



# ASSAULT WEAPON DEFINITIONS (CA SB-880)

## PREREQUISITE FEATURES OF AN ASSAULT WEAPON (AW)

The Penal Code now classifies the following as an AW: RIFLES: A semiautomatic, centerfire rifle that does not have a fixed magazine but has any one of the following: (A) A pistol grip that protrudes conspicuously beneath the action of the weapon, (B) A thumbhole stock, (C) A folding or telescoping stock, (D) A grenade launcher or flare launcher, (E) A flash suppressor, or (F) A forward pistol grip.

## KEY DEFINITIONS

**“FIXED MAGAZINE”** - An ammunition feeding device contained in, or permanently attached to, a firearm in such a manner that the device cannot be removed without disassembly of the firearm action.

**“DISASSEMBLY OF THE FIREARM ACTION”** - The fire control assembly is detached from the action in such a way that the action has been interrupted and will not function. For example, disassembling the action on a two-part receiver, like that on an AR-15 style firearm, would require the rear take down pin to be removed, the upper receiver lifted upwards and away from the lower receiver using the front pivot pin as the fulcrum, before the magazine may be removed.

## WHAT ARE MY OPTIONS TO STAY OUT OF TROUBLE IF I OWN A NEWLY DEFINED “ASSAULT WEAPON”?

**1. REGISTER:** A firearm that was lawful to acquire and possess last year but now is considered an AW can be registered on or before July 1, 2018. Once the registration system is active, you can register at: <https://cfars.doj.ca.gov/login.do>

**NOTE:** Any AW may be “jointly” registered with another family member over the age of 18 (including a parent, grandparent, child, grandchild, or sibling) who resides with you. But they must separately complete the AW registration.

**2. MODIFICATION:** You can modify your firearm so that it is no longer an AW. This can generally be accomplished in two ways:

**A. “Featureless Build:”** If a rifle (while still semiautomatic, centerfire, and not having a fixed magazine) does not have any of the features listed in A-F above; or if a pistol, (while still semiautomatic and lacking fixed magazine), does not have any of the features listed in G-J, then it isn’t an AW under the recent change to California law. Removing or changing all of these features may prevent the firearm from meeting the definition of an AW. For example, one may replace the pistol grip with an aftermarket grip like the “Monsterman Grip;” pin or rivet their telescoping stock in place; or remove the “flash suppressor” or replace it with a muzzle brake.

**B. “California Compliant Build:”** If you remove one of the three prerequisite features for the new “assault weapon” definition (i.e., for rifles: semiautomatic, centerfire, or not having a fixed magazine) the firearm can then still have all of the features listed in A-F (with the exception of the grenade launcher). Most firearm owners choose to install an aftermarket device on their rifle that causes the firearm to have a “fixed magazine.” The parts replace the “bullet button” magazine lock. The devices prevent the magazine’s release unless/until the upper receiver is pivoted up from the lower receiver of the firearm. Because removal of the magazine requires “disassembling the firearm’s action,” the magazine is considered “fixed.” Some owners are choosing to affix their magazine to the firearm by welding or epoxying the magazine to the receiver and then loading the firearm through the chamber breech. Some are converting their rifles from centerfire to rimfire. While others are restricting their firearm’s ability to function as a semiautomatic.

This is not legal advice. You are responsible for knowing and following your own local laws.



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