

Open Letter from New York State Police Superintendent Joseph A. D'Amico

The sections of the NYSAFE Act pertaining to ammunition sales go into effect on January 15, 2014. The aim of those provisions is to protect the public by keeping ammunition out of the hands of those prohibited from possessing it under federal and state law, including criminals and the dangerously mentally ill. The purpose of this letter is to update all New Yorkers regarding the requirements of the law:

- 1) The law requires that as of January 15, 2014, all sellers of ammunition must register with the State Police. Individuals convicted of a felony offense or who are mentally ill will not be approved as ammunition dealers. Individuals holding a valid Federal Firearms License (FFL) will not need to take any action in order to continue selling ammunition; FFL registration will be done automatically by the State Police.

Businesses that sell ammunition but are not FFLs must register with the New York State Police using the form available at www.nysafeact.com. Registration forms must be postmarked by January 15, 2014.

- 2) The law requires that as of January 15, 2014, all ammunition transfers take place in person, including internet sales, which must be facilitated by a New York State ammunition seller. However, organizations that distribute ammunition on their premises may register to continue to receive direct shipments of ammunition. Registration forms are available at www.nysafeact.com.

This type of registration may be of particular interest to shooting ranges, hunting clubs, and youth safety and education programs, as it will allow those groups to continue to receive discounted ammunition directly from the manufacturer.

In addition, units of government that employ peace and/or police officers under the New York State Criminal Procedure Law are not required to register and will be able to buy ammunition for official use and receive direct shipments of ammunition.

The law will also require retail sellers to do background checks and record sales once a New York State database is established and operational. The State database is currently under construction and not operational, and prior notice will be given to all sellers on a timely basis before the database is completed and any requirements are relevant.