

Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service Guidance for the Licensed Storage of Fireworks



**Tyne and Wear Fire
and Rescue Service**

Creating the Safest Community



The Explosives Regulations 2014 require anyone storing more than 5 kg nem (net explosive mass) of fireworks to obtain a Licence from the Fire Authority.

An approved Licence allows storage of up to 2,000 kg nem 'shop goods' fireworks in the premises.

Fireworks in all parts of the premises will be taken into account.

The Regulations make it an offence without holding a Licence to store fireworks.

Without holding a Licence it is an offence under the Regulations to store more than 50 kg nem of fireworks (hazard type 4) for more than 21 days. The fireworks must not be for sale or for use at work.

The maximum amount of fireworks (nem) allowed on the shop floor for a licence with no separation distance:

Total floor area of the sales area	Maximum quantity of fireworks kept under a licence requiring a separation distance of 0m
Up to 20	12.5 (nem – kg)
Up to 40	15
Up to 60	20
Up to 80	25
Up to 100	30
Up to 150	35
Up to 200	40
Up to 250	45
Up to 300	50
Up to 350	55
Up to 400	60
Up to 450	65
Up to 500	70
500 and over	75

Display storage should be kept in secure or supervised display cases or cabinets that each holds no more than 12.5 kg nem. (The use of metal dustbins is now discouraged due to the possible accumulation of loose powder in the bottom).

In Licensed premises that require a separation distance of greater than 0m, quantities of up to 150 kg nem can be stored in sales area.

Fireworks requiring storage in an ISO container outside the building should have adequate separation distances maintained from buildings, parked vehicles, goods pallets and may be required to be fitted with lightning protection.

Storage adjoining or in the same building as domestic/sleeping accommodation

If more than 75kg of Hazard Type 4 are kept in a store within or adjoining, a building containing domestic/sleeping accommodation, suitable steps must be taken to protect residents of those premises in the event of a fire. The following precautions must be taken:

- A fire detection system must be installed in the shop.
- The domestic parts of the building must have access/exit routes that are fire-separated from those used for the pyrotechnic store.
- There must be suitable fire separation between the pyrotechnic store and the domestic accommodation.
- The store must be closed off and secured from the domestic part of the property in order to prevent unauthorised access and to help prevent accidental introduction of sources of ignition.

Hazard Type

The definitions of hazard types are given below together with additional explanatory information for HT1, HT2, HT3 and HT4.

Hazard Type 1 is an explosive which, as a result of, or as a result of any effect of, the conditions of its storage or process of manufacture, has a mass explosion hazard (a mass explosion is one in which the entire body of explosives explodes as one);

Hazard Type 2 is an explosive which, as a result of, or as a result of any effect of, the conditions of its storage or process of manufacture, has a serious projectile hazard but does not have a mass explosion hazard;

Hazard Type 3 is an explosive which, as a result of, or as a result of any effect of, the conditions of its storage or process of manufacture, has a fire hazard and either a minor blast hazard or a minor projection hazard, or both, but does not have a mass explosion hazard (i.e. those explosives which give rise to considerable radiant heat or which burn to produce a minor blast or projection hazard); and

Hazard Type 4 is an explosive which, as a result of, or as a result of any effect of, the conditions of its storage or process of manufacture, has a fire or slight explosion hazard, or both, with only local effect (i.e. those explosives which present only a low hazard in the event of ignition or initiation, where no significant blast or projection of fragments of appreciable size or range is expected).

Separation distances will apply for storing each and a combination of each hazard type. For further information please refer to <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2005/1082/contents/made>

General Precautions

1. Fireworks should be kept in a dry storage place exclusively for that purpose and kept away from flammable materials, chemicals & other hazardous substances.
2. Containers should be marked 'Fireworks – Highly Flammable' and access restricted from members of the public and supervised at all times.
3. Keep fireworks in a suitable spark-proof container or a closed display cabinet, which prevent access to members of the public.
4. No containers used for the storage of fireworks should be used for storing other goods.
5. No Smoking notices should be displayed in the firework storage and sales area. Electrical sockets and fittings should be disconnected from supply if fitted in display cabinets or dummy fireworks used. In storerooms, electrical equipment should be removed (other than light fittings and fire detection equipment). A clear space should be left between the light fitting(s) and the fireworks.
6. Fireworks kept in a storeroom should be kept in their transportation boxes and closed again after removal of some of the goods.
7. Where larger quantities of fireworks are permitted to be stored there should be a substantial barrier between fireworks and flammable items (e.g. a wall, or in larger shops/stores fireworks kept in original transportation boxes in small gauge wire cage in a separate demarcated area in storeroom.
8. Where fireworks are stored on the shop floor keep the amount to a minimum and avoid excessive movement of fireworks between storage area and point of sale (No more than 12.5 kg nem should be moved at any one time).
9. Space heaters are to be placed well away from fireworks and keep containers away from sources of ignition.
10. Do not store fireworks in a shop window (use dummy boxes).
11. Provide and maintain suitable water type portable fire extinguishers and ensure persons are trained to use them in the event of fire.
12. Ensure all staff are clear on what action must be taken in the event of fire and that staff and customers know how to evacuate the shop in an emergency. Display a conspicuous notice telling staff and others what to do in the event of a fire.
13. Ensure persons are able to evacuate. You must not block exit escape routes with goods and keep them clear at all times. Ensure fireworks are not stored in corridors or under stairways.
14. Anyone who stores fireworks must take appropriate measures to prevent fire or explosion; limit the extent of fire or explosion and protect people from fire and explosion.

Other Legal Requirements

The Fireworks Safety Regulations 1997 prohibit the supply of fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Under the Fireworks Regulations 2004 retailers must display a notice with the following information:

- It is illegal to sell category F2 fireworks or category F3 fireworks to anyone under the age of 18
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 to possess category F2 fireworks or category F3 fireworks in a public place

An additional approved Licence is required to supply or expose for supply any adult firework throughout the year except during the following periods:

- November 5th (15th October to 10th November)
- New Year (26th December to 31st December)
- Chinese New Year (on the first day of the Chinese New Year and the three days immediately preceding it)
- Diwali (on the day of Diwali and the three days immediately preceding it)

This is in addition to any Licence allowing you to store fireworks

For full requirements you may need to adhere to for the storage of explosives please refer to <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2005/1082/contents/made>