

## 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 (AFC) 2014 Edition 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 2019 NFC-AE, rules for fireworks are made consistent with the *Explosives Act* and municipalities will as a result have additional flexibility to regulate fireworks.

This bulletin replaces the following documents:

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

### Code Changes for Fireworks

References to fireworks under Section 5.7. and subsection 3.2.10. of the AFC 2014 edition have been removed and replaced with the following references under the updated 2019 NFC-AE:

#### 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*.

Unless stated otherwise, all Code references in this STANDATA are to Division B of the Alberta Fire Code 2014.

Issue of this STANDATA is authorized by  
the Provincial Fire Administrator

[Original Signed]  
Tina Parker



- 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 cassettes, 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 - <http://laws-lois.justice.gc.ca/eng/acts/E-17/>
  - Explosives Regulation, 2013 - <http://laws.justice.gc.ca/eng/regulations/SOR-2013-211/>
  - Display Fireworks Manual 2010 - <http://www.nrcan.gc.ca/explosives/fireworks/9903>
  - Pyrotechnic Special Effects Manual - [https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/mineralsmetals/pdf/mms-smm/expl-expl/pdf/Pyrotechnics\\_Manual-Edition3\\_e.pdf](https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/sites/www.nrcan.gc.ca/files/mineralsmetals/pdf/mms-smm/expl-expl/pdf/Pyrotechnics_Manual-Edition3_e.pdf)
  - Fireworks Use - <https://www.nrcan.gc.ca/explosives/fireworks/9883>
  - Safety Codes Act Exemption Regulation - [http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2003\\_351.pdf](http://www.qp.alberta.ca/documents/Regs/2003_351.pdf)

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