



Canadian National Fireworks Association

*Promoting fair access and safety in
the sale and use of fireworks*

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Explosives Regulations (ER) 2013: Came into force on 1 February 2014

In this article we begin to look at PART 16 CONSUMER FIREWORKS. From the first article in this series remember that consumer fireworks are Type F.1 and no longer 7.2.1.

Some of you may remember the day that these fireworks were called 'family fireworks'. This was changed to 'consumer fireworks' to get away from the inference that the whole family, including children, could use the fireworks. The topic of firecrackers will be addressed in a future article. 'Chinese firecrackers' became restricted about 40 years ago as a result of a tragic accident where two children died in a fire started by firecrackers.

If you have a licence from ERD you store fireworks in a 'magazine'; if you are not licensed you store the fireworks in a 'storage unit'. The quantity (mass/weight) that may be stored without a licence is explained in the next paragraph. The quantity also includes what is displayed for sale. The mass is gross mass, i.e., the mass of fireworks plus the packaging (differentiated from net explosive quantity (NEQ) which, in other parts, means the mass of the explosive composition only).

You can't store consumer fireworks for sale in a dwelling (a user may store 10 kg in a dwelling) or sell from a dwelling. If your sales establishment is in a building that contains a dwelling (for example a mom-and-pop store with living quarters upstairs) you are limited to 100 kg total on display and in a storage unit. Otherwise the limit for unlicensed storage (on display plus in storage units inside or outside your sales establishment) is 1000 kg.

This part is divided into two divisions. The first division applies to sellers and the second to users.

There are two kinds of sellers – distributors and retailers. A distributor sells to other distributors and retailers (as well as users) whereas a retailer sells to users. The fees for licences are different for distributors and retailers.

There are two kinds of retail sales establishment: permanent and temporary. These are based on the type of structures in which they are located as opposed to the length of time they are in operation. A permanent retail sales establishment is located in a 'permanent structure' whereas a temporary retail sales establishment is located in a 'tent, trailer, or other temporary structure'.



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The different types of licensed magazines for fireworks are described in the Auxiliary Explosives Storage Guide (AESG) available from ERD. For unlicensed storage of consumer fireworks in a storage unit see s. 349 of PART 16.

To be continued.