FFL DIRECT

API Solution for Firearms Trace Requests & Responses
ATF National Tracing Center

OVERVIEW

FFL DIRECT is a secure, asynchronous, Application Programming Interface (API) service enabling participating Federal Firearms Licensees (FFLs) to fully automate the receipt and response of firearm trace related data. The service provides the autonomy for FFLs to conduct automated serial number searches for trace requests, thereby reducing or eliminating the need to perform manual searches and utilizing inefficient communication methods (email, phone, fax, etc.).

GOAL

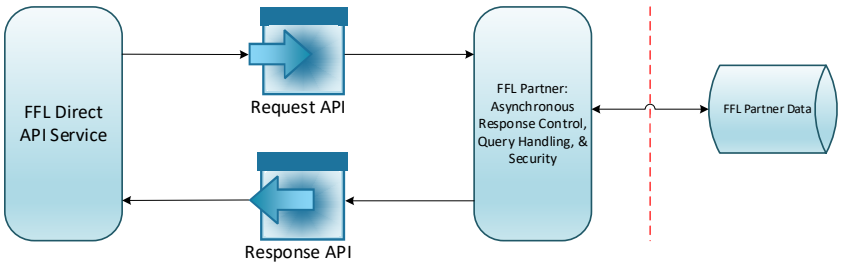
To significantly reduce the burden on FFLs in responding to trace requests, while also improving the NTC's trace completion time and accuracy.

WHY FFL DIRECT?

- Secure firearm disposition data exchange
- Reduces burden on FFLs by streamlining trace responses
- Speed up law enforcement investigations by improving trace completion times
- Increases accuracy and data quality
- Operates automatically in the background with no disruption to operations
- No ongoing maintenance – set it and forget it
- No cost to participate

HOW IT WORKS

- ATF sends a JavaScript Object Notation (JSON) file trace request to the FFL's secure endpoint
- FFL establishes checks against electronic records management system
- If a match is found, a JSON response is sent back to the NTC
- All communication uses secure HTTP over TLS
- Supports full trace audit history and data validation via REST API



KEY BENEFITS

- Works with all FFL types – not limited to manufacturers/importers
- No need to upload or sync A&D data
- Supports real-time responses
- Enhances law enforcement traceability
- Fast, reliable, and secure

GET STARTED

- Request the FFL DIRECT API Service Integration Guide and schedule an onboarding session with our team.
- Test credentials and support will be provided during development.
- A signed FFL DIRECT Cooperative Agreement is required to go live in production.