Controlled Equipment List Purchases with Equitable Sharing Funds

On January 16, 2015, President Barack Obama issued Executive Order 13688, “Federal Support for Local Law Enforcement Equipment Acquisition,” that identified and implemented actions to improve federal support for the appropriate use, acquisition, and transfer of equipment by state, local, and tribal law enforcement agencies. This order prohibits Law Enforcement Agencies (LEAs) from using federal funds to purchase military-style equipment outlined in the May 18, 2015 Equitable Sharing Wire.

Additionally, the Executive Order requires LEAs to obtain pre-approval from the funding federal agency and follow new guidelines when purchasing equipment found on the Controlled Equipment List. Effective October 1, 2015, the following equipment is subject to these requirements when using federal funds:

- Manned Aircraft, Fixed Wing and Rotary Wing
- Unmanned Aerial Vehicle
- Armored Vehicles, Wheeled
- Command and Control Vehicles
- Breaching Apparatus
- Riot Batons, Helmets, and Shields

If an LEA intends to use Department of Justice or Department of the Treasury equitable sharing funds to purchase any Controlled Equipment, the agency must submit a request to the funding federal agency for approval. Additional guidance and instructions are available on the Department of Justice and Department of the Treasury public websites.

LEAs shall not obligate or spend any federal equitable sharing funds for a Controlled Equipment purchase until approval has been granted by the funding federal agency. The Asset Forfeiture and Money Laundering Section and the Treasury Executive Office for Asset Forfeiture will review requests and notify agencies when the request has been approved or denied. Any questions should be directed to afmls.aca@usdoj.gov or treas.aca@treasury.gov.