

**BILL LOCKYER**  
**Attorney General**

*State of California*  
**DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE**



**FIREARMS DIVISION**  
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December 28, 2005

Mark A. Mitzel  
486 Medanos Court  
Fremont, CA 94539

Re: Importation of FAR-15 Lower Receiver into California

Dear Mr. Mitzel:

I am writing in response to your inquiry about whether it is legal to send a FAR-15 lower receiver to California.

The FAR-15 is not listed as a Category One assault rifle in California Penal Code 12276, and is not yet a Category Two assault rifle. Although technically the receiver is legal to purchase and possess in California at this time (assuming it does not have the characteristics listed in Penal Code section 12276.1(a)(1), (a)(2) or (a)(3)), you should be aware that the FAR-15 lower receiver is virtually identical to rifles that are now illegal assault weapons. You should also be aware that we intend to add it soon to the DOJ Assault Weapons Identification Guide. Therefore, the FAR-15 will soon be classified as an assault weapon.

Also, please realize that this opinion is not conclusive about the legality of the firearm. A local prosecutor in one of California's 58 counties could decide to prosecute you, or the gun dealer who orders the FAR-15 for illegal importation of an assault weapon, regardless of this letter.

I hope this information was helpful. Please feel free to write to me again if you have any additional questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Alison Merrilees".

ALISON MERRILEES  
Deputy Attorney General  
Firearms Division

For **BILL LOCKYER**  
Attorney General