



### **Explanatory Notes**

**Please read these notes carefully and retain them for your information**

- A licence is not required if you want to purchase, possess and use fireworks classified under category 1 (suitable for indoor use) or sparklers classified under Category 2 of British Standard BS 7114:1988 (suitable for use in the average garden). You must have a licence before you can purchase, possess and use any other type of fireworks – that is, those classified under categories 2, 3 or 4 of BS 7114:1988 or its European equivalent. There is a separate application form for category 3 and 4 fireworks.
- The applicant is normally the person purchasing, possessing and using the fireworks.
- The license is only valid for the period stated on it.
- We will not normally issue a license for fireworks to be used between 11pm and 7am.
- A licence for a display that is being held at a location other than your private address will identify the firer of the fireworks (the person who must use the fireworks) and the person responsible for safety before, during and after the display – the same person may perform one or more of these roles. You must also provide a site plan. Guidance on the preparation of one is available from this office, or from [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com). The site plan asks you to indicate the position of stewards. Two stewards should be provided for the first 50 spectators, plus an extra steward for every additional 250 spectators. The stewards should be briefed to carry out their duties effectively prior to the event.
- **You will only be licensed to purchase, possess and use the fireworks listed at section 4 of your application form.** Your fireworks retailer can help you complete this. If you wish to purchase a boxed selection of fireworks the name of the manufacturer and the name of the boxed selection must be stated. In all other cases the manufacturer and type of firework must be stated. The type of fireworks should be: fountain; Roman candle; mine; wheel; rocket; combination, etc.
- The application should be submitted to us in sufficient time to allow us to process it and as this process can take up to 3 weeks. At busy times, particularly during the Halloween period, any delay in submitting your application could result in a licence not being issued as we could not guarantee to process it in time.

Note - The retailer is required to make a record of your purchase of fireworks but he should not take your licence or any part of it from you as it must accompany your fireworks at all times.

#### **Payment of the licence fee**

Payment can be made by cheque or postal order and must be enclosed with your application form. If it is not possible for you to pay this way please telephone this office. **CASH OR POST DATED CHEQUES WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

Where the number of persons at your fireworks display will be:

- Fewer than 100, the fee is £30.
- 100 or more but fewer than 1000, the fee is £80.
- More than 1000, the fee is £160.

**Please make your cheque/postal order payable to: “Department of Justice No 1 Account” and write the applicant’s name clearly on the back.**

### **Important note**

The Department of Justice will not issue a licence if, for any reason, it considers it inappropriate to do so, for example on the grounds of health and safety. In accordance with Schedule 3 of the regulations the fee for the processing of the licence will not be refunded if a licence is refused on the grounds of health and safety or if you withdraw your application within 10 days of the date of the proposed fireworks display.

### **Insurance**

We strongly recommend that you insure your proposed display as you may be liable for any damage, injury or distress that your fireworks cause.

### **Enquiries**

If you have any questions about your application or licence, please contact us:

**Firearms and Explosives Branch  
Department of Justice  
Block B  
Castle Buildings  
Stormont Estate  
Belfast  
BT4 3SG**

**Tel: 028 9052 0057/028 9052 3150**

**Fax: 028 9052 0194**

**Email: [feb@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:feb@dojni.x.gsi.gov.uk)**

### **Safety at fireworks displays**

The Health and Safety Executive has published a booklet giving advice about recommended safety procedures at fireworks displays entitled “**Giving your own Fireworks Display**” (HS(G)124). The booklet is aimed specifically at those persons or organisations who plan to run their own fireworks display and have no specialist knowledge. The guide gives advice on such matters as selecting a suitable site; spectator safety; firing the fireworks; and what you do if something goes wrong.

A copy of the guide may be purchased from HSE Books, PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk CO10 6FS, tel: 01787 881165, ordered online at [www.hsebooks.co.uk](http://www.hsebooks.co.uk) or may be available for reference at your local library. We strongly recommend that you follow the guidance and advice contained in the booklet.

Further advice on firework safety can be found online at [www.saferfireworks.com](http://www.saferfireworks.com).

### **Firework safety**

Read the manufacturer’s instructions on each individual firework well before your display so that you know how to use them.

Have a bucket of water handy in case of an emergency.

Have a torch so that you can read the instructions on the fireworks.

Light fireworks at arm’s length, using a taper or portfire.

Follow the Firework Safety Code; this means that you should for example:

Only buy fireworks marked BS 7114, and only from a registered retailer.

Do not drink alcohol before letting off fireworks.

Never go near a firework that has been lit. Even if it has not gone off, it could still explode.

Never put fireworks in your pocket or throw them.

Always supervise children around fireworks and keep pets indoors.