

EIG Brief Guide #4: ER2014 – Professional Display Fireworks

Brief guidance for manufacturers, importers and users of Category 4 fireworks in professional displays

Manufacture and Storage

Manufacture and storage of explosives is covered by the Explosive Regulations 2014 (ER2014) which describes general measures needed to prevent fire and explosion and minimise the effects in the event of a fire or explosion. They detail the “Separation Distances” needed around buildings holding explosives depending on the Hazard Type and quantities of explosives held, the structural nature of the building and the nature of neighbouring properties, roads etc. They also detail where licencing is required, who the licencing authority is and some of the conditions of the licence.

Storage sites can be licenced by Local Authorities (up to 2te NEC) or by HSE and the provisions for allowing limited preparation of display fireworks in a building on a site licenced by the Local Authority remain.

Licensing of display sites is only required when the fireworks may be present in a store on site (ie not in the process of being rigged) for extended periods.

Security

General security provisions are covered by ER2014 but in most cases professional display fireworks are exempt from the security provisions in ER2014. However other items associated with the preparation of a firework display (including blackpowder and certain fuses and igniters) may require an “Explosives Certificate” before they can be acquired or kept.

Transport

Display fireworks must be classified before they are transported. Fireworks 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>

Fireworks that have been modified in the UK prior to transporting to the display venue may require classification by HSE.

Use

The Health and Safety at Work Act (HSWA) and ER2014 cover general aspects of display site safety, but there are few specific Regulations covering use of display fireworks. However displays should be subject to appropriate risk assessment covering hazards to operators, other performers, structures and the audience and should consider aspects including: the handling and storage (if any) of fireworks on site, fallout from fireworks, product failures, rigging methods, the effects of smoke and disposal of any misfires.

Product Conformity, Sale and Supply

Category 4 fireworks must be CE marked according to the Pyrotechnic Articles (Safety) Regulations (See the EIG Guide at <http://www.eig.org.uk/eig2007/wp-content/uploads/pasr.pdf>). Fireworks manufactured for a display company’s own use and which are not placed on the market (including items assembled before being transported to the display site) do not require CE marking.

Category 4 fireworks may only be sold to persons with Specialist Knowledge” (PwSK).

Supply of Category 4 fireworks to third parties does require all such products to be CE marked, but the provision of the service of a fireworks display is not considered to be supply of fireworks.

More information

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

*This guide has been prepared by the Explosives Industry Group (EIG) of the CBI.
Further details on the EIG may be found at <http://www.eig.org.uk>.*

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

In addition HSE has produced a guide for Professional Display Operators which may shortly be available.



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