

**§ 1244. Exceptions**

Sections 1242 and 1243 of this title shall not apply to—

(1) any common carrier or contract carrier, with respect to any switchblade knife shipped, transported, or delivered for shipment in interstate commerce in the ordinary course of business;

(2) the manufacture, sale, transportation, distribution, possession, or introduction into interstate commerce, of switchblade knives pursuant to contract with the Armed Forces;

(3) the Armed Forces or any member or employee thereof acting in the performance of his duty;

(4) the possession, and transportation upon his person, of any switchblade knife with a blade three inches or less in length by any individual who has only one arm; or

(5) a knife that contains a spring, detent, or other mechanism designed to create a bias toward closure of the blade and that requires exertion applied to the blade by hand, wrist, or arm to overcome the bias toward closure to assist in opening the knife.

(Pub. L. 85-623, §4, Aug. 12, 1958, 72 Stat. 562; Pub. L. 111-83, title V, §562, Oct. 28, 2009, 123 Stat. 2183.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

2009—Par. (5). Pub. L. 111-83 added par. (5).

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Section effective on the sixtieth day after Aug. 12, 1958, see section 6 of Pub. L. 85-623, set out as a note under section 1241 of this title.

**§ 1245. Ballistic knives**

**(a) Prohibition and penalties for possession, manufacture, sale, or importation**

Whoever in or affecting interstate commerce, within any Territory or possession of the United States, within Indian country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18), or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States (as defined in section 7 of title 18), knowingly possesses, manufactures, sells, or imports a ballistic knife shall be fined as provided in title 18, or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both.

**(b) Prohibition and penalties for possession or use during commission of Federal crime of violence**

Whoever possesses or uses a ballistic knife in the commission of a Federal crime of violence shall be fined as provided in title 18, or imprisoned not less than five years and not more than ten years, or both.

**(c) Exceptions**

The exceptions provided in paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) of section 1244 of this title with respect to switchblade knives shall apply to ballistic knives under subsection (a) of this section.

**(d) “Ballistic knife” defined**

As used in this section, the term “ballistic knife” means a knife with a detachable blade

that is propelled by a spring-operated mechanism.

(Pub. L. 85-623, §7, as added Pub. L. 99-570, title X, §10002, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-167; amended Pub. L. 100-690, title VI, §6472, Nov. 18, 1988, 102 Stat. 4379.)

**Editorial Notes**

AMENDMENTS

1988—Subsec. (a). Pub. L. 100-690, §6472(1), substituted “in or affecting interstate commerce, within any Territory or possession of the United States, within Indian country (as defined in section 1151 of title 18), or within the special maritime and territorial jurisdiction of the United States (as defined in section 7 of title 18), knowingly possesses, manufactures, sells, or imports” for “knowingly possesses, manufactures, sells, or imports”.

Subsec. (b). Pub. L. 100-690, §6472(2), struck out “or State” after “Federal”.

**Statutory Notes and Related Subsidiaries**

EFFECTIVE DATE

Pub. L. 99-570, title X, §10004, Oct. 27, 1986, 100 Stat. 3207-167, provided that: “The amendments made by this title [enacting this section, amending section 1716 of Title 18, Crimes and Criminal Procedure, and enacting provisions set out as a note under section 1241 of this title] shall take effect 30 days after the date of enactment of this title [Oct. 27, 1986].”

**CHAPTER 30—HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

Sec.

- 1261. Definitions.
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- 1277. Labeling of art materials.
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- 1278a. Children’s products containing lead; lead paint rule.

**§ 1261. Definitions**

For the purposes of this chapter—

(a) The term “territory” means any territory or possession of the United States, including the District of Columbia and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico but excluding the Canal Zone.

(b) The term “interstate commerce” means (1) commerce between any State or territory and any place outside thereof, and (2) commerce within the District of Columbia or within any territory not organized with a legislative body.

(c) The term “Commission” means the Consumer Product Safety Commission.