

NATIONAL FIRE CODE – 2019 ALBERTA EDITION CONCERNING FIREWORKS

PURPOSE

This bulletin provides notice that the Alberta specific requirements for fireworks have been made consistent with federal regulations for the safe use of fireworks in the National Fire Code – 2019 Alberta Edition (NFC(AE)).

DISCUSSION

Fireworks, including low hazard fireworks (sometimes referred to as consumer or family fireworks), are regulated by the federal *Explosives Act* (Canada E-17). The *Act* deals with the manufacture, import, sale, and use of all fireworks and pyrotechnical devices utilising explosives. The Alberta Fire Code 2014 Edition (AFC2014) and previous fire codes included additional provisions that are not consistent with federal regulation. Following engagement sessions with stakeholders by Municipal Affairs in November 2016, there was broad support for making fireworks rules consistent with federal legislation and allowing local authorities to manage the use of fireworks in their communities.

Under the NFC(AE), rules for fireworks are made consistent with the *Explosives Act* and municipalities will as a result have additional flexibility to regulate fireworks.

Code Changes for Fireworks

References to fireworks under Section 5.7. and subsection 3.2.10. of the AFC2014 edition have been removed and replaced with the following references under the updated NFC(AE)

Article 1.4.1.2. of Division A states:

Dangerous goods means products, materials or substances that are
(a) regulated by TC SOR/2016-95, "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDGR)" (see Table 3.2.7.1. of Division B), or
(b) classified as controlled products under HC SOR/2015-17, "Hazardous Products Regulations" (see Note A-Table 3.2.7.1. of Division B).

(See Note A-1.4.1.2.(1).)

Dangerous Goods

In previous editions of the NFC(AE), the terminology used to identify dangerous goods came from TC SOR/2016-95, "Transportation of Dangerous Goods Regulations (TDGR)." The TDGR apply solely to the adequate identification of hazards related to dangerous goods in the contexts of transportation and emergency response.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the National Fire Code-2019 Alberta Edition

Issuance of this STANDATA is authorized by
the Provincial Fire Administrator

[Original Signed]
Tina Parker

The logo for the province of Alberta, featuring the word "Alberta" in a stylized, cursive font with a blue square at the end of the word.

Dangerous goods in the workplace are identified in accordance with the “Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS),” established in accordance with the Hazardous Products Act. The WHMIS identification system is specifically designed with the users of the product in mind.

This edition of the NFC(AE) identifies dangerous goods as products regulated by the TDGR or classified under the WHMIS. In order to harmonize these two nomenclatures for dangerous goods, class descriptors were developed taking into consideration both the TDGR and WHMIS classification systems. The NFC(AE) 2019 nomenclature uses a descriptive approach to classifying dangerous goods, which is similar to the one used by the Globally Harmonized System of Classification and Labelling of Chemicals (GHS) developed by the United Nations (UN). Canada has actively participated in the development of the GHS and has committed to its implementation through the TDGR and WHMIS regulations.

The NFC(AE) nomenclature takes a common sense approach that corresponds more closely to how people refer to dangerous goods on a daily basis, blending TDGR and WHMIS terminology without using non-descript numbers and letters as previously found in the NFC(AE), TDGR and WHMIS.

Section 5.1. states:

5.1.1.2. Explosives

- 1) The manufacturing, handling, transportation, sale and use of *dangerous goods* classified as explosives shall be in conformance with NRCan R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17, “Explosives Act,” and its Regulations.

5.1.1.3. Display Fireworks

- 1) The handling and discharge of fireworks shall conform to NRCan 2010, “Display Fireworks Manual.”

5.1.1.4. Prohibited

- 1) No person shall have in his possession, sell, offer for sale, give away or otherwise distribute, discharge, fire or set off *firecrackers*.
- 2) No person shall purchase, store, use or supervise the use of a pyrotechnic device, unless
 - a) the pyrotechnic device conforms to the requirements of NRCan R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17, “Explosives Act” and its Regulations, and
 - b) the person is certified in accordance with NRCan R.S.C., 1985, c. E-17, “Explosives Act” and its Regulations.

Under the *Explosives Act* and Regulations, there are three classifications of fireworks:

- **Consumer fireworks** are low-hazard and designed for recreational use. They include items like Roman candles, sparklers, fountains, volcanoes, mines, and snakes. Classified as F.1.
- **Display fireworks** are high-hazard and designed for professional use. They include items like aerial shells, cakes, Roman candles, waterfalls, lances, and wheels. Classified as F.2.
- **Special effect pyrotechnics** are high-hazard and designed for professional use. They include items like gerbs, mines, comets, and crossettes, as well as special-purpose pyrotechnics made for live stage performances and the film and television industry. Classified as F.3.
- Additional information for use may be found in the following references or these documents:
 - [Explosives Act](#)
 - [Explosives Regulation, 2013](#)

- [Display Fireworks Manual 2010](#)
- [Pyrotechnic Special Effects Manual](#)
- [Fireworks Use](#)
- [Safety Codes Act Exemption Regulation](#)

Municipalities should discuss these changes and evaluate their options, based on their own needs, and discuss with their advisors and legal counsel.

This bulletin replaces the following documents:

- FCI-10-01 Low Hazard Fireworks – Permits, Storage and Display
- FCI-10-02 Low Hazard Fireworks – Enforcement