



U.S. Department of Justice

Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco,
Firearms and Explosives

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This is in reference to your letter to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF), Firearms Technology Branch, dated December 3, 2003, in which you ask about modifying a Ruger Mini-14 rifle to fire once upon pulling the trigger and once upon release of the trigger.

In the National Firearms Act (NFA), 26 U.S.C. 5845(b), a machinegun is defined as-

...any weapon which shoots, is designed to shoot, or can be readily restored to shoot, automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger. The term shall also include the frame or receiver of any such weapon, any part designed and intended solely and exclusively, or combination of parts designed and intended, for use in converting a weapon into a machinegun, and any combination of parts from which a machinegun can be assembled if such parts are in the possession or under the control of a person.

A firearm that shoots once upon pulling the trigger and once upon releasing the trigger would not meet the definition of a machinegun as a firearm that shoots "automatically more than one shot, without manual reloading, by a single function of the trigger." Please be advised that certain modifications to a firearm may alter it in a manner that classifies it as machinegun. This alteration could be based upon the configuration of the receiver or the combination of parts in one's possession, regardless of the firearm's function.