

Steve Felano

From: Steve Felano
Sent: Monday, May 11, 2020 9:24 PM
To: flnyf@esd.ny.gov
Subject: Reopening of Finger Lakes Firearms Businesses

Greetings,

I am writing on behalf of a range of firearms retailers and manufacturers physically located in the Finger Lakes region. Based on today's brief by Governor Cuomo and [information provided](#) on the governor's website, my understanding is that the Finger Lakes region has met the seven metrics required to begin Phase 1 of the "NY Forward Reopening" Plan effective Friday, May 15, 2020, which includes "retail for curbside pickup and drop-off or in-store pickup."

Furthermore, [reopening guidance](#) on the governor's website indicates that Phase One: Retail Trade includes the following businesses only:

- Clothing Stores
- Direct Selling Establishments
- Electronics and Appliance Stores
- Electronic Shopping and Mail-Order Houses
- Furniture and Home Furnishing Stores
- Florists
- General Merchandise Stores
- Health and Personal Care Stores
- Jewelry, Luggage, and Leather Goods Stores
- Lawn and Garden Equipment and Supplies Stores
- Office Supplies, Stationery, and Gift Stores
- Used Merchandise Stores
- Shoe Stores
- Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument and Book Stores
- Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers"

Logic dictates that firearms retailers are covered under the "Sporting Goods" and "Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers" designations listed above, given that firearms retailers clearly and directly serve sportsmen preparing for the upcoming hunting season, competitive shooters, and civilian, military, and police athletes preparing for tactical marksmanship competitions. Furthermore, given that Merriam-Webster [defines](#) "miscellaneous" as "consisting of diverse things or members", the aforementioned "Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers" designation is an extremely broad classification that clearly captures firearms retailers within its ambit.

Furthermore, my understanding is that firearms retailers located in the Finger Lakes region preparing to reopen on May 15, 2020 are, [according to guidance](#) provided on the governor's website, required to "have a plan to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer, and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business."

Given the above, please reply with all deliberate speed confirming that the following conclusions are correct:

- Firearms retailers physically located in the Finger Lakes region of New York State (i.e. Orleans, Genesee, Wyoming, Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Yates, and Seneca Counties) are included under the "Sporting Goods, Hobby, Musical Instrument and Book Stores" and "Other Miscellaneous Store Retailers" designations outlined in "Phase One: Retail Trade" of the "NY Forward Reopening" Plan;

- As such, firearms retailers physically located in the Finger Lakes region of New York State are officially permitted by the Finger Lakes Regional Office and Empire State Development to reopen effective May 15, 2020 “for curbside pickup and drop-off or in-store pickup”, provided they have developed and maintain on the premises a “plan to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer, and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business”; and
- Each Finger Lakes region firearms retailer’s “plan to protect employees and consumers, make the physical work space safer, and implement processes that lower risk of infection in the business" is not required to be officially reviewed and approved by the Finger Lakes Regional Office, Empire State Development, and/or any other New York State entity in order for a Finger Lakes region firearms retailer to reopen in compliance with the “NY Forward Reopening” Plan effective May 15, 2020.

Please ensure your reply includes your:

- Full name
- Official title
- Physical address from where you are conducting New York State Finger Lakes Regional Office official business
- Direct phone number
- Direct email address

Thank you for your prompt attention to this critical matter.

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