

Importing fireworks

If you are importing fireworks, you must obtain an Import Certificate from ERMA New Zealand. This certificate will confirm that the fireworks are approved under the HSNO Act.

The Import Certificate will be required before New Zealand Customs Service will release the consignment.

Importers must also ensure that each consignment of fireworks is tested for its construction and design by a Test Certifier. If the fireworks meet the test requirements, the Test Certifier will issue a Test Certificate. An importer (or local manufacturer) must not supply fireworks to a retailer unless they have a Test Certificate.

More information on importing explosives, such as fireworks, including an Import Certificate application form, can be found on the ERMA New Zealand website, www.ermanz.govt.nz

Further information

For further information on your obligations when importing, storing or selling retail fireworks, see:

- Code of Practice for Retail Fireworks, 2007; published by ERMA New Zealand and available at: www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/compliance/codesofpractice.html
- Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001
- Hazardous Substances (Classes 1 to 5 Controls) Regulations 2001
- Hazardous Substances (Fireworks, Safety Ammunition, and Other Explosives Transfer) Regulations 2001.

The regulations can be purchased from Bennetts Bookshop or viewed online at www.legislation.govt.nz

ENVIRONMENTAL RISK MANAGEMENT AUTHORITY



NGĀ KAIWHAKATŪPATO WHAKARARU TAIAO

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YOUR GUIDE TO SELLING RETAIL FIREWORKS



Fireworks are controlled by the Hazardous Substances and New Organisms (HSNO) Act. The Fireworks Regulations 2001 made under this Act have recently been amended. There are now some new requirements for retail fireworks.

This leaflet tells you what you need to know if you are importing, storing or selling retail fireworks.

What you need to know about selling fireworks

You may only display fireworks for retail sale or sell them for four days prior to and including Guy Fawkes Day; **this is the period beginning 2 November and ending at the close of 5 November.**

You may only sell fireworks to persons aged 18 and over.

Sparklers can now be sold only in retail fireworks packages together with other fireworks. They must not be sold separately. No more than 50 sparklers can be sold in any single retail package.

Fireworks must not be sold to the public unless they have been tested and have a Test Certificate confirming they meet the requirements of the Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001. Certificates must be obtained by importers or local manufacturers before they supply fireworks to a retailer. Copies of Test Certificates must be given to retailers on request.

If you are handling 500 kg (gross weight) or more of fireworks at any one time, you will need to have an Approved Handler present. In addition, if you are storing a very large quantity of fireworks, you may need to have a Location Test Certificate for your store.

What about my shop?

You may only hold up to 1,000 kg (gross weight) of fireworks inside a retail premises.

If you hold more than this, you must establish a hazardous substance location and a controlled zone. Restricted access only is permitted in these areas.

You may hold up to 10,000 kg (gross weight) of fireworks total outside the shop in a standard ISO transport container or containers, which would constitute the hazardous substance location, providing no readily combustible material is present within 2 metres of the outside of the container. Local Council requirements may also apply.

If you are holding 10,000 kg (gross weight) or more of fireworks, you need to obtain a Test Certificate to verify that your hazardous substance location meets the safety requirements.

Any container (not packaging) used to secure fireworks must be of fire-resisting construction; lockable; and be monitored by a security system. Fireworks displayed for sale in areas accessible to the public must either be protected from any ignition source or packed in fire-resisting packaging.

Do I need an Approved Handler?

You don't need to be or have an Approved Handler unless you are handling 500 kg (gross weight) or more of retail fireworks. If you are, then you must:

- Ensure the fireworks are under the personal control of an Approved Handler; or
- Ensure the fireworks are handled by a person who has been provided with training and is under the direct supervision of an Approved Handler.

Who is an Approved Handler?

An Approved Handler is a person who has been certified by a Test Certifier as competent to handle retail fireworks.

To become an Approved Handler, you need to demonstrate to a Test Certifier that you have a working knowledge of handling retail fireworks and of the relevant provisions of the HSNO Act and regulations. The Test Certifier will issue you an Approved Handler Test Certificate.

How do I contact a Test Certifier?

You can find a list of test certifiers on the ERMA New Zealand website at: www.ermanz.govt.nz/search/tc/html

Test Certifiers are not employed by ERMA New Zealand, and there is no set fee for issuing an approved handler certificate. The cost of a certificate is a commercial arrangement between you and the Test Certifier.

Who will be enforcing the HSNO requirements?

The Department of Labour is responsible for enforcing HSNO in retail shops, warehouses and other places of work.