

INFORMATION SHEET

Code of Practice HSNOCOP 18-2
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Code of Practice for Retail Fireworks

This Code of Practice has been developed by ERMA New Zealand, and is called:

Retail Fireworks: Design, Performance, Testing, Storage, Transport, Sale and Use

Codes of Practice: What are they and what is their significance?

Codes of Practice are documents approved by the Authority under Sections 78 and 79 of the HSNO Act.

They are “how to” documents. A Code tells you how you can meet the requirements of the HSNO regulations and controls, in a way that is legally defensible. However, it is **not** mandatory to follow a Code of Practice. If you have other ways of meeting the regulatory requirements, then you can adopt those instead.

Codes of Practice can be developed by industry, user groups or ERMA New Zealand.

Where can you get a copy of this Code?

The Code of Practice *Retail Fireworks: Design, Performance, Testing, Storage, Transport, Sale and Use* (HSNOCOP 18-2) was developed by ERMA New Zealand and can be downloaded from the ERMA New Zealand website (<http://www.ermanz.govt.nz/resources/publications/pdfs/COP18-2.pdf>). A hard copy of the Code is available for inspection during normal office hours at the offices of ERMA New Zealand, Wellington.

The Code was first published in August 2007 and revised and republished in October 2007.

What is the Code about?

Retail Fireworks: Design, Performance, Testing, Storage, Transport, Sale and Use has been prepared to enable compliance with the Hazardous Substances (Fireworks) Regulations 2001 (as amended), and the relevant requirements of the Hazardous Substances Identification, Packaging, Tracking and Emergency Management Regulations. The Code is aimed at clarifying the design and performance requirements for retail fireworks in New Zealand. It will be of relevance to test certifiers and those importing, distributing and/or selling retail fireworks.

The Code provides assessment criteria for the issuing of a test certificate for retail fireworks. It also provides guidance on the HSNO requirements for the importation, storage, transport, sale and use of retail fireworks of classifications 1.3G (UN0335), 1.4G (UN0336) and 1.4S (UN0337).

The Code of Practice does not apply to:

- indoor theatrical and film sets fireworks;
- flares and other distress signals;
- model rocket motors;
- display pyrotechnics.

The Code of Practice for Retail Fireworks has been approved by ERMA as a Code of Practice under the HSNO Act only in respect of those matters applicable to the requirements of the hazardous substances regulations.

The Code was revised in October 2007 to reflect amendments to the regulations governing the sale of retail fireworks to the public.

What is in the Code?

The following summarises what is covered by the Code:

- Construction and Design Criteria for Retail Fireworks
 - Composition
 - Limitations on percussive effects
 - Design
 - Ignition Method
 - Fuse timing
 - Tube size
 - User information, including example labelling and warning statements
- Performance Criteria
 - Stability
 - Discharge
- Testing Procedures
 - Sampling of individual items and assorted packs
 - Pyrotechnic composition
 - Records of testing, including example checklists for Test Certifiers
- Identification and Packaging
- Importation and Tracking
- Transportation
- Storage, Handling and Security
 - Quantities at which different requirements are triggered, including a compliance checklist for store owners
- Safety Tips for Use
- Emergency Management and Signage

- Novelty Fireworks
 - Importation and Testing
 - Sale to the Public.

Conclusion

This information sheet has been prepared by ERMA New Zealand to help you decide whether this Code is of relevance to you. It is **not** in itself a Code of Practice.

The Code is primarily intended for those who are directly involved in the retail fireworks industry, whether through the importation, distribution or sale of retail fireworks. However, the Code will also be of use to others, including test certifiers, enforcement agencies and the public in providing consolidated information on the requirements for retail fireworks in New Zealand.

Further information or feedback

For information on hazardous substances compliance, visit www.ermanz.govt.nz/hs/hscompliance.asp or call our Hazardous Substances Compliance Line on 0800 376 234.

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