

Create a Requirement that All New Semi-Automatic Handguns Have Microstamping Technology

Microstamping uses lasers to etch a unique code onto the firing pin and breech face of a semi-automatic handgun. This code is then transferred onto the cartridge casing each time the gun is fired. When law enforcement finds the casing at a crime scene, they can use the code to quickly determine the gun's purchaser, since the code will be on the firearm's bill of sale. Microstamping is an inexpensive and effective tool to solve and deter gun crimes.

How does microstamping reduce gun violence?

Ballistic experts currently use the unintentional markings left on bullet casings found at crime scenes. This system has limitations because reading the markings require a good deal of discernment and the gun must be recovered or already be entered into CoBIS in order for a match to be made.

Solution: Microstamping is the next step in the evolution of forensic technology. The weapon need not be recovered and no new database needs to be created to implement this technology.

Straw purchases, when a person prohibited from buying a firearm recruits a third-party to submit to a background check and purchase the weapon from a licensed dealer for him, are illegal at the state and federal level. Yet straw purchases and gun trafficking continue to plague New York.

Solution: Microstamping links guns used at crime scenes to the buyer. This will deter would-be straw purchasers, since they do not want their names associated with guns that may be used to commit a crime. It also gives law enforcement important insight into trafficking patterns and licensed dealers who do not obey the law.

Does microstamping make it more difficult to purchase a gun?

Certain lawless members of society are bent on using guns to kill people, but the majority of Americans have the right to bear arms.

Solution: Microstamping does not, in any way, restrict the lawful purchase or use of firearms, nor will it be used to track responsible gun owners. Rather, microstamping specifically targets semi-automatic guns that have been used in the commission of crimes. It protects citizens from people who use guns illegally.

Adding additional steps to the manufacturing process and requiring laser etchings might be costly to gun manufacturers and make guns more expensive.

Solution: The machinery used to etch the microstamp can be employed with little or no disruption to the manufacturing process and U.S. manufacturers have been given a free license to use the technology without paying royalties. The inventors of the technology have estimated that it will cost as little as \$0.50 per gun.

What will these changes cost taxpayers?

- **Nothing.** No new database is required and no special equipment is needed in crime labs to read microstamps.



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