



# North Carolina Department of Public Safety

## Private Protective Services Board

Josh Stein, Governor  
Eddie M. Buffaloe, Jr., Secretary

Tamara Rabenold, Chair  
Paul Sherwin, Director

July 17, 2025

### MEMORANDUM FOR RECORD

SUBJECT: Rule .0809 Authorized Firearms Interpretation

The Private Protective Services Board voted during its meeting on Thursday, July 17, 2025, to adopt the following policy to clarify the definition of a “standard firearm,” as used in Administrative Rule 14B NCAC 16 .0809:

A “standard firearm” is a firearm that has not been modified or altered from its original manufactured design; or a custom-built firearm that is assembled exclusively using Original Equipment Manufacturer (OEM) parts.

This policy does not apply to weapon-mounted lights, modular optic systems or lasers. The use of such devices is not considered to be a modification or alteration of a firearm.

Custom-built firearms must comply with the following requirements:

1. **OEM Parts Only**  
Custom firearms must be built using only manufacturer-sourced parts that comply with original specifications. Modification of OEM parts is prohibited.
2. **Caliber & Configuration Compliance**  
The assembled firearm must be of an authorized caliber and action type.
3. **Employer-Owned or Leased**  
The firearm must be owned or leased by the employer.
4. **Registration & Serial Number**  
Every custom-built firearm must be serialized according to federal and state standards.
5. **Prohibition on Non-OEM or Non-Compliant Builds**  
Homemade or third-party fabricated parts that cannot be traced to a recognized OEM supplier are prohibited.

-###-

**MAILING ADDRESS:**  
3101 Industrial Drive, Suite 104  
Raleigh, NC 27609



[www.ncdps.gov/pps](http://www.ncdps.gov/pps)  
An Equal Opportunity employer

**OFFICE LOCATION:**  
3101 Industrial Drive, Suite 104  
Raleigh, NC 27609  
Telephone: (919) 788-5320  
Email: [ppsas1@ncdps.gov](mailto:ppsas1@ncdps.gov)