



# Application for a fireworks operator licence

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Applying for or amending  
a fireworks operator  
licence



# Applying for a licence

Resources Safety wants to ensure that fireworks events (also referred to as displays) are conducted and operated by people who are fit and competent to do so without creating risks to the community of Western Australia. A Fireworks Operator Licence is issued for 3 years and **authorises** the holder to:

- possess, set up and initiate outdoor fireworks at a display covered under a Fireworks Event Permit while under the employ or supervision of a licensed fireworks contractor;
- initiate firecracker chains at ceremonial occasions under a Ceremonial Fireworks Notice provided to the WA Police and the Local Council; and
- initiate indoor fireworks under a permit issued by FESA.

This licence **does not** allow the holder to:

- purchase fireworks; or
- make application for a Fireworks Event Permit.

Holders of a Fireworks Operator Licence are authorised, without holding an Explosives Transport Licence or an Explosives Driver Licence, to transport fireworks by road if:

- the holder is authorised to possess the fireworks under a Fireworks Operator Licence;
- the fireworks are for use by the holder; and
- no more than a Category 2 load is transported in connection with an event permit.

Furthermore, holders of such a licence are authorised, without holding an Explosives Transport Licence or an Explosives Driver Licence, to transport fireworks by road if:

- the holder is an employee of the holder of a Fireworks Contractor Licence;
- the fireworks contractor is authorised to possess the fireworks under a Fireworks Contractor Licence;
- the fireworks are for use by the fireworks contractor or an employee of the fireworks contractor acting in the course of his or her duties as such an employee; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported in connection with an event permit.

(Further details on category 2 loads can be found in the Australian Explosives Code, second edition)

## General requirements

You will only be issued with a licence if you meet certain eligibility requirements and satisfy the Chief Officer that you:

- are 18 years of age or over;
- can provide evidence of identity;
- hold a current WA Dangerous Goods Security Card;
- have a legitimate reason for handling fireworks;

- have satisfactorily completed an approved course of training as a fireworks operator, or possess equivalent competencies acceptable to the Chief Officer;
- are physically able to carry out the duties required of a fireworks operator; and
- have demonstrated knowledge of:
  - the requirements of the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations in relation to the storage, transport, manufacture, sale and use of explosives;
  - the requirements of the Western Australian outdoor fireworks - Code of Practice;
  - the requirements of an explosives management plan as it relates to the operation of fireworks events;
  - the hazards of particular types of fireworks, their firing characteristics, safe handling procedures and methods of use; and
  - relevant emergency procedures, including the handling of misfires and the disposal of fireworks.

## Obligations of the licensee

Licensed fireworks operators have an obligation to:

- comply with any endorsements and conditions that apply to their licence;
- comply with the Act and regulations, and the Western Australian outdoor fireworks - Code of Practice;
- comply with an explosives management plan prepared by the fireworks contractor
- maintain relevant records as they relate to fireworks events;
- ensure the operation of fireworks at fireworks events are carried out in a safe and secure manner; and
- record and maintain details of any incidents involving fireworks and report same to the Chief Officer.

## Categories of Fireworks Operator Licences

The Chief Officer will decide on the limitations of your licence based upon your level of experience, skills and knowledge relevant to the use of outdoor fireworks. The table on the following page provides an explanation of the various endorsements that may be applied.

The holder of a Fireworks Operator Licence can only conduct fireworks events that do not exceed the endorsement stated on the licence.

A licence holder can apply to have an endorsement reviewed, usually to upgrade from a ground fireworks operator to include various aerial fireworks categories. Licensees must be able to demonstrate a satisfactory level of experience and knowledge to support their submission.

Fireworks Operator Licence	What the licence authorises
Endorsed for ground outdoor fireworks	Authorises the holder to conduct an event using ground fireworks, and: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• to set off distress signals as a part of an event; and</li> <li>• to initiate cracker chains over 10,000 crackers long; on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor.</li> </ul> Does NOT authorise the holder to conduct an elevated ground firework event.
Endorsed for restricted outdoor fireworks Level 1	Authorises the holder to conduct an event using ground fireworks, or an aerial event, where the maximum shell size does not exceed 75 mm in diameter on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor. <p>Does NOT authorise elevated events, or the firing of aerial shells from buildings.</p>
Endorsed for restricted outdoor fireworks Level 2	Authorises the holder to conduct an event using ground fireworks, or an aerial event, where the maximum shell size does not exceed 150 mm in diameter on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor. <p>Does NOT authorise elevated events, or the firing of aerial shells from buildings.</p>
Endorsed for unrestricted outdoor fireworks	Authorises the holder to conduct an event using ground fireworks, an elevated event or an aerial event, where the maximum shell size may exceed 150 mm in diameter on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor. <p>Does NOT authorise the firing of aerial shells from buildings, unless specific approval has been given by the Chief Officer to do so.</p>

## Reference material

Further information can be found in:

- *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007

(download copies of the Act and regulations free on the State Law Publisher's website at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au))

- Western Australian outdoor fireworks - Code of Practice
- Application for an Explosives Manufacture Licence, EME
- Application for a Fireworks Contractor Licence, EFC
- Application for a Test Permit, ETP
- Schedule of prescribed fees and charges for dangerous goods licences

(available from the Resources Safety website at [www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety))

- Australian Standard 2187.1-1998, Explosives — storage, transport and use — storage
- Australian Standard 2187.4-1998, Explosives — storage, transport and use — pyrotechnics - outdoor displays

(copies of Australian Standards are available from SAI Global, 165 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth WA 6004. Phone: 13 12 42 or [www.saiglobal.com/shop](http://www.saiglobal.com/shop))

- Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard of Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines (September 2003)

(available from Austroads Inc. at [www.austroads.com.au](http://www.austroads.com.au))

- Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, Second Edition, 2000 (Australian Explosives Code), published by the Commonwealth of Australia.

(available from Can Print Information Services at [www.canprint.com.au](http://www.canprint.com.au), Phone: (02) 62938383)

## Renewal of the licences

A renewal notice will be sent out several months prior to the expiry date. If the licence is not renewed by the expiry date you must not continue to undertake the activities of a fireworks operator as you will be operating without authority and may be liable to prosecution. You may also be uninsured for any damages. Licences may be renewed if the following requirements are met:

- application for renewal is received before the licence expires;
- provide another medical certificate taken within 6 months of the date of renewal;
- provide evidence of attending and passing a fireworks refresher training course;
- submit a new colour photograph; and
- payment of the licence fee

## Security clearances

Access to explosives and security risk substances (SRS), such as some formulations of ammonium nitrate, with more than 45% ammonium nitrate content, is now strictly controlled in Western Australia. The *Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007* are rigorous across all aspects of explosives use, storage, handling and transport and incorporate the security provisions negotiated under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement of 25 June 2004 on counter-terrorism measures.

It is now a requirement that explosives related licence holders and people with unsupervised access to explosives or SRS possess a security clearance (and where necessary be a secure employee of their employer). Key features of the assessment process are identity checks to confirm the status of applicants as well as national criminal history record checks including an ASIO clearance.

As a means of proof of a valid security clearance, individuals will be issued with a photographic security card valid for 5 years, and it will be subject to renewal. The security card will allow portability of the security clearance between employers.

**Persons who wish to apply for a new Fireworks Operator Licence must first obtain a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card.** Details are available on the Resources Safety website and application forms can be obtained from and lodged at participating Post Offices around Western Australia.

**A Fireworks Operator Licence is only valid while the holder's WA Dangerous Goods Security Card remains current.**

### Mutually recognised security clearances

Western Australian explosives regulations have mutually recognised various current explosives and Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) licences/permits issued by another State/Territory of Australia as being valid security clearances in this State. This does not apply for permanent residents of WA with more than 3 months residency. These are detailed in the following table:

State/Territory	Legislation
New South Wales	Explosives Regulations 2005
Queensland	Explosives Act 1999
South Australia	Explosives (Security Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2006
Tasmania	Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005
Victoria	Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000 Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2005
Northern Territory	None applicable
Australian Capital Territory	None applicable

Applicants from interstate, who do not possess a mutually recognised security clearance will be required to obtain a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card in order for their application for licence to proceed.

## Assessment of medical fitness

To prove your medical fitness to use explosives, you must have a medical examination conducted by a doctor in accordance with the criteria set out in the Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines (September 2003) issued by Austroads Incorporated. Details on availability are explained in the references section. Your doctor should be aware of this document.

This guideline is prescribed in the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007.

If you wear items such as spectacles or hearing aids, take them to the examination. The doctor must complete and sign the medical certificate (part 4 of the application) not more than 6 months prior to the lodgement of your application. The format of the medical certificate is a legal requirement. Medical certificates not compliant

with the Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines (September 2003) cannot be accepted.

If you are concerned that a pre-existing medical condition may preclude your fitness to hold a Fireworks Operator Licence, you should still obtain a medical certificate in the first instance - **prior** to applying for a security clearance.

The medical certificate allows the doctor some latitude for persons who may not meet the criteria for the issue of an unconditional licence. The doctor may recommend the issue of a conditional licence or referral to a specialist for further assessment.

The results of the medical assessment will enable you to decide whether or not to proceed with your application.

## Integrity information

The regulations require that all individuals who apply for any type of explosives licence must disclose to the Chief Officer:

- details of any relevant offence of which the person has been convicted; and
- details of any charge of a relevant offence against the person that is pending.

The term 'relevant offence' means any of the following:

- an offence against the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations;

- an offence against a law of another place that substantially corresponds to the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations; or
- an offence against a law of this State or another place, an element of which is the handling, storage or transport of explosives.

Two questions on this matter are contained in the application form and if you answer in the affirmative to either you must attach a separate sheet briefly describing details of the offence and/or charge including places, dates and penalties.

## Recognition of interstate Fireworks Operator Licences

There is no 'mutual' recognition of New Zealand or any Australian interstate fireworks operator licences. However, in granting a WA Fireworks Operator Licence, the Chief Officer will take into account:

- interstate competency;
- interstate medical clearances; and
- whether an equivalent security clearance was part of the interstate fireworks operator licence.

As the regulations in Western Australia now require a security clearance for all persons being issued with a Fireworks Operator Licence, this aspect is a critical factor in the assessment process.

Accordingly, the following requirements must be addressed by all persons who wish to submit an application in this category:

- attachment of a certified copy of your current fireworks operator licence from another State or Territory of Australia;
- attachment of a certified copy of any SSAN, or equivalent, licence/permit that you may possess (only for applicants from SA, TAS or VIC);
- provision of a recent colour, passport sized photograph of yourself (with your name printed on the back); and
- payment of the full licence fee.

Applicants need to be aware that if their existing fireworks operator licence has for example only 12 months remaining before expiry, then the WA issued equivalent will maintain the same expiry date.

## Practical fireworks experience

For all categories of this licence, it is necessary to be able to demonstrate a level of practical experience that will satisfy a Dangerous Goods Officer of your competence in the safe handling of fireworks.

In order to maximise your success in obtaining a licence, include as much information as possible that relates to your experience in the industry. For some, it may include assisting with the preparation of an outdoor fireworks display, or outdoor/indoor stage productions, but not

necessarily handling fireworks or pyrotechnics. Working behind the scenes often exposes a person to the various safety elements that must be observed and this level of experience is recognised by Dangerous Goods Officers.

Complete the relevant section in the application and attach copies from any work diaries you have maintained that record jobs you have participated on. References from employers to support your claims are also acceptable.

## Transitional provisions

There is a transition phase of 12 months from the commencement date of the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007. During this period, the following matters take effect:

- at commencement date the holder of a current Shotfirer's Permit/Pyrotechnics Operators Permit restricted to outdoor fireworks (issued under the repealed Explosives and Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 1963) is taken to hold a Fireworks Contractor Licence under the new regulations until such time as the licence expires.
- A pre-requisite for a Fireworks Contractor Licence is that the holder possess a Fireworks Operator Licence. Accordingly, this provision implies that the holder also possesses a Fireworks Operator Licence.
- a licence can be renewed without the need for a security clearance however, if a security clearance is not obtained before the end of the 12 month transition period the licence will cease to have effect.

## Application form

Complete the application section, including the checklist and attach all the required information. **Lodgement of an incomplete application may increase the time it takes to issue you with a licence and deficient applications may be returned to the applicant.**

**NOTE: Please refer to the schedule of fees on the Resources Safety website for the current fee applicable to this licence application.**

### Contact details

Tel: (08) 9358 8001  
Fax: (08) 9358 8000  
Email: [rsdclientservices@dmp.wa.gov.au](mailto:rsdclientservices@dmp.wa.gov.au)  
Website: [www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety) for fees, forms, FAQs, guidance material and publications.



Government of **Western Australia**  
 Department of **Mines and Petroleum**  
 Resources Safety

# Application for a fireworks operator licence

**Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004**  
**Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007**

ABN: 69 410 335 356

Application no. *(office use only)*

EFO



## 1. Application type (please tick one)

- First application (new licence)
- Amendments to existing WA licence number
- Recognition arrangements of similar fireworks operator licences issued elsewhere in Australia

## 2. Applicant details

Family name	Given names	Date of birth

### Contact details

#### Residential address (mandatory)

Unit no.  Street no.  Lot no.  Street   
 Town/suburb  State  Postcode

#### Postal address (complete if different from above)

Unit no.  Street no.  Lot no.  Street   
 PO box no.  Town/suburb  State  Postcode   
 Phone  Facsimile   
 Email  Mobile

## 3. Integrity information

Have you been convicted of any offence(s) under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia?  Yes  No

Do you have a charge(s) pending relation to any offences under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia?  Yes  No

If you answered 'yes' to either of the above questions please attach a separate sheet with details of your full name, date of birth, description of offence(s) and/or charge(s), places, dates and penalties.

**4. Medical fitness**

# Fireworks operator medical examiner's certificate

**Assessment of fitness to use explosives — to be completed by health professional**

Were you familiar with the patient's medical history prior to this examination?  Yes  No

Family name  Given names

Date of birth   /   /

**I certify that I have examined the above-mentioned patient in accordance with the relevant national medical standards (commercial) as set out in the guideline *Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines* (September 2003). In my opinion the person the subject of this report:**

<input type="checkbox"/> Meets the criteria as set out in the guideline <i>Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines</i>	No further information required
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet the criteria as set out in the guideline <i>Assessing Fitness to Drive - Medical Standard for Licensing and Clinical Management Guidelines</i>	Examining health professional to note: 1. Criteria not met and other relevant medical details 2. Proposed restrictions to licence (if appropriate)
<input type="checkbox"/> Does not meet the medical criteria for an unconditional licence but may be suitable for a conditional licence based on opinion opposite (and additional details attached as required)  <i>Note that a conditional licence will not be issued unless adequate supporting information is provided by the examining health professional.</i>	3. Suggestions for management and periodic review interval (conditional licence)
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires appropriate specialist assessment	Examining health professional to note type of specialist recommended/referred.
<input type="checkbox"/> Requires occupational therapist assessment	
<input type="checkbox"/> Previously unlicensed or on conditional licence but condition has now improved so as to meet criteria for a conditional or unconditional licence.	Examining health professional to note: criteria previously not met; response to treatment and prognosis, duration of improvement; other relevant information.

Additional comments:

**Health professional's details** (please print)

Provider number  Date of examination   /   /

Reporting professional's name

Practice address

Phone  Email

Facsimile  Signature

**All** health professionals details **must** be completed in full. Incomplete certificates will result in application being returned.



**8. Checklist (please tick the boxes to ensure your application is complete)**

- Application form completed and signed
- A copy of documentation to support your fireworks competency, experience, skills and/or training
- A legible copy of both sides of your Motor Driver's Licence
- If applicable, a separate sheet briefly describing details of any offences resulting in convictions, and/or charges pending (refer part 3)
- A clear, passport-size photograph not more than 6 months old with your name printed on the back.  
**Please staple (through edge of photo) to the application to ensure it is not misplaced**
- Payment of licence fee

**Applicants applying for a licence under recognition of interstate Fireworks Operator Licences must also provide the following:**

- A certified copy of your current fireworks operator licence from another State/Territory of Australia
- A certified copy of your SSAN, or equivalent, licence/permit (applies only to SA, TAS and VIC applicants)
- A completed medical fitness certificate in accordance with part 4 (only if interstate licence did not include a medical)

**Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be returned.**

**Licences cannot be issued over the counter. Please post applications to the Department of Mines and Petroleum - Resources Safety. The processing time for compliant applications that do not need complex internal assessment is 20 business days.**

## 9. Payment details

Please forward your application and remittance by mail to:

Resources Safety — Department of Mines and Petroleum  
100 Plain Street, EAST PERTH WA 6004

Application no. *(office use only)*

EFO

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to: Department of Mines and Petroleum

### Fireworks Operator Licence

#### Complete this section if paying by credit card

Card number

Expiry date   /

Card type *(please tick)*  Master Card  Visa

Cardholder's name

Amount  Signature

Phone number of card holder  Date   /   /