, or facilitate the unlawful manufacture of firearms: *Penal Code Section 29186 (eff. Jan. 1, 2026)*.
- (3) Sell, offer to sell, transfer ownership of, or purchase, any firearm precursor part that is not regulated as a firearm under federal law and serialized accordingly: *Penal Code Section 30400*.⁸
- (4) Sell or transfer ownership of an unserialized firearm (including a completed frame/receiver or firearm precursor part): *Penal Code Section 27530*.⁹
- (5) Knowingly possess an unserialized firearm (including a completed frame/receiver or firearm precursor part): *Penal Code Section 23920*.¹⁰
- (6) Knowingly manufacture or assemble an unserialized firearm (including a completed frame/receiver): *Penal Code Section 29180(f)*.¹¹
- (7) Knowingly cause, allow, facilitate, aid, or abet the manufacture or assembling of an unserialized firearm (including a completed frame/receiver): *Penal Code Section 29180(f)*.¹²
- (8) Knowingly allow, facilitate, aid, or abet the manufacture or assembling of a firearm (including a completed frame/receiver) by a person who is legally prohibited from possessing firearms under California law: *Penal Code Section 29180(e)*.¹³
- (9) Acquire a firearm (including a completed frame/receiver or firearm precursor part) for the purpose of selling, loaning, or transferring the firearm with intent to avoid the provisions of California’s law requiring a licensed firearms dealer to process firearm sales and transfers pursuant to a background check and other requirements: *Penal Code Section 27520*.¹⁴
- (10) Sell or transfer ownership of a privately made firearm (including a completed frame/receiver) that was manufactured by an individual who is not federally licensed to manufacture firearms by the federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives (ATF): *Penal Code Section 29180(d)*.¹⁵
- (11) Manufacture more than three firearms in a calendar year in California (including a completed frame/receiver and firearm precursor parts) without being licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF and California DOJ: *Penal Code Section 29010*.¹⁶
- (12) Use any 3-D printer or CNC milling machine to manufacture any number of firearms (including a completed frame/receiver and firearm precursor parts) without being licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF and California DOJ: *Penal Code Section 29185(a)*.¹⁷

(13) Sell, offer to sell, or transfer *certain* 3-D printers or CNC milling machines (those that have “the sole or primary function of manufacturing firearms”) to a person who is not licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF and California DOJ: *Penal Code Section 29185(b)*.¹⁸

(14) Possess, purchase, or receive *certain* 3-D printers or CNC milling machines (those that have “the sole or primary function of manufacturing firearms”) without being licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF and California DOJ: *Penal Code Section 29185(c)*.¹⁹

(15) Sell or transfer a firearm barrel without completing the transaction in person through a licensed firearms dealer, or possess a firearm barrel with intent to sell or offer to sell the barrel in violation of this requirement: *Penal Code Section 33700 (eff. Jan 1, 2026)*.

(16) Manufacture or cause to be manufactured, import into the state, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, lend, or possess a firearm that is undetectable to metal detectors and other common screening devices: *Penal Code Sections 24610 and 29180(b)(2)(B)*.²⁰

(17) Manufacture, cause to be manufactured, import into the state for sale, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, or lend an “unsafe handgun”, including those that have not passed product and consumer safety testing standards and placed on a DOJ roster of certified handgun models.²¹

(18) Manufacture, cause to be manufactured, distribute, transport, import into the state, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, lend, or possess an assault weapon or .50 BMG rifle.²²

(19) Knowingly manufacture a machine gun or intentionally convert a firearm into a machine gun, or sell, offer for sale, possess, or knowingly transport a machine gun (including devices commonly known as switches or auto-sears).²³

(20) Manufacture, cause to be manufactured, import into the state, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, lend, or possess a firearm that is not immediately recognizable as a firearm.²⁴

(21) Manufacture, cause to be manufactured, import into the state, keep for sale, offer or expose for sale, give, lend, or possess a short-barreled rifle or shotgun.²⁵

Nuisance: California law authorizes the Attorney General, district attorneys, and city attorneys to file a legal action to enjoin the sale, transfer, or importation into the state of any firearm precursor part that is unlawfully sold, transferred, or imported within the state.²⁶ Any firearm precursor parts that are unlawfully sold, transferred, possessed, or imported into California are declared to be a nuisance and are subject to confiscation and destruction.²⁷

Please note that the California Department of Justice provides this document for informational purposes only. This list may not be inclusive of all Penal Code laws related to ghost guns. For specific legal advice, please consult with an attorney.

SUMMARY OF CALIFORNIA'S CIVIL GHOST GUN LAWS

Subject to relevant exceptions, the **California Civil Code** and **Business & Professions Code** provide:

(1) A civil prohibition and cause of action against a person who knowingly, willfully, or recklessly causes another person to engage in the unlawful manufacture of firearms, or aids, abets, promotes, or facilitates the unlawful manufacture of firearms. This statute creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General, county counsels, city attorneys, and any person harmed in California by a violation: *Civil Code Section 3273.625 (eff. Jan. 1, 2026)*.

(2) A civil prohibition and cause of action against a person who knowingly commits an act that violates California's criminal statute prohibiting the sale, offer to sell, and transfer of certain CNC milling machines or 3-D printers to individuals who are not licensed to manufacture firearms; prohibiting the possession, purchase, and receipt of such machines by unlicensed firearm manufacturers; and prohibiting unlicensed firearm manufacturers from using any CNC milling machine or 3-D printer to manufacture a firearm: *Civil Code Section 3273.61(a)(2)*.²⁸

- This law creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General, county counsels, city attorneys, and any person harmed in California by a violation, whether or not a defendant's violation also results in any criminal conviction.
- A person who commits a violation may be held strictly liable to victims for any personal injury or property damage inflicted by use of a firearm or device that was unlawfully manufactured as a result of the violation.²⁹

(3) A civil prohibition and cause of action against a person who sells, offers to sell, transfers, advertises, or markets a CNC milling machine or 3-D printer in a manner that knowingly or recklessly causes another person in California to engage in conduct that violates California's criminal statute governing the use, sale, offer to sell, transfer, purchase, receipt, and possession of those machines in connection with unlicensed firearm manufacturers, or against a person who otherwise knowingly or recklessly aids, abets, promotes, or facilitates conduct in violation of that statute: *Civil Code Section 3273.62*.³⁰

- This law provides a rebuttable presumption that a violation has occurred if a person offers to sell, advertises, or markets a CNC milling machine or 3-D printer in a manner that affirmatively promotes the machine's utility in manufacturing firearms, regardless of whether the machine or printer is described or classified as having any other capabilities, without verifying that any purchaser or transferee in California is a licensed firearms manufacturer and is not otherwise prohibited from purchasing or using the machine to manufacture firearms.³¹
- This statute creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General, county counsels, city attorneys, and any person harmed because of a violation.³²

(4) A civil prohibition and cause of action against a person who knowingly distributes or causes distribution of digital firearm manufacturing code by any means to a person who is not licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF. *Civil Code Section 3273.61(a)(1)*.³³

- This statute creates a civil cause of action for the Attorney General, county counsels, city attorneys, and any person harmed in California by a violation, and provides that a person who

violates this law may be held strictly liable to victims for personal injury or property damage inflicted using a firearm that was produced in whole or in part using the digital firearm manufacturing code the defendant unlawfully distributed or caused to be distributed.³⁴

- Effective January 1, 2026, this statute also provides a rebuttable presumption that a violation has occurred in specified circumstances.³⁵

(5) A civil prohibition and private cause of action against a person who does any of the following:³⁶

- Purchases, sells, offers to sell, or transfers ownership of any firearm precursor part that is not regulated as a firearm under federal law.
- Manufactures, causes to be manufactured, distributes, transports, imports into the state, keeps for sale, offers or exposes for sale, gives or lends, or causes to be distributed, transported, or imported into the state, any unserialized firearm, assault weapon, or .50 BMG rifle.
- Sells, supplies, delivers, or gives possession or control of a firearm (including a completed frame/receiver or firearm precursor part) to a person under 21 years of age.
- Knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets a violation of these prohibitions, or knowingly commits an act with intent to engage in such prohibited conduct.³⁷

(6) A civil prohibition and cause of action against a person who violates the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act's firearm industry standard of conduct.³⁸ This standard of conduct applies to those engaged in the manufacture, distribution, importation, marketing, wholesale sale, or retail sale of fully assembled firearms, completed frames and receivers, firearm precursor parts, firearm components, ammunition, certain firearm accessories (including products "clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms") and "firearm manufacturing machines."³⁹ The law requires that these "firearm industry members," among other things:

- Implement reasonable controls, as defined, to:
 - Ensure they comply with applicable state and federal laws and do not promote the unlawful manufacture, sale, possession, marketing, or use of firearm-related products.
 - Prevent the sale or distribution of firearm-related products to firearm traffickers, straw purchasers, and people who are legally prohibited from possessing a firearm.
 - Prevent the sale or distribution of firearm-related products to a person who the firearm industry member has reasonable cause to believe is at substantial risk of possessing or using a firearm-related product unlawfully.⁴⁰
 - Prevent the installation and use of certain machine gun conversion devices (eff. Jan. 1, 2026).⁴¹
- Take reasonable precautions to ensure they do not sell, distribute, or provide a firearm-related product to a downstream distributor or retailer who fails to establish, implement, and enforce reasonable controls.⁴²

- Comply with specified consumer notice, age verification, and identification requirements prior to sale and delivery of firearm barrels, firearm manufacturing machines, and “firearm accessories” (eff. Jan. 1, 2026). The term “firearm accessories” is defined to include products “clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms”; certain attachments or devices that are designed, intended, or function to increase a firearm’s rate of fire or the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine; and certain attachments or devices that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm.⁴³
- Comply with other incorporated consumer protection, false advertising, and fair business practice standards.⁴⁴

This statute creates a civil cause of action for people harmed by a firearm industry member’s acts or omissions in violation of the standard of conduct, and for the Attorney General, county counsels, and city attorneys.⁴⁵

Please note that the California Department of Justice provides this document for informational purposes only. This list may not be inclusive of all civil laws related to ghost guns. For specific legal advice, please consult with an attorney.

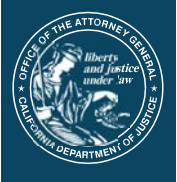
ENDNOTES

- ¹ See Pen. Code, § 16520(b) (defining “firearm” for the purposes of most California firearm laws to “include the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver or a firearm precursor part”). The term “Firearm precursor part” is defined in Penal Code section 16531(a) to mean “any forging, casting, printing, extrusion, machined body or similar article that has reached a stage in manufacture where it may readily be completed, assembled or converted to be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm, or that is marketed or sold to the public to become or be used as the frame or receiver of a functional firearm once completed, assembled or converted.” (Emphasis added). Note that Penal Code Section 16520(b) provides the applicable definition of “firearm” for most relevant laws governing the sale, transfer, manufacture, and possession of firearms, but that some other subdivisions in Section 16520 provide a narrower definition of “firearm” for certain contexts, such as in Penal Code Section 29180, in which the applicable definition of “firearm” is provided in Section 16520(g) and includes a completed frame or receiver but not a firearm precursor part. Pursuant to Penal Code section 16531(b), DOJ has published a Firearm Precursor Part Identification Guidebook that provides written guidance and images to help properly identify a firearm precursor part and a federally regulated firearm precursor part. See California DOJ, Division of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Firearms, “Firearm Precursor Part Identification Guidebook” (Rev. Aug. 2022), available at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/bof-reg-rev-fpp-id-guidebook.pdf>; see also, Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4303 (regulatory definitions relating to the Firearm Precursor Part Identification Guidebook).
- ² See Pen. Code, §§ 27545, 27585, and 28050 (generally requiring a licensed firearms dealer to complete the sale, loan, or transfer of a firearm between unlicensed parties or if the firearm was purchased or obtained outside of California). See also, Pen. Code, § 16520(b) (defining “firearm” for these purposes to include completed frames or receivers and firearm precursor parts).
- ³ See Pen. Code, §§ 26815(d); 27540(c), (d); 27545; 28050. See also, Pen. Code, § 16520(b) (defining “firearm” for these purposes to include completed frames or receivers and firearm precursor parts).
- ⁴ See Pen. Code, §§ 26815(c), 27505, 27510; 16520(b).
- ⁵ See Pen. Code, §§ 27540(e); 31615; 16520(b).
- ⁶ See Pen. Code, §§ 26815(a); 27540(a); 16520(b).
- ⁷ See Pen. Code, §§ 28215; 28255; 16520(b).
- ⁸ Subject to certain exceptions, this statute makes it unlawful for a person to purchase, sell, offer to sell, or transfer ownership of any firearm precursor part in California that is not a federally regulated firearm precursor part. The term “Federally regulated firearm precursor part” is defined in section 16519 of the Penal Code to mean “any firearm precursor part deemed to be a firearm pursuant to Chapter 44 (commencing with Section 921) of Title 18 of the United States Code and regulations issued pursuant thereto, and, if required, has been imprinted with a serial number by a federal licensee authorized to serialize firearms in compliance with all applicable federal laws and regulations.” See also Cal. Code Regs., tit. 11, § 4303(a)(1); California DOJ, Division of Law Enforcement, Bureau of Firearms, “Firearm Precursor Part Identification Guidebook” (Rev. Aug. 2022), available at <https://oag.ca.gov/system/files/media/bof-reg-rev-fpp-id-guidebook.pdf>.
- ⁹ Under Penal Code Section 16520(b), the applicable definition of “firearm” in this statute includes “the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part,” as defined in section 16531 of the Penal Code.
- ¹⁰ Under Penal Code Section 16520(b), the applicable definition of “firearm” includes “the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part,” as defined in section 16531 of the Penal Code. The term “valid state or federal serial number or mark of identification” is defined in section 17312.
- ¹¹ Under Penal Code Section 16520(g), the applicable definition of “firearm” in section 29180 includes the completed frame or receiver but not a firearm precursor part. The term “valid state or federal serial number or mark of identification” is defined in section 17312 of the Penal Code. Prior to enactment of AB 1621, Penal Code Section 29180(b) generally prohibited the manufacture of unserialized firearms by requiring a person manufacturing or assembling any firearm that did not already have a valid state or federal serial number or mark of identification imprinted on the frame or receiver to apply to DOJ for a serial number prior to manufacturing or assembling the firearm, engrave that unique serial number on the frame or receiver within 10 days, and report to DOJ information identifying the firearm owner, the serial number, and the firearm, as specified. After enactment of AB 1621, this process remains in place for certain individuals,



including for circumstances in which a new resident moves into California with an unserialized firearm and needs to obtain a serial number to lawfully possess that weapon in California. However, under AB 1621, it is now generally unlawful to sell, transfer ownership of, purchase, or possess any completed frame or receiver or unfinished firearm precursor part that is not already serialized, or to use 3-D printers or CNC milling machines to produce firearms, including completed or unfinished frames or receivers or other precursor parts, without a manufacturer's license. As a result, unlicensed individuals must generally produce firearms using frames, receivers, or precursor parts that were already serialized and regulated as firearms prior to sale or transfer to an unlicensed individual.

- ¹² Under Penal Code section 16520(g), the applicable definition of “firearm” in section 29180 includes the completed frame or receiver but not a firearm precursor part.
- ¹³ *Id.*
- ¹⁴ See Pen. Code, §§ 27520; 16520(b). See also, Pen. Code, § 27515 (making it unlawful to sell, loan, or transfer a firearm, including a completed frame/receiver or firearm precursor part, to a person the seller or transferor knows or has cause to believe is not the person actually purchasing or receiving the firearm [a straw purchaser], if the seller or transferor has knowledge that the firearm is to be subsequently sold, loaned, or transferred to avoid specified requirements, including California’s law requiring a licensed dealer to process firearm sales and transfers).
- ¹⁵ Except by operation of law, Penal Code section 29180(d) generally prohibits a person, corporation, or firm that is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer from selling or transferring ownership of a firearm, including a completed frame or receiver, if that person, corporation or firm manufactured or assembled the firearm; knowingly caused the firearm to be manufactured or assembled by a person, corporation, or firm that is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer; or is aware that the firearm was manufactured or assembled by a person, corporation, or firm that is not a federally licensed firearms manufacturer. See also, Pen. Code, § 16520(g) (defining “firearm” for this purpose of this statute to include a completed frame or receiver).
- ¹⁶ Under Penal Code Section 16520(b), the applicable definition of “firearm” in this statute includes “the frame or receiver of the weapon, including both a completed frame or receiver, or a firearm precursor part,” as defined in section 16531.
- ¹⁷ *Id.*
- ¹⁸ *Id.*
- ¹⁹ *Id.*
- ²⁰ Penal Code section 17280 defines “undetectable firearm” for the purposes of section 24610. Penal Code section 29180(b)(2)(B) separately requires any person manufacturing or assembling a firearm that is manufactured or assembled from polymer plastic and that does not already have a valid state or federal serial number or mark of identification imprinted on the frame or receiver to embed 3.7 ounces of material type 17-4 PH stainless steel within the plastic upon fabrication or construction with the unique serial number engraved or otherwise permanently affixed in a manner that meets or exceeds the requirements imposed on licensed importers and licensed manufacturers of firearms pursuant to subsection (i) of Section 923 of Title 18 of the United States Code and regulations issued pursuant thereto.
- ²¹ Pen. Code, §§ 31910 (defining “unsafe handgun”); 32000 (prohibition); 32100 (exceptions to the prohibition). See also, Penal Code §§ 31900-32110.
- ²² Pen. Code, §§ 30510 and 30515 (defining “assault weapon”); 30530 (defining “.50 BMG rifle”); 30600 (prohibitions on manufacture, distribution, sale, transport, etc.); 30605 (possession of assault weapon); 30610 (possession of .50 BMG rifle). See also, Cal. Penal Code §§ 30500-30685.
- ²³ Pen. Code, §§ 16880, 32625. See also, Pen. Code, §§ 32610-32750.
- ²⁴ Pen. Code, §§ 24510, 24590.
- ²⁵ See Pen. Code, § 17170; 17190; 33215.
- ²⁶ Pen. Code, § 18010(d)(1). See also, Pen. Code, § 18010(a) and (b) (authorizing the Attorney General, a district attorney, or a city attorney to bring an action to enjoin the manufacture of, importation of, keeping for sale of, offering or exposing for sale, giving, lending, or possession of, other weapons constituting nuisances, including undetectable firearms, firearms not immediately recognizable as firearms, and zip guns).
- ²⁷ Pen. Code, § 18010(d)(2). See also Penal Code § 18005 governing confiscation and destruction of these weapons.
- ²⁸ Civ. Code, § 3273.61(a)(2).
- ²⁹ Civ. Code, § 3273.61(a)(2), (b)-(e).
- ³⁰ This statute could, for example, provide a cause of action against an entity that sells or advertises a CNC milling machine or 3-D printer in a manner that recklessly promotes or facilitates the unlawful use of that machine to manufacture



firearms by individuals who are not licensed to manufacture firearms by ATF and California DOJ.

- ³¹ Civ. Code, § 3273.62(b) states that there “shall be a rebuttable presumption that a person is engaged in conduct in violation of subdivision (a) if both of the following are true:
- (1) The person offers to sell, advertises, or markets a CNC milling machine or three-dimensional printer in a manner that, under the totality of the circumstances, is targeted at purchasers seeking to manufacture firearms or that otherwise affirmatively promotes the machine or printer’s utility in manufacturing firearms, regardless of whether the machine or printer is otherwise described or classified as having any other capabilities.
 - (2) The person sells or transfers the CNC milling machine or three-dimensional printer described in paragraph (1) without verifying that a purchaser or transferee in this state is a federally licensed firearms manufacturer or not otherwise prohibited from purchasing or using the machine or printer to manufacture firearms under Section 29185 of the Penal Code.”
- ³² Civ. Code, § 3273.61(c), (d).
- ³³ Civ. Code, §§ 3273.60, 3273.61(a)(1), (b)-(e). The term “Digital firearm manufacturing code” is defined by Civil Code section 3273.60 to mean “any digital instructions in the form of computer-aided design files or other code or instructions stored and displayed in electronic format as a digital model that may be used to program a CNC milling machine, a three-dimensional printer, or a similar machine, to manufacture or produce a firearm, including a completed frame or receiver or a firearm precursor part.”
- ³⁴ Civ. Code, § 3273.61(a)(1), (b)(-)(e).
- ³⁵ Civ. Code, § 3273.61(f) (eff. Jan. 1, 2026).
- ³⁶ See Bus. and Prof. Code, §§ 22949.60-22949.70. Section 22949.65 of the Business and Professions Code provides: “Any person, other than an officer or employee of a state or local governmental entity in this state, may bring a civil action against any person who does any of the following:
- (1) Knowingly violates Section 22949.62.
 - (2) Knowingly engages in conduct that aids or abets a violation of Section 22949.62, regardless of whether the person knew or should have known that the person aided or abetted would be violating Section 22949.62.
 - (3) Knowingly commits an act with the intent to engage in the conduct described by paragraph (1) or (2).”
- ³⁷ See id.
- ³⁸ The firearm industry standard of conduct is codified at section 3273.51 of the Civil Code, and relevant terms are defined in section 3273.50 of the Civil Code, including “firearm industry member,” “firearm-related product,” and “reasonable controls”. The cause of action for violations of the standard of conduct is codified at section 3273.52 of the Civil Code.
- ³⁹ The term “Firearm-related product” is defined in Civil Code section 3273.50(d), and includes “firearm manufacturing machines,” which are defined in subdivision (g) of that section, and “firearm accessor[ies]” defined in subdivision (c).
- ⁴⁰ Civ. Code, §§ 3273.51(a), (b)(1); 3273.50(h).
- ⁴¹ Civ. Code, § 3273.50(h)(4) (eff. Jan. 1, 2026).
- ⁴² Civ. Code, §§ 3273.51(a), (b)(2); 3273.50(h).
- ⁴³ Civ. Code, § 3273.51(e) (eff. Jan. 1, 2026). The term “firearm accessory” is defined in Civil Code section 3273.50(c) to mean: “an attachment or device designed or adapted to be inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm that is designed, intended, or functions to increase a firearm’s rate of fire or to increase the speed at which a person may reload a firearm or replace the magazine, or any other attachment or device described in subdivision (a) of Section 30515 of the Penal Code that may render a firearm an assault weapon when inserted into, affixed onto, or used in conjunction with a firearm. The term firearm accessory also includes any other device, tool, kit, part, or parts set that is clearly designed and intended for use in manufacturing firearms.”
- ⁴⁴ Civ. Code, § 3273.51(a), (d). By incorporating these standards into a codified firearm industry standard of conduct, the Firearm Industry Responsibility Act expanded gun violence victims’ and other injured plaintiffs’ standing to bring civil actions against firearm industry members for harmful conduct that violates those standards.
- ⁴⁵ Civ. Code, § 3273.52.