

# INFORMATION SHEET

Code of Practice HSNOCOP 30-1  
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## Code of Practice for Outdoor Pyrotechnic Displays

### Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?

Codes of Practice are able to be approved by the Authority under Sections 78 and 79 of the HSNO Act. In practice they are approved by the ERMA New Zealand Chief Executive under delegated authority.

Codes of Practice can be 'how to' documents i.e. they tell you how you can meet the requirements of the HSNO regulations and controls in a way that is legally defensible. Furthermore, where specified in the legislation, Codes of Practice may specify alternatives to the nominated standards.

### What is this Code about?

**Outdoor Pyrotechnic Displays** has been prepared to enable compliance with the requirements of the Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations 2001 which relate to the operation and management of outdoor pyrotechnic displays. Primarily, these are regulations 35 – 43, *Controls on outdoor pyrotechnic displays using class 1 category G hazardous substances*, although the code also addresses other aspects of the lifecycle of pyrotechnic articles.

The purpose of the Code is to ensure the safe handling of pyrotechnics and the safe operation of outdoor pyrotechnic displays. It covers practical aspects of managing and firing pyrotechnic displays. It is designed to assist people involved in all aspects of outdoor pyrotechnic displays to understand their obligations under the HSNO regulations, and to provide guidance on the best and safest ways of complying with these regulations.

The Code is of relevance to:

- persons wishing to hold an outdoor pyrotechnic display;
- persons in charge of an outdoor pyrotechnic display;
- outdoor pyrotechnics approved handlers;
- test certifiers involved in issuing test certificates for outdoor pyrotechnic displays and approved handler test certificates to outdoor pyrotechnic operators; and
- enforcement officers.

The Code does not apply to:

- indoor pyrotechnic displays;

- retail fireworks;
- special effects for film, video and other purposes;
- distress signals, flares.

The code has been prepared for ERMA New Zealand by external consultants, in conjunction with a Working Group comprising members of the pyrotechnics industry, enforcement agencies and ERMA New Zealand. It has drawn substantially on material in the Queensland Government Code of Practice: *Control of Outdoor Fireworks Displays*, although the overall structure is based on the New Zealand regulatory requirements.

The code has been approved by ERMA as a Code of Practice under the HSNO Act only in respect of those matters applicable to the requirements of the HSNO regulations.

## What is in the Code?

It is not possible to give a full summary of the Code in this Information Sheet, but the following information will give you a good indication of what is covered in the Code.

The Code applies to the management of activities in the different phases of the life cycle of pyrotechnics and the equipment and associated activities for an outdoor pyrotechnic display, including:

- an overview of legislative requirements and description of key roles and responsibilities;
- the classification, packaging and labelling of pyrotechnics;
- the supply, storage, transport and tracking of pyrotechnics;
- planning and setting up outdoor pyrotechnic displays;
- the use and handling of pyrotechnics and pyrotechnics equipment;
- electric firing of pyrotechnic displays
- managing pyrotechnic displays;
- clean-up and post-display activities including disposal of pyrotechnics; and
- competency requirements for approved handlers involved in pyrotechnic displays.

The code also contains a number of standard forms and templates to be used for test certificates, display plans and safety checklists, and for notification requirements.

## Where can you get a copy of this Code?

A hard copy of the Code will be held at ERMA New Zealand's reception in our Wellington Office. You can inspect a copy there.

It can also be downloaded from the ERMA New Zealand website:

<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/compliance/codesofpractice.html>

## Conclusion

This information sheet has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether this Code is of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

## Further information or feedback

ERMA New Zealand publishes information sheets on a range of topics to provide background information on current issues or proposals being dealt with by the Authority. All publications may be viewed and downloaded from our website at [www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/index.asp](http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/index.asp) or may be requested by contacting ERMA New Zealand, P O Box 131, Wellington. Ph +64 4 916 2426 Fax +64 4 914 0433 Email [info@ermanz.govt.nz](mailto:info@ermanz.govt.nz)