



## FAQ for Prohibited Weapons at Federal Facilities

1. Is pepper spray and/or mace permissible in federal facilities?

*Response: Mace and stun guns are dangerous weapons under 18 U.S.C. § 930 and Federal Security Committees (FSC) are not authorized to waive a federal criminal statute. Any other previous interpretations, including the not-to-exceed 2% OC pepper spray, are incorrect. FPS Leadership has directed its field offices to communicate with and ensure that Federal Executive Boards (FEB) and FSCs are aware of the prohibition and that FSCs cannot waive application of 18 U.S.C. § 930.*

2. Can employees submit an individual request to bring such items as mace and stun guns into federal facilities for approval?

*Response: Blanket exemptions for employees to have items such as mace and stun guns are not allowed. Individual requests for such items will likewise not be approved as the items are in violation of definition of 18 U.S.C. § 930 dangerous weapons.*

3. Does this rule apply to employees who work at federal government offices that are housed within commercial office buildings?

*Response: Federal offices housed within a commercial building are required to abide by 18 U.S.C. § 930, which prohibits all dangerous items on federal government property. Commercial buildings may offer storage areas such as lockboxes for items like mace and stun guns, but the lockboxes are not allowed within federal facilities themselves and must be kept separated. GSA is not responsible for any items stored outside of federal government property.*

4. I must walk to work and feel unsafe by my office's location. Is there an option to "turn in" mace/pepper spray at the Security desk/lobby/front entrance and retrieve it at the end of the day?

*Response: Federal facilities are not responsible for housing employee personal items. Furthermore, items such as mace and stun guns are deemed dangerous weapons by 18 U.S.C. § 930. Of note, in lieu of granting waivers, an FSC could consider installing*

*lockboxes to secure stun guns and mace at the entrance to the federal. The lockboxes must be in an area **exterior** to security screening and installation coordinated with the General Services Administration and the Federal Protective Service.*

5. Are employees who drive to work allowed to keep prohibited items in their personal vehicles?

*Response: Where permitted by state and local law, employees may store mace/pepper spray/stun gun in their vehicle where the parking lot is a commercial parking garage/lot outside of the secure facility. However, if it is a federal parking garage/lot, e.g., a parking lot attached to the building/under the building, they should follow the same administrative requirements (if any) of a lockbox.*

6. Are there any other types of self-defense items I can bring into work?

*Response: Items that are deemed “dangerous” by 18 U.S.C. § 930 are not allowed in federal facilities. For a full list of prohibited items please refer to the ISC Standard on Prohibited Items [here](#).*

7. Who can I contact about suspicious activity around my workplace?

*Response: If you see suspicious activity on or near federal property, call the National Toll Free Number: 1-877-4FPS-411 (1-877-437-7411). In case of emergency, always call 911.*

8. What can I do to keep myself safe when coming to and leaving work?

*Response: Always remain vigilant of your surroundings and avoid areas that are poorly lit, isolated, and with little cell-phone reception as much as possible. When walking, do not use your cell phone and try to keep your hands and arms free. For a full list of recommended safety tips, please refer to this [FPS Personal Safety and Security Infographic](#).*