

February 26, 2025

VIA EMAIL

CJ Buck, President
American Knife & Tool Institute
22 Vista View Ln
Cody, WY 82414-9606

RE: Exhibition of Switchblade Knife Products at SHOT Show

Dear Mr. Buck,

I would first like to take this opportunity to thank you on behalf of NSSF[®] for the kind words about the 2025 SHOT Show[®]. It was by far the smoothest show to date, and exhibitor/buyer engagement was by all accounts the best ever. We sincerely appreciate the regular attendance by AKTI members who choose to exhibit their products at the SHOT Show, and we are proud to know how highly your members value the atmosphere and connections we strive to provide every year.

I would also like to address and allay the concerns you related on behalf of the AKTI Board of Regents surrounding the exhibition of switchblade/automatic knife products. I believe these concerns were largely predicated on an unfortunate misunderstanding of the Show exhibitor rules by certain contract personnel, who believed switchblade products were not allowed for exhibition. This misunderstanding was remedied on-site during the Show, and affected exhibitors were allowed to place any removed items back on display.

During the Show, NSSF staff also spoke with multiple exhibitors of switchblade products regarding concerns surrounding the requirement to label these products as being available for “LE/Military Only.” Immediately following this year’s Show, we reviewed the Show rules based on this feedback and determined that the requirement to mark switchblade products for “LE/Military Only” will be removed for future Shows.

We understand how the prior labeling requirements could lead to confusion in what is already a complicated regulatory framework, and trust that this change will assist your members in consistently messaging the manner in which their products may be purchased and distributed. As with any other product, the ultimate responsibility for compliance with any restrictions on a product’s sale or distribution falls to the manufacturers and distributors of that product.

Finally, although our organization’s advocacy focus is on the shooting sports, I can assure you that NSSF supports the safe and legal exercise of our Second Amendment rights in all

forms which that might take. Although I cannot pledge our support for any legislation which we have not yet had a chance to review, we wish you the best in your efforts to reduce restrictions on the free trade of constitutionally-protected goods, and will continue to monitor developments for any support we may be able to provide.

Thank you again for bringing this important matter to our attention, we always welcome the feedback of our exhibitors regarding ways to make the SHOT Show experience as smooth and fruitful as possible, for all exhibitors and attendees. We greatly appreciate the support of NSSF and the SHOT Show by both AKTI and its members and look forward to continuing to work together in the future. If you have any further questions or concerns, now or in the future, please do not hesitate to call me.

Sincerely,

Chris Dolnick

