



Dangerous goods safety information sheet

Applying for fireworks event permits

Introduction

This information sheet provides guidance for fireworks contractors applying for fireworks event permits to ensure the consistency and quality of applications.

General requirements

- The completed fireworks event permit application form must be received by Resources Safety no less than 14 days before the display is scheduled to occur. Failure to do so may result in the permit not being granted in time for the event.

Note: The original fireworks event permit application form must be submitted, even if it was previously faxed or emailed to Resources Safety.

- Firework events occurring during restricted and prohibited burning times are subject to specific requirements, as described in the *Western Australian outdoor fireworks – code of practice*, available from the publications section at www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety
- Noise disturbances due to fireworks events must be appropriately managed and neighbours should be notified of the event as appropriate.
- Fireworks operators must ensure that appropriate personal protective equipment is worn during firework events.

Site plans

Site plans prepared from spatial mapping software programs are preferred. Such programs include various drawing tools, allowing separation distances and exclusion zones to be drawn on the map. Some programs, such as Google Earth, may be downloaded for free from the internet.

Site plans should include the following:

- scale of the plan;
- location of the firing point;
- separation distances (in metres) from the firing point to spectators, buildings, vegetation and vulnerable facilities such as daycare and aged health care facilities, dangerous goods storages, stables and kennels;
- indication of expected wind conditions for the event in kilometres per hour (where this is uncertain, a conservative estimate should be used);
- exclusion zone; and
- “north” arrow.

Note: The exclusion zone must include a buffer zone to compensate for expected wind conditions.

Firing from special locations

Additional information must be submitted for fireworks event permits involving firing from special locations.

Submissions for **barges and pontoons** should detail the following:

- location of the platform for the display;

- size and stability of the platform;
- where the fireworks will be loaded onto the platform;
- construction of the platform, and measures taken to ensure the platform will not catch on fire;
- placement of the fireworks on the platform;
- means of initiation for aerial shells;
- methods used to identify the craft as an explosives platform or vessel;
- number of people who will be at the firing location and the safety shelter available to them; and
- measures taken to ensure the security of the fireworks.

Submissions for **elevated locations** should detail the following:

- size, height and stability of the structure or platform;
- placement of the fireworks on the platform;
- exclusion zone, as viewed from both the side and top of the display;
- measures taken to prevent both people and fireworks from falling from the structure (e.g. barriers, safety harnesses);
- escape route to be used in an emergency;
- number of people who will be at the firing location and the safety shelter available to them; and
- measures taken to ensure the security of the fireworks.

Temporary storage and “sleeping” fireworks overnight

Temporary overnight storage of fireworks may be necessary when transport and set up of the display cannot occur within a day. Similarly, it is not always possible to set up large displays within one day and therefore loaded mortars will be left “sleeping” overnight.

If temporary storage or the sleeping of fireworks is required, submit a supplement to the fireworks event permit application detailing the storage location and facility as well as the duration of the storage. A risk assessment must be conducted for a temporary storage to ensure that the fireworks will be stored safely and securely.

Adequate protection is required to minimise the chances of theft. If the explosives storage is not within a locked compound (e.g. locked modified freight container within securely fenced yard), or if loaded mortars are being slept, it will be necessary to guard the storage and any sleeping fireworks overnight.

Security guards may be used but, for sleeping fireworks, they will:

- require Dangerous Goods Security Clearance cards; and
- need to be authorised by the fireworks contractor to have unsupervised access to the explosives.

If more than one guard is present, then it is sufficient for only one member of the guard team to have the security card and be authorised for unsupervised access. However, this guard must maintain direct supervision of the other guards. To allow for rest breaks, it is recommended that at least two guards per team are security cleared for unsupervised access.

If it is not possible to obtain guards who satisfy the security requirements then a firework contractor employee with unsupervised access clearance must remain on site to guard the explosives.

Commercial transport of explosives

Fireworks must be transported in accordance with the third edition of Australian Explosives Code (AEC3). The code and a Resources Safety guidance note summarising transport requirements for explosives are available from the safety guidance section of the Resources Safety website.

Fireworks contractors transporting the fireworks to commercial transport companies must also comply with AEC3. Explosives may be transported in:

- appropriately labelled, sealed cardboard packages inside an enclosed vehicle body; or

- inside a locked carry box that is securely fastened to the vehicle.

Where fireworks are transported in a lockable enclosed vehicle body, the sealed packages must be stowed such that they are incapable of movement in the vehicle, and must not be stowed in the passenger compartment.

Upon arrival at the commercial transport company, the fireworks may be removed from the firework contractor's vehicle or wooden box (retaining the original packaging) and repacked inside an appropriate vehicle or container owned by the transport company.

All explosives packaging must be marked in accordance with AEC3.