



Dangerous goods safety information sheet

Competency for fireworks operator licence

Introduction

A fireworks operator licence states the types and/or size of fireworks that may be initiated appropriate to the level of knowledge and practical experience previously gained. Licence holders who can demonstrate sufficient experience (as indicated in the table below) may apply to the Chief Officer for their fireworks operator licence to be upgraded.

Licence type conditions	Competency for new application	What the licence authorises
Fireworks operator licence – may only use ground fireworks, but not from elevated platforms	No training course. Competency based on having successfully conducted at least five fireworks events under the supervision of an appropriately licensed operator.	Authorises the holder to conduct an event on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor using ground fireworks and to: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• set off distress signals as part of an event• initiate cracker chains as part of an event. It does <i>not</i> authorise the holder to initiate ground fireworks from an elevated platform.
Fireworks operator licence – may use ground fireworks and aerial shells not exceeding 75 mm in diameter but not salutes	No training course. Competency based on having successfully conducted at least ten ground fireworks events, five of which were under the control of the operator and assisted in at least five aerial fireworks events under the supervision of an appropriately licensed operator.	Authorises the holder to conduct an event on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor using ground fireworks, or an aerial event, where the maximum shell diameter does not exceed 75 mm. It does <i>not</i> authorise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• elevated events• firing salutes.
Fireworks operator licence – may use ground fireworks and aerial shells not exceeding 150 mm in diameter but not salutes	No training course. Competency based on work experience having successfully conducted and significantly participated in at least ten aerial displays using shells of diameter not exceeding 75 mm and assisted in the conduct of at least five aerial displays using larger shells (exceeding 75 mm) under the supervision of an appropriately licensed operator.	Authorises the holder to conduct an event on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor using ground fireworks, or an aerial display, where the maximum shell diameter does not exceed 150 mm. It does <i>not</i> authorise: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• elevated events• firing salutes.

Licence type conditions	Competency for new application	What the licence authorises
Fireworks operator licence – may use ground fireworks including from elevated platforms, aerial shells of any diameter, and salutes not exceeding 75 mm in diameter	No training course. Competency based on work experience having successfully conducted and significantly participated in at least ten aerial displays using shells exceeding 75 mm in diameter but not exceeding 150 mm in diameter, and assisted in the conduct of at least five aerial displays using larger shells (exceeding 150 mm) under the supervision of an appropriately licensed operator. The operator must have significantly participated in at least 25 aerial displays.	Authorises the holder to conduct an event on behalf of a licensed fireworks contractor using ground fireworks, or an elevated display or an aerial display, with shells of any size, and may include salutes not exceeding 75 mm in diameter. It does <i>not</i> authorise the firing of aerial shells from buildings.
Fireworks operator licence (for any of the above licence types) and may use theatrical fireworks but must not initiate large maroons, large gerbs or mix flash powder	For the outdoor fireworks component, the competency depends on the conditions outlined in this table. For the pyrotechnic component (theatrical fireworks), the applicant requires a certificate of attendance of having passed an approved pyrotechnics training course or equivalent.	Authorises the holder to conduct both outdoor fireworks events (according to the conditions on the licence) and theatrical fireworks displays according to theatrical fireworks specified on the licence. It does not allow the operator to use large maroons (>2 g) or gerbs (>2 m high) and does not allow the operator to manufacture flash powder.
Fireworks operator licence (for any of the above licence types) and may use theatrical fireworks but not mix flash powder	As above, however the condition to use large maroons and large gerbs may be obtained if the applicant can demonstrate sufficient experience in conducting theatrical fireworks events. This includes having fired maroons and gerbs in at least ten events.	Authorises the holder to conduct both outdoor fireworks events (appropriate to the licence conditions) and indoor displays using any type of theatrical indoor fireworks. The operator may not mix flash powder.
Fireworks operator licence (for any of the above licence types) and may use theatrical fireworks and mix flash powder	As above, however the condition to mix flash powder may be obtained if the applicant can demonstrate considerable experience in theatrical displays and uses commercially available constituents and has prepared a standard operating procedure on how to safely mix flash powders.	Authorises the holder to conduct both outdoor fireworks events (appropriate to the licence conditions) and theatrical displays using any type of theatrical firework. The operator is allowed to mix flash powder.