

## GUIDE TO STORAGE AND SALE OF FIREWORKS

### STORING FIREWORKS

#### The Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2014

You can store fireworks up to the amount indicated on your registration or certificate of licence at any one time.

#### Storing fireworks in the sales area

- The fireworks must be stored in a metal, wood or other substantial cabinet. These cabinets must be positioned to prevent unauthorised access to the fireworks, or locked shut
- Be positioned away from any combustible and flammable materials.
- Be placed in a location that will allow the shop customers and staff to evacuate easily and quickly.
- Have no lights or electrical fittings within it. If the cabinet you are using contains lighting or other electrical fittings you can only store “dummy” fireworks within it.
- Be kept dry and clean. Any loose powder spilled from the fireworks should be swept out on a regular basis.
- Not contain any other items. For example, the cabinets must be emptied of all materials likely to catch fire, and contain no flammable material.
- Each cabinet must not contain more than 12.5kg (net weight) of fireworks, or 50kg gross weight (including packaging).

The maximum amount that can be stored in the sales area is based on the floor area and is detailed in the table below:

<i>Floor area of sales area (sq. metres)</i>	<i>Quantity of explosives (net kg)</i>
not exceeding 20	12.5
not exceeding 40	15
not exceeding 60	20
not exceeding 80	25
not exceeding 100	30
not exceeding 150	35
not exceeding 200	40
not exceeding 250	45
not exceeding 300	50
not exceeding 350	55
not exceeding 400	60
not exceeding 450	65
not exceeding 499	70
equal to or exceeding 500	75

The shop area must:

- Be kept clean and free of any dirt or spilt explosives powder
- Be cleared of unwanted empty packaging and other combustible materials such as cardboard, wood etc.
- Be a no smoking area. Display “No smoking notices” in store.

You must not

- Expose live fireworks to the air for any longer than necessary, i.e. showing a customer the content of a pack.
- Display live fireworks in a window. “Dummy” firework must be used, even if they are stored within a cabinet, if the cabinet is placed in direct sunlight.

### **Storing fireworks in a warehouse or other similar storage areas**

Any store must be separated from the shop area by a substantial partition i.e. breeze block, stud wall etc.

Where fireworks are kept in a store used exclusively for this purpose i.e. the store contains no other items, the fireworks can be kept in the transport packaging providing the following safety measures are met:

- Transport packaging must not be left open
- The packaging should only be opened when needed, or if the contents are to be transferred to a storage cupboard or cabinet
- After opening the transport packaging, the boxes must be closed if fireworks remain in the packaging
- Do not transfer fireworks from one transport package to another
- Where goods are stored in the transport packaging, the store must not be located near any route of escape for staff or customers

Any store must

- Be kept clean and dry
- Have all empty transport packaging removed. If the fireworks you are selling are on
- Sale and return, you may keep some transport packaging, but do not leave them in the fireworks store.
- Be kept free from items that can cause a fire or make any fire spread more quickly. For example flammable materials or materials that catch fire easily

### **It is recommended that access to the store is restricted to only those members of staff who need to be there**

Where it is not possible to reserve a place exclusively for the storage of fireworks, then the fireworks must be kept in fire-resistant cabinets or containers i.e. closed metal containers or cabinets.

These cabinets or containers must

- Be positioned to prevent unauthorised access to the fireworks, or locked shut
- Be positioned away from any combustible and flammable materials.
- Be placed in a location that will allow the shop customers and staff to evacuate easily and quickly.

- Have no lights or electrical fittings within it. If the cabinet you are using contains lighting or other electrical fittings you can only store “dummy” fireworks within it.
- Be kept dry and clean. Any loose powder spilled from the fireworks should be swept out on a regular basis.
- Not contain any other items. For example, the cabinets must be emptied of all materials likely to catch fire, and contain no flammable material.
- Each cabinet must not contain more than 12.5kg (net weight) of fireworks, or 50kg gross weight (including packaging).
- It is recommended that you mark the cabinet(s) with a warning such as “Fireworks Flammable”

***Do not allow smoking anywhere near fireworks store. You should display “ No smoking signs”***

Where a store adjoins a building or is in the same building as a domestic /sleeping accommodation, and that store contains more than 75kg (net weight), 300kg gross weight, the store must:

- Have a fire detection system installed
- The domestic parts of the building must have access/exit routes that are separate from those used for the fireworks store, i.e. not through the shop or storage area.
- There must be suitable fire protection between the store and the domestic accommodation i.e. doors and floors/ceilings offering 30 minutes fire resistance
- The store must be closed off and secured from the domestic part of the property.
- A risk assessment should be carried out by a competent person, to assess the risk of the storage methods to be utilised.

Where you choose to use an ISO container to store fireworks, the container must, along with the general precautions outlined above:

- Be, where possible, located well-away from public access
- If it is placed in a car park cars must not be permitted to park within 3 metres of the store and you must take adequate precautions to prevent unauthorised access.
- Be marked with the Fire Division 4 symbol

**Sales system**

Fireworks being transferred for display between the store and sales area should not be left unattended and should be placed immediately into display cabinets.

Fireworks should be exposed for as little time as possible. It is our recommendation that you only expose up to 2kg net weight (8kg gross weight) at any one time.

Any fireworks that are exposed should not be left unattended.

Handling of fireworks should be kept to a minimum to prevent the packaging becoming damaged.

If your display cabinets are located away from the shops tills, you should consider developing a system that prevents customers wandering around the store with the fireworks they wish to purchase. For example, you may wish to design a system

where customers can only make (or collect) their purchases immediately before leaving the store.

If a buyer requires more than 50kg net mass of fireworks you must ask them to produce a valid licence or registration.

**FAILURE TO MEET THE OBLIGATIONS SHOWN ABOVE COULD RESULT IN YOUR REGISTRATION/LICENCE BEING REVOKED, AND ANY FUTURE APPLICATION BEING REFUSED.**

**IT IS A CRIMINAL OFFENCE TO STORE FIREWORKS IN A DANGEROUS MANNER SALE OF FIREWORKS**

Fireworks must not be hawked, sold or exposed for sale upon a street or public place.

### **The Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations 2010**

The main provisions of these Regulations are detailed below:

#### **Age of purchase**

- Fireworks including sparklers must not be supplied to anyone under the age of 18.
- Caps, Cracker Snaps, Indoor Fireworks, Novelty Matches, Party Poppers, Serpents or Throwdowns must not be supplied to anyone under 16.

#### **Supply of Fireworks**

The splitting of retail boxes of fireworks intended for sale as a unit is prohibited.

The supply to the public of the following fireworks is banned

- ALL bangers, flash bangers or doublebangers including Chinese Crackers, etc.
  - Aerial wheels
  - Jumping Crackers
  - Jumping ground spinners
  - Spinners
  - Mini-Rockets
  - Shot tubes (previously known as air bombs or shell –in-mortars)
  - Bangers, flash bangers or double bangers (includes combinations and batteries)
  - Category 4 fireworks, theatrical or pyrotechnical articles
  - Excessively loud Category 3 fireworks (those with an A-weighted impulse sound pressure level exceeding 120 decibels)

Packets of sparklers to carry the warning – “Not to be given to children under 5 years of age”

Under no circumstances should retail outlets be offering for sale any fireworks marked “This device must not be sold to, or used by, a member of the general Public” or “For use with persons with specialist knowledge”

For advice on the supply of fireworks to professional display organisers, please contact Trading Standards.

**SELLERS ARE STRONGLY ADVISED TO SEEK OF PROOF OF AGE WHERE THE BUYER LOOKS UNDER 21.  
RECOMMENDED PROOF OF AGE INCLUDES: PASSPORT, NEW STYLE DRIVING LICENCE WITH PHOTOGRAPH, CONNEXIONS CARD, CITIZENCARD, VALIDATE CARD, PORTMAN CARD**

**The Fireworks Regulations** require a notice to be displayed at all premises that supply any adult fireworks

Size of the notice shall be not less than 420mm x 297mm, with letters at least 36 mm high. The notice shall state that –

**“IT IS ILLEGAL TO SELL ADULT FIREWORKS OR SPARKLERS TO ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 AND FOR ANYONE UNDER THE AGE OF 18 TO POSSESS FIREWORKS IN A PUBLIC PLACE”**

N.B. Adult fireworks are any fireworks, other than caps, cracker snaps, indoor fireworks, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents, or throwdowns which comply with the relevant sections of BS 7114 : 1988.

### **Fireworks Regulations**

It is a criminal offence to supply fireworks outside certain prescribed periods without having a valid licence to do so.

If you do not have a valid licence to sell fireworks you may only sell fireworks during the periods detailed below:

- 15<sup>th</sup> October to 10<sup>th</sup> November
- 26<sup>th</sup> December to 31<sup>st</sup> December
- Chinese New Year and the three days immediately preceding it
- Diwali and the three days immediately preceding it

NB. A yearly registration to store explosives under the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations **DOES NOT** allow you to sell fireworks throughout the year.

An application form for a licence can be obtained using the contact details below.  
*This leaflet has been prepared for the guidance of traders by the London Borough of Havering Licensing Section.*

*It is not an authoritative document on the law and is only intended for guidance.*

Links to the current legislation can be found via the Havering website  
[www.havering.gov.uk](http://www.havering.gov.uk)