



Tyne & Wear Fire & Rescue Service Guidance for Registered / Licensed Storage of Fireworks

The Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 require anyone storing more than 5 kg nec (net explosive content) of fireworks to either register or obtain a Licence from the Fire Authority.

Registration - may store up to 250 kg nec 'shop goods' fireworks maximum in premises.

Licence – may store up to 2,000 kg nec 'shop goods' fireworks maximum in premises.

All fireworks in all parts of the premises will be taken into account

The Regulations make it an offence without holding a Registration/Licence to store fireworks.

Without holding a Registration/Licence it is an offence under the Regulations to store more than 50 kg nec of fireworks (hazard type 4) for more than 21 days. The fireworks must not be for sale or for use at work.

The maximum amount of fireworks (nec) allowed on the shop floor under Registration:

Floor area up to	20m ² = 12.5 kg	80m ² = 25 kg	300m ² = 50 kg
	40m ² = 15 kg	100m ² = 30 kg	400m ² = 60 kg
	60m ² = 20 kg	200m ² = 40 kg	500m ² = 75 kg

Display storage should be kept in secure or supervised display cases or cabinets that each holds no more than 12.5 kg nec. (The use of metal dustbins should now be discouraged due to the possible accumulation of loose powder in the bottom)

In Licensed premises quantities up to 150 kg nec can be stored in sales area with conditions agreed with the Fire Authority to cover:

1. Storage & display of fireworks in areas where they can be purchased.
2. Prevention of the risk of fire arising.
3. Safe provision of adequate means of escape.
4. Movement of fireworks from storage to point of sale.
5. Arrangements for customers to purchase fireworks.

Fireworks requiring storage in an ISO container outside the building should have adequate separation distances maintained from buildings, parked vehicles, goods pallets etc.

Licensed premises

	250 to 300 kg = 1m	300 to 340 kg = 2m	340 to 370 kg = 3m
* All weights net explosive content	370 to 400 kg = 4m	400 to 450 kg = 5m	450 to 500 kg = 6m

General Precautions

1. Fireworks should be kept in a dry storage place exclusively for that purpose and kept away from flammable materials, chemicals & other hazardous substances.

2. Containers should be marked 'Fireworks – Highly Flammable' and access restricted from members of the public and supervised at all times.
3. Keep fireworks in a suitable spark-proof container or a closed display cabinet, which prevent access to members of the public.
4. No containers used for the storage of fireworks should be used for storing other goods.
5. No Smoking notices should be displayed in the firework storage and sales area. Electrical sockets & fittings should be disconnected from supply if fitted in display cabinets or dummy fireworks used. In storerooms, electrical equipment should be removed (other than light fittings & fire detection equipment). A clear space should be left between the light fitting(s) & the fireworks.
6. Fireworks kept in a storeroom should be kept in their transportation boxes and closed again after removal of some of the goods.
7. Where larger quantities of fireworks are permitted to be stored there should be a substantial barrier between fireworks & flammable items (e.g. a wall, or in larger shops/stores fireworks kept in original transportation boxes in small gauge wire cage in a separate demarcated area in storeroom.
8. Where fireworks are stored on the shop floor keep the amount to a minimum and avoid excessive movement of fireworks between storage area and point of sale (No more than 12.5 kg nec should be moved at any one time).
9. Space heaters are to be placed well away from fireworks and keep containers away from sources of ignition.
10. Do not store fireworks in a shop window (use dummy boxes)
11. Provide & maintain suitable water type portable fire extinguishers and ensure persons are trained to use them in the event of fire.
12. Ensure all staff are clear on what action must be taken in the event of fire. The quickest way of calling the Fire Service and that staff and customers know how to evacuate the shop in an emergency. Display a conspicuous notice telling staff and others what to do in the event of a fire.
13. Ensure persons are able to evacuate. You must not block exit escape routes with goods; keep clear at all times. Ensure fireworks are not stored in corridors or under stairways.
14. Anyone who stores fireworks must take appropriate measures to prevent fire or explosion; limit the extent of fire or explosion and protect people from fire and explosion.

Other Legal Requirements

The Fireworks Safety Regulations 1997 prohibit the supply of fireworks to anyone under the age of 18 years.

Under the Fireworks Regulations 2004 retailers must display a notice with the following information:

- It is illegal to sell adult fireworks & sparklers to anyone under the age of 18 years.
- It is illegal for anyone under the age of 18 years to possess adult fireworks in a public place.

A License is required to supply or expose for supply any adult firework throughout the year. This is in addition to any Licence or Registration allowing you to store fireworks on:

- November 5th (15th October to 10th November)
- New Year (26th December to 31st December)
- Chinese New Year (on the first day of the Chinese New Year and the three days immediately preceding it)
- (d) Diwali (on the day of Diwali and the three days immediately preceding it)