

Guidance Sheet

IMPORTING FIREWORKS

GUIDE NO 1

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BPA Guide No. 1 – Importing Fireworks

Introduction

Importing fireworks directly from overseas manufacturers can provide commercial benefits, but it also places significant legal and regulatory responsibilities on the importer. The British Pyrotechnists Association (BPA) has produced this guide to help members understand the key considerations and minimise the risks associated with importing fireworks into the UK.

This guide is intended as an overview and should be read alongside all applicable UK legislation, transport regulations, product conformity requirements and licensing obligations.

Before Placing an Order

- Confirm that the manufacturer is capable of producing the fireworks to your required specification and quality standards.
- Verify that they fully understand the applicable UK and international standards.
- Ensure they have suitable quality assurance and production control systems in place.
- Confirm they understand all applicable product conformity requirements.
- Ensure compliant packaging for the transport of explosives.
- Understand all product marking and documentation requirements.
- Ensure prohibited or restricted substances (e.g. Hexachlorobenzene (HCB)) are not used.
- Confirm realistic production timescales.
- Establish whether any work will be subcontracted and require prior approval.
- Ensure contractual arrangements include appropriate warranties and indemnities for non-compliance or defective products.

Before Shipment

- Arrange independent inspection of the goods before shipment.
- Carry out representative performance testing.
- Verify chemical composition where appropriate.
- Confirm product conformity against the approved specification.
- Retain all inspection and test reports.
- Ensure no undeclared sample products are added to the shipment.
- Confirm shipping documentation accurately reflects the consignment.

Before Arrival in the UK

- Ensure suitable licensed storage is available with sufficient authorised capacity and the correct Hazard Type.
- Where consignments are split, confirm the haulier can undertake multiple deliveries or that the receiving store has adequate capacity.



- Ensure every product has been correctly classified before arrival.
- Confirm all transport documentation and approvals are complete.

On Arrival

- Unload fireworks safely using suitably trained personnel and appropriate equipment.
- Place products into licensed storage without unnecessary delay.
- Store in accordance with licence conditions.
- Maintain safe access and emergency escape routes.
- Arrange stock to facilitate inspection and stock control.

Record Keeping

- Retain purchase documentation.
- Retain test and inspection reports.
- Retain shipping and classification documentation.
- Retain product conformity documentation.
- Retain batch and storage records.

Good Practice

- Carry out due diligence before selecting a manufacturer.
- Maintain clear contractual agreements with suppliers.
- Use independent testing where appropriate.
- Verify compliance before products leave the country of manufacture.
- Ensure suitable storage and transport arrangements are in place.
- Maintain comprehensive records throughout the import process.
- Careful planning and robust quality assurance help protect your business, ensure legal compliance and maintain high standards of safety within the UK fireworks industry.