



Jersey Fire & Rescue

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Selling Fireworks - Retailers Guide



Jersey Fire & Rescue

**States
of Jersey**

Retailers guide: Selling Fireworks

If you sell fireworks you have certain obligations to the public and your staff

- You must apply for a retail licence from the Connétable in your respective Parish
 - Store fireworks safely
 - Don't sell to under 18's
 - Know your fire drill
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Frequently asked Questions and Answers

This guide offers helpful advice but, for more information contact Jersey Fire and Rescue, Fire Safety Department.

Q: Do I need a licence to store or retail fireworks?

A: Yes. You should apply to your Parish Connétable who will arrange for an inspection of your premises by the Fire and Rescue Service.

Q: Are there different categories of fireworks?

A: Yes. There are four categories of fireworks

- Those which may be supplied to the general public. (Categories 1 2* & 3*)
- Those which may only be supplied to a restricted range of persons for professional displays. (Categories 3* to 4)

*Some Category 2 & 3 fireworks are not for retail sale.

The following information only applies to retail sale of fireworks.

Q: When can I sell fireworks?

A: One of the conditions of a Retail Sales licence is that fireworks will only be on general sale to the public over a period determined by the Comité Des Connétables. (This period will be indicated in the annual retail licence).

Q: How should I sell fireworks?

A: Fireworks should be sold in manufacturers' packed sets. The contents of these must not be taken out of their packs and sold separately. Only some sparklers and some larger individual devices can be sold unpacked

Q: How should fireworks be stored and displayed?

A: Up to 25kg Net (NEC) of fireworks may be stored. These must be in substantial receptacles capable of being secured and not contain more than 12.5kg net (NEC). The maximum amount of fireworks that can be kept in a room where the public have access is 12.5kg Net (NEC).

Other key points

- Exclude sources of ignitions
- Stop people smoking anywhere near fireworks
- Keep fireworks away from space heaters
- Avoid handling of fireworks unnecessarily
- Keep fireworks in closed transport packaging
- **Don't** decant fireworks into metal dustbins
- **Don't** store fireworks near articles that could easily catch fire leading to the fire spreading to the fireworks.
- **Don't** store fireworks near other articles that could spread the fire.
- **Don't** store with flammable items such as white spirit or nylon tights and stockings.
- **Don't** store near pallets, cardboard boxes and paper.
- **Don't** store near parked vehicles.
- Ensure that all fireworks in the shop sales area are kept in a suitable display or storage cabinet.
- Ensure all escape routes and fire exits are clear and fire exit doors unlocked.
- **Don't** store or display anywhere near an escape route or fire exit.
- Don't store an excessive amount either in the shop or in the storage areas.
- Don't store more than you are allowed to store under your retail licence.
- You must not put fireworks in your shop window.
- Any container being used for storing fireworks must not contain other items.
- When fireworks are actually being sold, keep them exposed for as little time as possible.

Please note you must take special precautions if you share a building with flats or maisonettes.

Your fireworks supplier is also a useful source of information and advice.

Q: What special fire precautions are needed?

A: Your premises should already meet current Health and Safety and Fire Safety regulations, so what follows is extra advice for the period while you are selling fireworks and is not a complete statement of your obligations.

- Don't store fireworks in passageways or under stairs and make sure you keep these clear at all times. Don't obstruct any doors. Fireworks must only be stored in agreed locations with the Fire and Rescue Service, and never located in the window.
- Keep water-type fire extinguishers handy and make sure they are properly maintained. Buckets of water or sand are useful as a standby
- A "**NO SMOKING**" notice in 50mm red lettering on a white background must be displayed by storage and display areas.
- Make sure you (and any staff) know how to call the Fire and Rescue Service quickly. Have a display notice that tells everyone what to do if there is a fire
- If someone suspects a fire, get everyone out of your shop and call the Fire and Rescue Service immediately. As soon as the Fire Officer arrives, tell them that fireworks are involved and explain where and how the fireworks are stored

Q: How can I encourage the safe use of fireworks?

A: As a responsible retailer, you should provide and display safety leaflets featuring the Fireworks Code - available from BIS, Trading Standards, the States of Jersey Fire & Rescue Service and manufacturers, free of charge. These should be displayed alongside the fireworks, ensuring your customers get essential safety advice

- Watch the age limit for buying fireworks. Don't sell to anyone under 18 – anti-social behaviour with fireworks can be a problem.

Summary of the law on fireworks

Explosives (Jersey) Law 1970

Article 8 Fireworks

- (1) No person shall sell fireworks by retail except in accordance with a licence granted to the person by the Connétable of the parish in which the place from which the fireworks are sold is situated.
- (2) Every fireworks licence shall expire on the 31st December next following the date on which it is granted and may be renewed annually on application being made to the appropriate Connétable.
- (3) In considering whether to grant or refuse to grant, or renew a fireworks licence, a Connétable shall have regard to the public safety, to the fitness of the applicant to sell fireworks and to the suitability of the premises from which the fireworks are to be sold and shall consult with the Chief Officer of the Fire Service regarding the application generally.
- (4) A Connétable may attach such conditions as he or she thinks fit to the grant or renewal of a fireworks licence.
- (5) Subject to the provisions of this Law, a Connétable may, at any time, where he or she considers it right and proper to do so, cancel a fireworks licence or vary any conditions attached to such licence.

Article 17 Code of Requirement

- (1) The Minister shall prepare a code comprising such requirements and directions as appear to the Minister to be proper for the guidance of persons using or handling explosives and may from time to time revise the code in such manner as the Minister thinks fit.
- (2) The Minister shall cause the code and any revision thereof to be printed and shall present the same to the States for their information.

Code of Requirements

The Home Affairs Committee is the administrative authority on all matters relating to explosive materials where the safety of the public and the interests of the community as a whole are concerned. By virtue of the Explosives (Jersey) law 1970, as amended by the Explosives (Amendment) (Jersey) Law 1978, it is the responsibility of the Committee to define and specify the conditions regulating the importation, manufacture, storage, use, conveyance, sale, purchase, transfer, acquisition and possession of explosives

Part 4 of the Code of Requirements refers to the Keeping of Fireworks and outlines the general conditions relating to the importation, storage and sale of fireworks.

General

The following fireworks must not be supplied to the general public:

- Aerial shells, aerial maroons, shells-in-mortar and maroons -in-mortar
- All bangers (including 'batteries' containing bangers, such as Chinese Crackers)
- Mini-rockets
- Fireworks with erratic flight (eg ground spinners, jumping crackers, squibbs)
- Some Category 2 and 3 fireworks (as classified by BS 7114) which exceed size limits. (Limits identified in the UK Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997)
- All Category 4 fireworks

Other measures

- Packets of sparklers to carry additional warning - **“Warning: not to be given to children under five years of age”**.
- Retail boxes of fireworks not to be split.
- All fireworks intended for use by the general public must comply with British Standard BS 7114 Part 2: 1998
- It is an offence to keep fireworks (except those for private use) on premises which have not been registered or licensed for that purpose
- It is an offence to throw or discharge a firework in a street or public place
- It is an offence to alter or manufacture a firework

Penalties

- Failure to comply with these requirements can result in prosecution, with a prison sentence and a fine

And finally.....

- Keep all fireworks in a dry place
- Label all containers **“Fireworks - Highly Flammable”** (and always keep these containers closed)
- Don't allow any smoking anywhere near fireworks being displayed or sold. Put up **“No Smoking”** notices
- Unplug any electrical fitting that is inside a display case containing fireworks
- Never let customers handle any fireworks while they are choosing



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For more information contact Jersey Fire & Rescue Fire Safety Department on
445967