



**COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES  
FIRE DEPARTMENT  
FIRE PREVENTION DIVISION**

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## **EXPLOSIVES & FIREWORKS PERMIT REQUIREMENTS**

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Appendix Chapter 1, section 105.6.14 of the Los Angeles County Fire Code states that permits required by the Fire Code shall be obtained from the fire code official. An operational permit is required for the manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of any quantity of explosives, explosive materials, fireworks or pyrotechnic special effects within the scope of Chapter 33 in addition to displays of fireworks, including proximate audience displays and pyrotechnic special effects in theatrical, and group entertainment productions, shall comply with chapter 33, 33A and *Title 19 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 10 & 33*, For fireworks requirements, see Title 19 California Code of Regulations, Chapter 6.

### **Fireworks:**

Health & Safety Code section 12574 and section 12599 require a retail sales license for retail sales of safe and sane fireworks for private use. See Article 33 & 33a and additional requirements may be applicable.

Obtain CSFM retail sales license prior to June 15.

All required city permits and licenses shall be obtained by permittee 10 days prior to sales opening. Copies of required licenses shall be attached to Fire Department permit. HSC 12643

Location of fireworks stands must meet the following distance requirements:

1. Stands shall not be located within 25 feet (7620mm) of all buildings with a fire resistive rating of less than one hour.
2. Stands shall be set back a minimum of 15 feet (4572mm) from the curb line.
3. Vehicles shall be kept away from stands at least 25 feet (7620mm).
4. All dry vegetation and combustibles shall be cleared a minimum of 25 feet (7620mm) away from the stand.
5. Stands shall not be located within 100 feet (30480mm) of storage of flammable or combustible liquids. HSC 12679

Stand exits shall be at least 36 inches (914.4mm) in width and be provided at both ends of the structure. Stands in excess of 24 feet (7315.2mm) in length shall be provided with an exit door within a travel distance of no more than 12 feet (3657.6mm). Exit aisles of not less than 36 inches (914.4mm) in width shall be maintained free of obstructions at ALL TIMES. Exit doors shall open outward from the stands.

Stands shall be of wood or metal construction, built with solid roof, rear wall and ends. No stand shall have a floor area in excess of 400 square feet (37.2m<sup>2</sup>). No stand shall be constructed with a depth of more than 12 feet (3657.6mm). The front shall be of solid wood or metal 3 feet (914.4mm) in height from the ground level to the display shelf. The display shelves shall have a panel of unbreakable glass or ¼ inch (6.35mm) wire mesh screen a minimum of 18 inches (457.2mm) in height between the public and display of fireworks.

Smoking shall be prohibited within 15 feet (7620mm) of any stand. "NO SMOKING" signs shall be displayed inside and outside the stand to clearly indicate this restriction. Lettering shall be not less than 3 inches (76.2mm) in height. CCR T-19 sec. 991.4

Signs shall be posted stating "FIREWORKS SHALL NOT BE SOLD TO PERSONS UNDER 16 YEARS OF AGE". Lettering shall not be less than 3 inches (76.2mm) in height.

There shall be at least one person 21 years of age or older competent in controlling the stand's operation. No person under the age of 18 years old shall be allowed in the stand at any time. Fireworks stands containing fireworks shall be guarded at all times. No person shall sleep or remain inside the stand when it is not open.

No person shall sell or handle fireworks while under the influence of intoxicating liquids or narcotics.

Each stand shall be provided with a minimum of (2) two and one-half gallon (9.46L) water type fire extinguishers in good working condition and easily accessible for use. Extinguishers shall have been certified by a California State licensed fire extinguisher contractor within the last twelve months.

When 12-volt electrical installations are provided in fireworks stands, all wiring shall run in approved raceways and enclosed fixtures shall be provided for lights. The battery shall be in an enclosure to protect it from any physical damage.

All fireworks on the premises must bear the California State fire Marshal's "SAFE AND SANE" label. HSC 12568

The sale of fireworks is only permitted from NOON of June 28 to NOON of July 6 each year. Cities may restrict sale period to a more restrictive time span. HSC 12599

A copy of the Fire Department permit and the State Fire Marshal Retail Sales License shall be posted at the location of the fireworks stand for the duration of the sale.

The premises shall be cleared of all structures and debris within 72 hours after midnight on the 4<sup>th</sup> of July. This includes completely removing the stand from the premises.

All persons requesting a PERMIT TO RECEIVE EXPLOSIVES from the Los Angeles County Fire Department are required to submit and comply with the following:

1. A completed Application for permit to receive explosives. This is obtained from the Petrochemical Unit. Incomplete forms will be returned. List the types and amounts of explosives, blasting agents, smokeless powder or pyrotechnic devices and their intended uses.
  2. A check in the amount of \$12.00 per permit, payable to the County of Los Angeles Fire Department.
  3. Proof of public liability insurance or a corporate surety bond in the amount of \$100,000.
  4. Completed Department of Justice fingerprint card for new applicants
- The fee for issuance of a permit under this section shall, in all cases, be twelve dollars (\$12.00). In cases in which the quantity of explosives is one hundred pounds or less, the sum of one dollar (\$1.00) shall be deposited into the state treasury upon issuance of a permit. In all other cases the sum of five dollars (\$5.00) shall be deposited into the state treasury.

### **Blasters**

1. Copy of California Blasters License (both sides).
2. Certificate of Eligibility
3. Additional permits for each blasting operation, transportation and storage of explosives are required.

### **Special Effects**

1. Copy of California State Pyrotechnic license
2. Certificate of Eligibility Additional permits are required for special effects operations.
3. Contact the Community Relations office film desk for additional information. **818-364-8240**

### **Gunpowder Sales**

1. Copy of U.S. BATF firearms sales license.
2. Floor plan of business indicating location of the Class II storage magazine.

### **Manufacturing, Testing, Etc.**

1. Copy of California State license.
2. Proof of public liability insurance or corporate surety bond in the amount of \$100,000.

**Explosive material standard.** In addition to the requirements of this chapter, NFPA 95 shall govern the manufacture, transportation, storage, sale, handling and use of explosive materials.

**Explosive material terminals.** In addition to the requirements of this chapter, the operation of explosive material terminals shall conform to the provisions of NFPA 498.

**Fireworks.** The possession, manufacture, storage, sale, handling and use of fireworks are prohibited.

#### **Exceptions:**

1. Storage and handling of fireworks as allowed in Section 3304A.
2. Manufacture, assembly and testing of fireworks as allowed in Section 3305A.
3. The use of fireworks for display as allowed in Section 3308A.
4. The possession, storage, sale, handling and use of specific types of Division 1.4G fireworks where allowed by applicable laws, ordinances and regulations, provided such fireworks comply with, CPSC 16 CFR, Parts 1500 and 1507, and DOT 49 CFR, Parts 100-178, for consumer fireworks.

**Rocketry.** The storage, handling and use of model and high-power rockets shall comply with the requirements of NFPA1122, NFPA1125, and NFPA1127.

**Ammonium nitrate.** The storage and handling of ammonium nitrate shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 490 and Chapter 40.

**Exception:** Storage of ammonium nitrate in magazines with blasting agents shall comply with the requirements of NFPA 495.

**Residential uses.** No person shall keep or store, nor shall any permit be issued to keep or store, any explosives at any place of habitation, or within 100 feet (30 480 mm) thereof.

**Exception:** Storage of smokeless propellant, black powder, and small arms primers for personal use and not for resale in accordance with Section 3306A.

**Sale and retail display.** No person shall construct a retail display nor offer for sale explosives, explosive materials, or fireworks upon highways, sidewalks, public property, or in Group A or E occupancies.

**Permit restrictions.** The fire code official is authorized to limit the quantity of explosives, explosive materials, or fireworks permitted at a given location. No person, possessing a permit for storage of explosives at any place, shall keep or store an amount greater than authorized in such permit. Only the kind of explosive specified in such a permit shall be kept or stored.

**Financial responsibility.** Before a permit is issued, as required by Section 3301A.2, the applicant shall file with the jurisdiction a corporate surety bond in the principal sum of \$100,000 or a public liability insurance policy for the same amount, for the purpose of the payment of all damages to persons or property which arise from, or are caused by, the conduct of any act authorized by the permit upon which any judicial judgment results. The fire code official is authorized to specify a greater or lesser amount when, in his or her opinion,

conditions at the location of use indicate a greater or lesser amount is required. Government entities shall be exempt from this bond requirement.

**Blasting.** Before approval to do blasting is issued, the applicant for approval shall file a bond or submit a certificate of insurance in such form, amount and coverage as determined by the legal department of the jurisdiction to be adequate in each case to indemnify the jurisdiction against any and all damages arising from permitted blasting.

**Fireworks display.** The permit holder shall furnish a bond or certificate of insurance in an amount deemed adequate by the fire code official for the payment of all potential damages to a person or persons or to property by reason of the permitted display, and arising from any acts of the permit holder, the agent, employees or subcontractors.

**Prohibited explosives.** Permits shall not be issued or renewed for possession, manufacture, storage, handling, sale or use of the following materials and such materials currently in storage or use shall be disposed of in an approved manner.

1. Liquid nitroglycerin.
2. Dynamite containing more than 60-percent liquid explosive ingredient.
3. Dynamite having an unsatisfactory absorbent or one that permits leakage of a liquid explosive ingredient under any conditions liable to exist during storage.
4. Nitrocellulose in a dry and uncompressed condition in a quantity greater than 10 pounds (4.54 kg) of net weight in one package.
5. Fulminate of mercury in a dry condition and fulminate of all other metals in any condition except as a component of manufactured articles not hereinafter forbidden.
6. Explosive compositions that ignite spontaneously or undergo marked decomposition, rendering the products of their use more hazardous, when subjected for 48 consecutive hours or less to a temperature of 167°F (75°C).
7. New explosive materials until approved by DOT, except that permits are allowed to be issued to educational, governmental or industrial laboratories for instructional or research purposes.
8. Explosive materials condemned by DOT.
9. Explosive materials containing an ammonium salt and a chlorate.
10. Explosives not packed or marked as required by DOT 49 CFR, Parts 100-178.

**Exception: Gelatin dynamite.**

**Qualifications.** Persons in charge of magazines, blasting, fireworks display, or pyrotechnic special effect operations shall not be under the influence of alcohol or drugs which impair sensory or motor skills, shall be at least 21 years of age, licensed by the State of California as a blaster and shall demonstrate knowledge of all safety precautions related to the storage, handling or use of explosives, explosive materials or fireworks.

**Storage with other materials.** Magazines shall be used exclusively for the storage of explosive materials and other blasting materials approved by the fire code official. Tools, other than approved conveyors, shall not be stored in magazines. Items of hardware which contain igniters, detonators, propellants or explosives shall not be stored in the same magazine with other explosives. Explosives which are subject to mass detonation, such as lead azide, lead styphanate, dynamite, photo flash powder and black powder shall not be stored with other explosives.

**Exception:** Black sporting powder may be stored with smokeless sporting powder in retail commercial stores when quantities are limited to those allowed in Section 3306A with the approval of the fire code official.

**Supervision.** The fire code official is authorized to require operations permitted under the provisions of Section 3301A.2 to be supervised at any time by the fire code official in order to determine compliance with all safety and fire regulations.

**Notification.** Whenever a new explosive material storage or manufacturing site is established, including a temporary job site, the local law enforcement agency, fire department, and local emergency planning committee shall be notified 48 hours in advance, not including Saturdays, Sundays and holidays, of the type, quantity and location of explosive materials at the site.

**Seizure.** The fire code official is authorized to remove or cause to be removed or disposed of in an approved manner, at the expense of the owner, explosives, explosive materials or fireworks offered or exposed for sale, stored, possessed or used in violation of this chapter.

**Establishment of quantity of explosives and distances.**

The quantity of explosives and distances shall be in accordance with Sections 3301A.8.1 and 3301A.8.1.1.

**Quantity of explosives.** The quantity-distance(Q-D) tables in Sections 3304A.5 and 3305A.3 shall be used to provide the minimum separation distances from potential explosion sites as set forth in Tables 3301A.8.1(1) through 3301A.8.1(3). The classification and the weight of the explosives are primary characteristics governing the use of these tables. The net explosive weight shall be determined in accordance with Sections 3301A.8.1.1 through 3301A.8.1.4.

**Loss, theft or unauthorized removal.** The loss, theft or unauthorized removal of explosive materials from a magazine or permitted facility shall be reported to the fire code official, local law enforcement authorities, and the U.S. Department of Treasury, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms within 24 hours.

**Accidents.** Accidents involving the use of explosives, explosive materials and fireworks, which result in injuries or property damage, shall be reported to the fire code official immediately.

**Misfires.** The pyrotechnic display operator or blaster in charge shall keep a record of all aerial shells that fail to fire or charges that fail to detonate.

**Hazard communication.** Manufacturers of explosive materials and fireworks shall maintain records of chemicals, chemical compounds and mixtures required by DOL 29 CFR, Part 1910.1200, and Section 407.

**Safety rules.** Current safety rules covering the operation of magazines, as described in Section 3304A.7, shall be posted on the interior of the magazine in a visible location.

Additional  
Requirements

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