



Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) eTrace DIRECT Application Programming Interface (API)

ATF is pleased to announce the availability of the new eTrace DIRECT Application Programming Interface (API) component. This automated solution allows law enforcement agencies to electronically exchange firearm trace related data with the National Tracing Center in a more accurate and efficient manner. eTrace DIRECT is intended for law enforcement agencies that are already collecting firearm trace related data in a centralized Records/Case Management System and would like to fully automate the firearms tracing process.

Vision and Goals

- Law Enforcement agencies can tailor their existing records/case management systems to connect seamlessly with ATF's Firearm Tracing System (submission and retrieval).
- Improved data quality through the utilization of ATF firearm reference table data.
- Standardization, Automation, and Optimization of the firearms tracing Lifecycle to eliminate the need for manual and redundant entry of trace requests and search/retrieval of trace results.

What data is required?

Submission of a trace request using the eTrace DIRECT API requires the same basic information as eTrace:

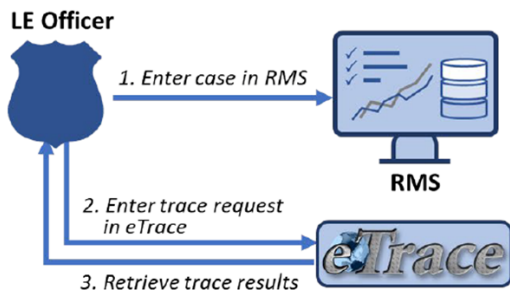
- Firearm description: Serial, Manufacturer, Type, Caliber, Model
- Requestor name, agency ORI, crime code
- Possessor and associate information, if available
- Recovery date and location



How does it work?

Following the recovery of a firearm, Law Enforcement enters case related information in their Records/Case Management System. A trace request is automatically generated via the eTrace DIRECT API using system-to-system communication. The ATF National Tracing Center processes each individual firearm trace request. Upon completion, detailed trace results information is retrieved via eTrace DIRECT and ingested back into the originating Records/Case Management System for storage, use, and dissemination to authorized personnel.

Before eTrace DIRECT Integration



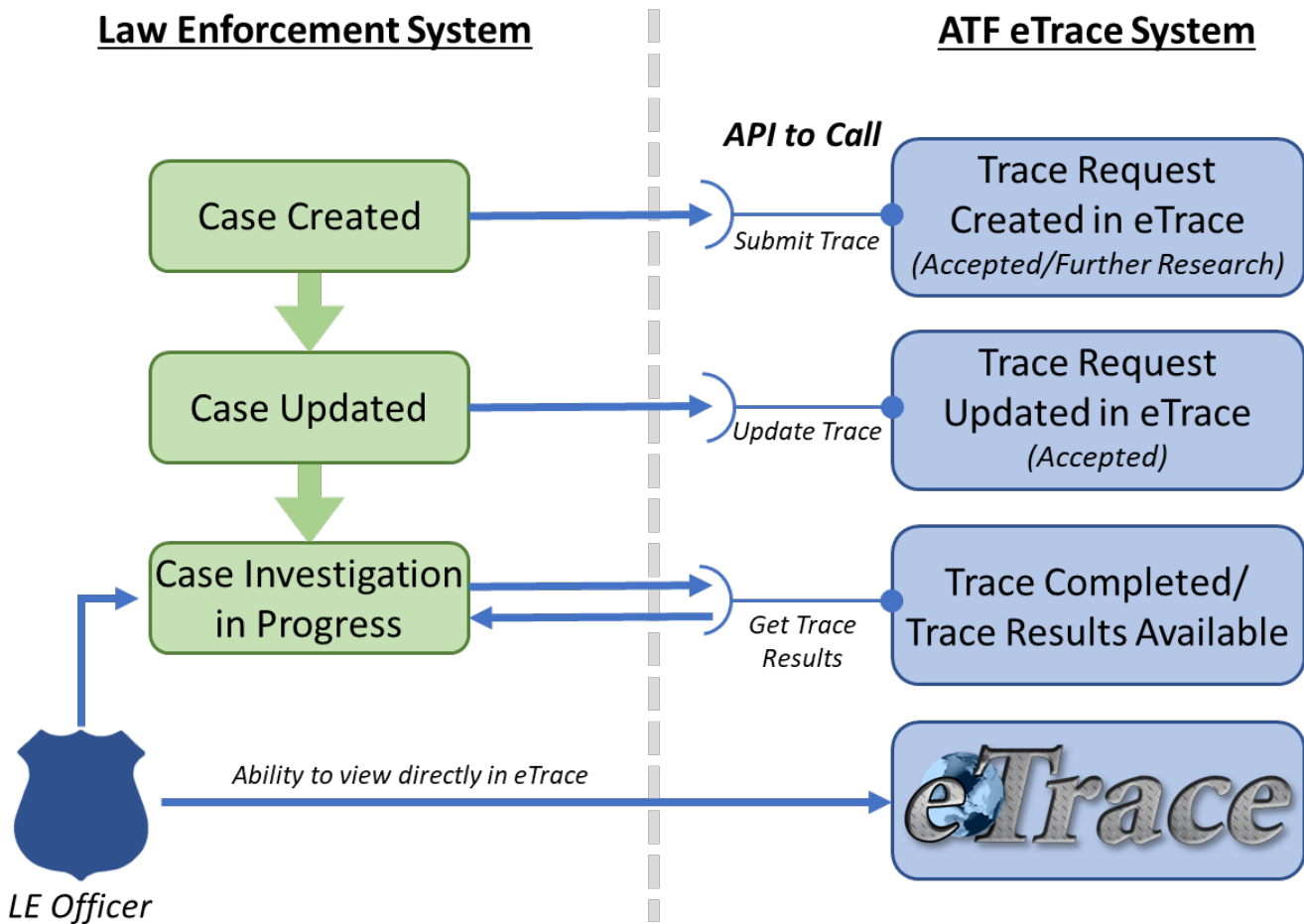
After eTrace DIRECT Integration



For questions and/or assistance regarding the eTrace DIRECT API component, please email the eTrace DIRECT Team at eTraceDIRECT@atf.gov or call 304-260-1540.

How can my agency take advantage of eTrace DIRECT API Services?

Ask your Records/Case Management System vendor or your IT department to contact ATF for additional details and integration assistance, to include credentials, sample files, and specifications.



Case System Event Integration		What happens in eTrace
Case Created	Invoke the “Submit Trace Request API” to create a trace request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trace request is validated for completeness 2. Accepted if valid, pending research if additional information is needed 3. Trace is not created if invalid or duplicate, with appropriate errors returned for review
Case Updated	Invoke the “Update Trace Request API” to update the trace request	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Trace request is re-validated for completeness 2. Accepted if valid, pending research if additional information is needed 3. Appropriate errors returned for review
Investigation in Progress	N/A	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Tracing activity starts 2. NTC processes the trace and updates the record with detailed trace results information (dealer/purchaser)
Retrieve Investigative Lead	Call the “Get Trace Result API” to retrieve completed trace results	Results stored in eTrace are automatically returned to the law enforcement system