

LEADS Daily Bulletin

May 26, 2026

Stolen, Recovered, Missing and Seized Guns

Stolen, recovered, missing and seized guns can be entered into the LEADS gun file. Missing guns can be entered as well.

Following is from the LEADS Manual, Gun Chapter:

PURPOSE OF THE GUN FILE:

The LEADS and NCIC Gun Files were designed to help law enforcement agencies in the recovery of lost and/or stolen weapons or with weapons recovered (abandoned, found, seized) or believed to have been used in connection with unsolved crimes. A record may be entered for a weapon believed to have been used in the commission of a felony as long as this fact is documented in the case file and the location of the weapon is unknown.

WHAT'S IN THE GUN FILE?

Serially numbered weapons which are stolen or missing may be entered into the file if a theft report has been made. A recovered (abandoned, found, seized) weapon for which no stolen report is on file may be entered as a recovered weapon. The weapon must remain in the possession of the entering agency or be readily available for examination while the record is on file. If the entering agency loses custody of the recovered gun in any manner, the recovered gun entry must be cancelled.

BB guns are excluded and should be entered in the Article File because the manufacturers of BB guns are not bound by the same statutes as are the manufacturers of weapons meant to expel a projectile by air, carbon dioxide, or action of an explosion (NCIC Operating Manual, Gun Chapter).

For assistance please contact the Help Desk at 866/LEADS-00.

