Fireworks – **Shopgoods fireworks**

Applying to be an assessor >

All shopgoods fireworks imported into or manufactured in the Northern Territory by wholesalers must be tested by an independent approved Fireworks Assessor prior to being approved for sale. This bulletin outlines the requirements to be met in order to be approved as an assessor.

Legislation

Northern Territory Dangerous Goods Regulation calls up the Australian Standard Series AS 2187, which covers Explosives – Storage, Transport and Use. NT WorkSafe requires all imported shopgoods fireworks to perform to the requirements set out in AS 2187.3 Pyrotechnics – Shopgoods Fireworks – Design, Performance and Testing.

Northern Territory Dangerous Goods Regulation 132 details that a person shall not fire a charge of blasting explosives unless they are a licenced shotfirer. Testing of shopgoods fireworks fall into this category due to the fact that any of the fireworks may explode in circumstances beyond the scope of the prescribed shopgoods fireworks performance and powder weight during the testing. For this reason, Testing Assessors for shopgoods fireworks must be able to demonstrate a sound knowledge of explosives, and specific knowledge of fireworks and their operation.

Wholesalers

Persons wanting to import shopgoods fireworks into the Northern Territory, must have their fireworks tested by an third party fireworks assessor currently registered with the competent authority (NT WorkSafe) in the Northern Territory. Wholesalers who also hold shopgoods fireworks assessor status must employ an independent shopgoods fireworks assessor to test their products.

Requirements

Applicants must hold one of the following:

- a current NT Shotfirers licence; **or**
- a current pyrotechnical licence; **or**
- a licence as a Shopgoods Fireworks Testing Assessor interstate and can demonstrate their knowledge of the legislation in the Northern Territory.

Application

Please forward the following to NT WorkSafe:

- Application Form FM124 – Fireworks Assessor;
- Details of your current Shotfirer's Licence you hold (including conditions on your shotfirer's licence)
- Evidence of access to a suitable venue to set up a fireworks testing ground to ensure all safety requirements are met and the testing environment is presented as required in AS 2187.3. (This includes a facility where shopgoods fireworks can be dismantled, with care by an assessor, and weighed using tools that are non-sparking on copper plated bench-tops constructed to minimise static electricity by being correctly earthed to the ground. Earthing plates are to be provided to earth out personnel entering the dismantling and weighing area. Certified calibrated manual balance scales are to be used to correctly weigh pyrotechnic compositions.)
- A list of works carried out with fireworks (either display or shopgoods) over the past five years. This could include the following:
  - testing of shopgoods fireworks under supervision;
  - different locations and types of fireworks displays or experience that you have with fireworks or other explosives;
  - the companies with whom the experience was gained;
  - the dates the experience was gained including the total amount of time (in months & years) operating or working with the company;
- A safety management plan. This is to be a generic safety management plan covering how you would address the following:
  - Transport requirements of the explosives to be tested - Application Form FM116;
  - Storage requirements of the explosives to be tested - Application Form FM080;
  - Communication procedures to gain emergency support, and initial first aid procedures (including notification to relevant authorities prior to testing);
  - Fire control procedures;
  - Disposal plan of the surplus fireworks and the tested fireworks bodies; and
  - Detailed map of the testing location, its layout and the surrounding area.
- All new applicants must submit an application for registration by the close of business 31 March each year

Interview

The information forwarded by you to NT WorkSafe will be assessed and if approved you will be contacted by NT WorkSafe to arrange an interview time. During the interview you will be required to demonstrate your knowledge of the following:

- Transport and storage of shopgoods fireworks under the Northern Territory *Dangerous Goods Act* and Regulations;
- Duties of employers and workers as set out in the *Workplace Health and Safety Act*;
- Hazard identification and risk assessment as set out in the Northern Territory Workplace Health and Safety Regulations 38 to 45;
- Requirements of a shopgoods fireworks assessor in line with the Australian Standard AS 2187 –1999 Part 3: Pyrotechnics – Shopgoods fireworks-Design, performance and testing;
- Understanding of Gazettal notices in reference to banned fireworks from importation into Northern Territory.

Electronic database

NT WorkSafe has developed an electronic database for shopgoods fireworks assessors. This database is available on the NT WorkSafe web site and assessors must submit their testing results electronically. NT WorkSafe advises that those applying to be an assessor must have access to a computer with CD reading and burning capacity.

Certificate of Registration

Assessor status as a Testing Assessor for shopgoods fireworks registered in the Northern Territory:

- Will be initially for a period of 12 months with renewal extensions as per normal licensing conditions.
- Will be provided with a letter of confirmation of registration from the competent authority.

Relevant legislation is available from the NT WorkSafe website and the Australian Explosive Code is available from the Northern Territory Government Printing Office, located at Railway Street, Parap.

You should contact NT WorkSafe annually to request any updates on fireworks information.

Frequently asked questions

See NT WorkSafe information bulletin 07.02.06 – Fireworks - Assessors frequently asked questions.

NT WorkSafe >

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