

20251101

Distributor/Dealer Legal Brief re Partisan Triggers

Background

The first known Forced Reset Triggers (FRTs) were patented in the 1930s, with two separate patents being issued for a system that was forced reset only, and a three position system consisting of safe, standard semi-auto, and forced reset modes. In 2021 the ATF began issuing cease and desist letters over FRTs, and in 2022 ATF made an official determination that FRTs were machine guns. This finding has been vacated by the courts and subsequently ATF has explicitly acknowledged the legality of FRTs.

Federal Status of Forced Reset Triggers/Forced Reset Systems

In July 2024, the nationwide federal legality of FRTs was established when Judge Reed O'Connor, a federal judge for the Northern District of Texas, found the following to be unlawful, and prohibited the ATF from:

- “a. Initiating or pursuing criminal prosecutions for possession of FRTs;
- b. Initiating or pursuing civil proceedings for possessing, selling, or manufacturing FRTs based on the claim that FRTs are machineguns;
- c. Initiating or pursuing criminal prosecutions for representing to the public of potential buyers and sellers that FRTs are not machineguns;
- d. Initiating or pursuing civil actions for representing to the public of potential buyers and sellers that FRTs are not machineguns;
- e. Sending “Notice Letters” or other similar communications stating that FRTs are machineguns;
- f. Seizing or requesting “voluntary surrender” of FRTs on the claim that FRTs are machineguns;
- g. Destroying any previously surrendered or seized FRTs; and
- h. Otherwise interfering in the possession, sale, manufacture, transfer, or exchange of FRTs based on the claim that FRTs are machineguns.”

(gov.uscourts.txnd.380076.101.0.pdf)

In May 2025, the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) issued a press release announcing that DOJ had settled previously ongoing litigation regarding the legality of FRTs and acknowledging that FRTs are federally legal and NOT

machineguns. (Office of Public Affairs
| Department of Justice Announces Settlement of Litigation Between the Federal Government and
Rare Breed Triggers | United States
Department of Justice)

In short, ATF cannot even publish material suggesting that FRTs are illegal.

State Level Legality

FRTs are legal in 35 states. The minority of states where FRTs may not be sold include California, Colorado, Connecticut, Delaware, Florida, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Massachusetts, Nevada, New Jersey, New York, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Washington. FRTs are also illegal in the District of Columbia.

Intellectual Property Concerns

Partisan Triggers is aware that the landscape around FRTs has become very litigious, primarily driven by ABC IP LLC and Rare Breed Triggers LLC threatening or filing lawsuits against manufacturers and/or dealers of FRTs. At significant expense we have obtained both an Opinion of Counsel letter and a substantial Intellectual Property insurance policy which protects our dealers and customers from any IP-related suits that are associated with the distribution of our triggers. We are fully prepared and committed to aggressively defend any lawsuit which claims that our triggers violate another company's intellectual property rights and we expect to succeed in showing that such claims are invalid. Our insurance covers both litigation expenses and damage awards that would be entered against us in the unlikely event that we were to lose in court. Dealers and distributors of Partisan Triggers can breathe easy knowing that we are well-prepared to defend our collective interests.

Summary

The Partisan Triggers "Disruptor" is a top tier, drop in, FRT for the AR15 family of firearms. It is legal federally and in 35 states, backed by both a manufacturer's warranty and IP insurance to protect our network of dealers and distributors from frivolous lawsuits. If you need more information or clarity regarding the legality of Partisan Triggers products please contact ben@partisantriggers.com.

<https://storage.courtlistener.com/recap/gov.uscourts.txnd.380076/gov.uscourts.txnd.380076.101.0.pdf>

<mailto:ben@partisantriggers.com>

<https://www.justice.gov/opa/pr/department-justice-announces-settlement-litigation-between-federal-government-and-rare-breed>

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