

U.S. Department of Labor

Assistant Secretary for  
Congressional and Intergovernmental Affairs  
Washington, D.C. 20210



July 16, 2007

The Honorable Dennis Rehberg  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Rehberg:

I am writing to follow-up on my telephone conversation today with your office concerning the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) notice of proposed rulemaking (NPRM) on the handling and transportation of explosives (72 FR 18792).

It was never the intention of OSHA to block the sale, transportation, or storage of small arms ammunition, and OSHA is taking prompt action to revise this NPRM to clarify the purpose of the regulation. A Federal Register notice announcing this action will be published on Tuesday.

OSHA undertook this rulemaking to update the existing explosives standard, which has not been changed for more than 35 years. One of the primary reasons for updating the explosives rule is to reflect the technological improvements in the explosives industry and to bring OSHA regulations into agreement with other federal agencies that regulate explosives. Additionally, the proposed rule would endeavor to eliminate unclear, inconsistent and repetitive requirements contained in the current standard. The changes to the standard will result in better protections for employees who work with explosives.

I can assure you that the revisions will be subject to substantial review and scrutiny to ensure that the revisions are prudent and the intent is clear.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Kristine Iverson".

Kristine A. Iverson