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# Classification of Schedule 13 Weapons

## Procedural Instruction

|                    |                                                                                                                                         |
|--------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

Item 14: Automatic knives

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s. 22(1)(a)(ii)

## Item 14: Automatic knives

*Automatic knives that have a blade folded or recessed into the handle which are designed or adapted to open automatically by pressure applied to any spring, device, stud or button in or attached to the handle or blade of the knife, including knives commonly known as flick knives, switchblades or assisted opening knives*

Knives that contain a spring or other internal mechanism that assists the blade to open are considered to be automatic knives under this item such as traditional switchblades and stiletto knives.

Assisted opening knives are captured under this item. Assisted opening knives require the application of pressure initially to the thumb stud or blade and the blade opens without further assistance. Automatic features are often promoted on knife manufacturer's websites.

ABF officers with a reasonable suspicion that a knife has been altered and the spring or torsion bar has been removed can detain or seize the goods under Item 15 – Automatic Knife Parts.

Knives, which open simply by applying pressure to the flipper or thumb stud are not prohibited unless the knife contains a spring or other internal mechanism. Ball bearings to allow or assist in smooth deployment are not considered an internal mechanism. Expensive high-quality flipper knives will generally deploy faster than an automatic or assisted knife, however speed of deployment has no effect on the prohibited status of a knife.

**NOT PROHIBITED**  
If blade does not  
continue to open  
once button is  
depressed



Flipper  
when closed



Flipper  
when open

**PROHIBITED**  
If blade continues  
to open  
independently



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## Item 15: Parts for automatic knives

*Parts for automatic knives described in item 14*

The intent of this control is to capture these items when they are imported in components to circumvent import permit requirements.

If an automatic opening comb (or similar) is imported and the handle is of a sturdy strength to enable the comb to be swapped to a blade and remain automatic, it should be seized as it is classified as an automatic knife part.

PROHIBITED



PROHIBITED



s. 22(1)(a)(i)

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