

STATE OF CONNECTICUT

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY SERVICES AND PUBLIC PROTECTION DIVISION OF STATE POLICE Special Licensing & Firearms Unit



To: Retail Firearms Dealers

From: Lt. Eric Cooke, Commanding Officer
Regulatory Services and Support
Special Licensing and Firearms Unit

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Eric Cooke" with the number "47" in a circle next to it.

Dated: June 26, 2013

BULLETIN REGARDING SALE OF ASSAULT RIFLES TO INDIVIDUAL POLICE OFFICERS

With the recent passage of wide ranging gun control laws by Connecticut's legislature, a good deal of confusion and concern has arisen among the general public and licensed dealers especially. The one area of greatest concern to dealers seems to be the issue of whether or not they may legally sell assault rifles to individual police officers as their personal weapons. Under the original law (P.A. 13-3) the answer was no. Only departments were authorized to purchase assault rifles.

However, the subsequent passage of P.A. 13-220 amended the original Act in many significant ways, not the least of which is a licensed dealer's authority to sell assault rifles to individual police officers as personal weapons. Section 5(b)(1) of P.A. 13-220 states that: (b) The provisions of subsection (a) of this section (which prohibits the sale or transfer of assault weapons after April 5, 2013) shall not apply to, (1) The sale of assault weapons to (B) a sworn and duly certified member of an organized police department... ***"pursuant to a letter on the letterhead of such department, division, commissioner or authority authorizing the purchase and stating that the sworn member, inspector, officer or constable will use the weapon in the discharge of official duties, and that a records check indicates that the sworn member, inspector, officer or constable has not been convicted of a crime of family violence, for use by such sworn member, inspector, officer or constable in the discharge of such sworn member's, inspector, officer's or constable's official duties or when off duty."***

It is hoped that this information will clarify this issue for both dealers and police officers wishing to purchase assault rifles. It should also be noted that such purchases lawfully made pursuant to this section does not require the purchasing officer to register his/her assault rifle or declare the large capacity magazines purchased with it. However, upon retirement, or separation from law enforcement for any reason, the purchaser must register and/or declare the assault rifle and any large capacity magazines with the Department of Emergency Service and Public Protection, Special Licensing and Firearms Unit, within ninety (90) days of the date of said retirement or separation.

If you still have questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact the Special Licensing and Firearms Unit and we will make every effort to address same.

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