



January 23, 2012

Dear Customer:

There has been speculation regarding certain component and ammunition products within the shooting community. The purpose of this letter is to inform our valued customers of the status of Barnes Banded Solids' availability as components, and in Barnes VOR-TX Safari ammunition.

In October 2011, the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives ("ATF") classified twelve individual Barnes Banded Solid projectiles as armor piercing ammunition. Following these classifications, Barnes submitted individual "exemption request" petitions to ATF. If the petitions are approved, the projectiles will be removed from the statutory definition of armor piercing ammunition, and therefore Barnes will have clearance to continue manufacturing and selling these projectiles.

As of today's date, ATF has not ruled on any of the petitions requesting the removal of the Banded Solid projectiles from the statutory definition of armor piercing ammunition. Accordingly, the following eleven Banded Solid projectiles (currently listed in the 2012 Barnes Catalog) are subject to exemption requests that are pending with ATF. Please note that Barnes is not pursuing an exemption for the .223 caliber Banded Solid projectile at this time. The .223 caliber Banded Solids are not listed in the 2012 Barnes catalog or on the Barnes website:

25 Cal	243 Cal	264 Cal	270 Cal
284 Cal	308 Cal	338 Cal	375 Cal
410 Cal	458 Cal (45-70)	458 SOCOM	

While we await determination from ATF on these calibers, and in compliance with the original classification by ATF, the projectiles listed above will not be available for purchase from Barnes. However, if and when the exemption requests are approved, the projectiles at issue will become available for purchase at that time.

We are confident that most, if not all, of our removal requests with ATF will be successful, and that we will soon be able to provide these calibers to our hunting and sport-shooting customers around the world. In the meantime, we will be happy to answer questions regarding these projectiles and/or the VOR-TX Safari ammunition loaded with these projectiles. Please note the Banded Solids components and VOR-TX Safari ammunition products loaded with Banded Solids not included in the aforementioned calibers (e.g. 416, 470 and 500) and TSX bullets are not subject to the current armor piercing classification and continue to be available for purchase.

We at Barnes recognize the inconvenience caused by lack of access to the appropriate products for individual sporting or hunting purposes. We will continue to aggressively seek immediate resolution to this issue, and inform our customers as further information is provided by ATF. Please refer to www.barnesbullets.com/products/rifle/banded-solids/ for future updates.

We look forward to your continued business and wish you the best in the New Year.