

EIG Brief Guide #10: ER2014 – Explosives in Education

Brief guidance for those using explosives in educational demonstrations and training.

Manufacture and Storage

The manufacture and storage of small quantities of explosives used for educational demonstrations is covered by the Explosive Regulations 2014 (ER2014) which describes general measures needed to prevent fire and explosion. In most cases the quantities used for demonstration purposes lie below the limits which need licenced storage.

0.5g of any pyrotechnic substance may be manufactured for immediate demonstration without a licence

Security

General security provisions are covered by ER2014. It is not necessary to hold an explosives certificate for demonstrations using less than 0.5g of explosive provided certain conditions are met, however for quantities over this amount an explosives certificate may be required and the guide below gives further details on suitable wording for the licencing authority to adopt.

Transport

All explosives must be classified before they are transported. Explosives that already have classifications from an ADR signatory country do not need to be reclassified in the UK but the importer should hold copies of any such classification documents in a form readily understood by the enforcing authorities. EIG have produced guidance on the changes to classification in the UK – see <http://www.eig.org.uk/eig2007/?p=271>

Use

Demonstrating explosives as part of general or specific education or training is not covered by any specific regulations, however the general provisions of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 apply and all demonstrations should be subject to a suitable and sufficient risk assessment taking into consideration

- what is to be manufactured
- how it (or its component parts) is to be transported and stored
- the nature of the venue
- disposal

Product Conformity, Sale and Supply

Materials demonstrated as part of education or training should not be sold or supplied.

More information

EIG, the RSC and the RI have published a guide on the use of explosives in education – available at <http://www.eig.org.uk/?p=448>

HSE's website contains more information on compliance – see <http://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/index.htm>

HSE has published two Overarching guides to ER2014

- L150 – dealing with the safety provisions of the Regulations
- L151 – dealing with the security provisions of the Regulations

EIG, the RSC and the RI have produced a guide to the use of explosives in an educational environment. See <http://www.eig.org.uk/?p=448>