

Application for a pyrotechnics (special use) licence

Applying for a pyrotechnics
(special use) licence including:

- first time applications
 - renewals
- amendments and upgrade
to licence details
- recognition of interstate
pyrotechnic operator licences



Applying for a licence

Resources Safety wants to ensure that people who are licensed to use explosives are fit and competent to do so without creating risks to the community of Western Australia. A Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence authorises the holder to use or possess outdoor theatrical fireworks or specialised pyrotechnics.

Holders of this type of licence are able to store limited amounts of explosives at a place for which there is no explosives under the licence if;

- the holder is authorised to possess the explosives under the licence;
- there is not more than 2.5 kg of explosives with classification code 1.1 or 1.2;
- there is not more than 15 kg of explosives with a classification code 1.3 and;
- there is not more than 30 kg of explosives with a classification code 1.4.

Furthermore, such licence holders are authorised, without holding an explosives transport licence or an explosives driver licence, to transport explosives by road if:

- the holder is authorised to possess the explosives under the licence;
- the explosives are for use by the holder; and
- not more than a Category 2 load is transported.

Accordingly, there are stringent criteria applied to the granting of a Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence and to qualify you must be:

- at least 18 years of age;
- the holder of a current WA Dangerous Goods Security Card;
- able to demonstrate familiarity with the Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007; and
- able to satisfy the Chief Officer that you;
 - may be safely entrusted with explosives;
 - have a legitimate need for such a licence;
 - are competent to discharge the duties of a Pyrotechnics Operator; and
 - are otherwise suitable to be the holder of such a licence.

Categories of Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licences

Licences can be divided into a number of different categories. Each licence is restricted to a specified group of pyrotechnics. Other restrictions apply according to the competence, practical experience and level of training of the applicant.

1. Theatrical fireworks

Theatrical pyrotechnic devices, or more commonly referred to as *theatrical fireworks*, can be used either indoors or outdoors.

2. Ceremonial purposes - This licence allows the use of cracker chains (or Chinese cracker chains) for ceremonial purposes and special community events of

cultural significance. In addition to gaining the licence, the operator must seek prior approval of the Police, FESA and the relevant local government for each and every occasion that ceremonial cracker chains are to be used.

Resources Safety does not issue Fireworks Event Permits for ceremonial cracker chains events, however the operator must keep evidence of all relevant notifications and approvals.

Operators wanting to fire strings larger than 10,000 crackers, or more than five strings of 10,000 crackers, are required to obtain a Fireworks Operator's Licence endorsed for ground fireworks (or higher) and a Fireworks Event Permit must be issued for the event.

3. Advanced model Rocketry - This licence allows the purchase and initiation of black powder motors greater than 5g (i.e. size D), and all composite rocket motors up to a maximum size of 85g (i.e. size G). Initiation of high-powered rockets with motors greater than 85g up to an allowable maximum of 325g (i.e. sizes H and I) is only permitted subject to additional endorsement of the application by the president or secretary of an approved model rocketry club to which the applicant is a member.

4. Parachuting with pyrotechnics - Many public events involve pyrotechnic parachute events for the purpose of entertaining crowds. Daytime events use smoke while flares are used at night, and this licence permits the holder to use such devices. Applicants must be a member of the Australian Parachute Federation and be able to produce evidence of various other approvals as indicated in the application.

Licensing provisions apply to each individual who will be using pyrotechnic devices during a parachute event.

Applicants must be able to demonstrate to a Dangerous Goods Officer that they possess the competency, skill and practical experience to be able to use the relevant pyrotechnic devices in a safe and proficient manner.

The Australian Parachuter's Federation (APF) Operational Regulations and Event Manual must be followed, and a holder of an APF event organiser's licence must supervise all jumps involving pyrotechnics.

5. Special effects in movies and entertainment

This is one of the most dangerous applications of explosives because:

- Manufacturer's instructions are often not followed;
- Normal clearance distances are not followed; and
- Stunts are often involved.

The licensing of fireworks contractors and fireworks operators to conduct fireworks events **does not** cover special effects. A Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence endorsed for *special effects* is required. Pre-requisites for such a licence are that the applicant **must already possess** the following:

- an unrestricted Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence endorsed for theatrical fireworks; and
- a Fireworks Operator Licence.

The indoor use of outdoor fireworks is prohibited.

The use of blasting explosives for special effects purposes is not permitted under a Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence.

6. Scientific and meteorological applications

A licence endorsed for scientific demonstrations is required for public events of this nature.

The purchase and use of pyrotechnics for meteorological activities such as cloud seeding or the initiation of specialised equipment will require the user to apply for a licence and demonstrate an appropriate level of competency.

Where pyrotechnic devices are used at educational institutions for educational or research purposes then such use is exempt from licensing.

7. Agricultural applications - The main applications of pyrotechnics for agricultural use are:

- vermin control - pyrotechnics produce noise and light to scare vermin away; and
- animal capture - pyrotechnics used to activate traps or propel nets

Bird management seems to represent the main reason for using pyrotechnics for vermin control at places like wheat handling terminals, orchards and airports. Animal capture using traps and nets for either vermin control or animal studies may also utilise pyrotechnic devices. Applicants must be able to demonstrate a level of competency as well as a legitimate need for such a licence, which would be endorsed for *animal control* purposes.

Renewal of Licence

Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licences are subject to renewal on a three yearly basis. If not renewed by the due date, you must refrain from activities of a Pyrotechnics Operator, as you may be liable for prosecution. You may also be uninsured in the event of any damages caused.

Your licence may be renewed before the expiry date if the following requirements are met:

- provision of a photocopy of your current WA Dangerous Goods Security Card;
- provision of a recent colour, passport size photograph of yourself; and
- payment of the renewal fee.

Reference material

Further information can be found in the following publications:

- *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*
- Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007 (download copies of the Act and regulations free on the State Law Publisher's website (www.slp.wa.gov.au))
- Australian Standard AS2187.4 - 1998 - Explosives - Storage, transport and use - Pyrotechnics outdoor displays

(copies of Australian Standards are available from SAI Global, 165 Adelaide Terrace, East Perth WA 6004. Phone: 13 12 42 or www.saiglobal.com/shop)

- Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, Second Edition, 2000 (AE Code) published by the Commonwealth of Australia (ISBN 0642 41486 6)

(available from Can Print Information Services at www.canprint.com.au, Phone: (02) 6293 8383)

- Western Australian outdoor fireworks - Code of Practice
- Schedule of prescribed fees and charges for dangerous goods licences

(available from www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety)

Security clearances

Access to explosives and security risk substances (SRS), such as some formulations of ammonium nitrate, is now strictly controlled in Western Australia. The new *Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007* are rigorous across all aspects of explosives storage, handling and transport and in particular incorporate the security provisions negotiated under the Council of Australian Governments (COAG) agreement of 25 June 2004 on counter-terrorism measures.

It is now a requirement that licence holders and people with unsupervised access to explosives or SRS possess a security clearance. Key features of the assessment process are identity checks to confirm the status of applicants as well as national criminal history record checks including an ASIO clearance.

As a means of proof of a valid security clearance, individuals will be issued with a photographic security card valid for 5 years, and it will be subject to renewal. The security card will allow portability of the security clearance between employers.

Persons who wish to apply for a new Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence must first make a separate application for a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card. Details are available on the Resources Safety website and application forms can be obtained from and lodged at participating Post Offices around Western Australia. **Your application for a licence cannot be processed unless you hold a current WA Dangerous Goods Security Card.**

A Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence is only valid while the holder's security clearance remains current.

Mutually recognised security clearances

Western Australian explosives regulations have mutually recognised various current explosives and Security Sensitive Ammonium Nitrate (SSAN) licences/permits issued by another State/Territory of Australia as being valid security clearances in this State. This does not apply for permanent residents of WA with more than 3 months residency. These are detailed in the following table:

State/Territory	Legislation
New South Wales	Explosives Regulations 2005
Queensland	Explosives Act 1999
South Australia	Explosives (Security Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2006
Tasmania	Security Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005
Victoria	Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2000 Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2005
Northern Territory	None applicable
Australian Capital Territory	None applicable

Applicants from interstate, who do not possess a mutually recognised security clearance will be required to obtain a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card in order for their application for licence to proceed.

Recognition of interstate pyrotechnics operator licences

There is no 'mutual' recognition of New Zealand or any Australian interstate pyrotechnics operator licences. However, in granting a WA Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence, the Chief Officer will take into account:

- Australian interstate competency; and
- whether an equivalent security clearance was part of the interstate pyrotechnics operator licence.

As the regulations in Western Australia now require a security clearance for all persons being issued with a Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence, this aspect is a critical factor in the assessment process.

Accordingly, the following requirements must be addressed by all persons who wish to submit an application in this category:

- attachment of a certified copy of your current pyrotechnics operator licence/permit from another State or Territory of Australia;
- attachment of a certified copy of any SSAN, or equivalent, licence/permit that you may possess;
- provision of a recent colour, passport sized photograph of yourself (with your name printed on the back); and
- payment of the full licence fee;

Applicants need to be aware that if their existing pyrotechnics operator licence/permit has for example only 12 months remaining before expiry, then the WA issued equivalent will maintain the same expiry date and the same level of endorsement.

If you have concerns, please contact Resources Safety and seek clarification of your particular circumstances.

Integrity information

All individuals who apply for any type of explosives licence must disclose to the Chief Officer:

- details of any relevant offence of which the person has been convicted; and
- details of any charge of a relevant offence against the person that is pending.

The term 'relevant offence' means any of the following:

- an offence against the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations;

- an offence against a law of another place that substantially corresponds to the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* and regulations; or
- an offence against a law of this State or another place, an element of which is the handling, storage or transport of explosives.

Two questions on this matter are contained in the application form and if you answer 'yes' to either, you must attach a separate sheet briefly describing details of the offence and/or charge including places, dates and penalties.

Approved pyrotechnics training courses

Theatrical Fireworks

Persons who wish to obtain a licence endorsed for Theatrical Fireworks, must first attend and pass a Resources Safety approved training course.

Most of the courses listed below are of one day duration and a copy of the certificate issued must be submitted with your application.

Perth Pyrotechnics (Guy Mewburn)

Tel: (08) 9247 4125

Mobile: 0438 578 951

Gary Kalem Consultancy

Tel: (08) 9384 5342

Stage and Studio Productions Pty Ltd

6 Cleaver St, West Perth 6005

Tel: (08) 9227 9932

Ashton Admor Pty Ltd

35 Hargreaves St, Belmont 6104

Tel: (08) 9478 3800

Do not submit this application until you have received your certificate.

Miscellaneous Endorsements

There are no Resources Safety approved courses for any of the non-theatrical endorsements discussed elsewhere in this document. (e.g. model rockets, ceremonial crackers, etc.)

Practical pyrotechnics experience

For all categories of licences, it is necessary to be able to demonstrate a level of practical experience that will satisfy a Dangerous Goods Officer of your competence in the safe handling of pyrotechnic devices.

In order to maximise your success in obtaining a licence, include as much information as possible that relates to your experience in the industry. For some, it may include assisting with the preparation of an indoor stage production, but not necessarily handling pyrotechnics. Working behind the scenes often exposes a person to the various safety elements that must be observed and

this level of experience is recognised by Resources Safety.

The above also applies to persons who are members of model rocketry clubs or involved in sky diving displays. Detailed evidence to support your application is essential. Resources Safety may need to validate your claims, and if deemed necessary may contact you to clarify matters.

Complete the relevant sections in the application and attach copies from any work diaries you have maintained that record jobs you have participated on. References from employers to support your claims are also acceptable.

Application form

Complete the application form, including the checklist and attach all the required information. **Lodgement of an incomplete application may increase the time it takes to issue you with a licence and deficient applications may be returned to the applicant.**

NOTE: Please refer to the schedule of fees on the Resources Safety website for the current fee applicable to this licence application.

Contact details

Tel: (08) 9358 8001

Fax: (08) 9358 8000

Email: rsdclientservices@docep.wa.gov.au

Website: www.docep.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety for fees, forms, FAQs, guidance material and publications.



Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Government of Western Australia

Resources Safety

Application for a pyrotechnics (special use) licence

Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004
Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007

ABN: 91 329 800 417

Application no. (office use only)

EPS



1. Application type (please tick one)

- First application (new licence)
- Amendments to my licence (e.g. lift restriction) WA No.
- Recognition arrangements of similar licences issued elsewhere in Australia

2. Security clearance details

Applicants must complete only ONE of the following:

A For holders of a WA Dangerous Goods Security Card

Card number Expiry date / /

B The name of the mutually recognised interstate security clearance held. (e.g. Blasting Explosives Users Licence - NSW Explosives Regulations 2005)

Licence/Permit number State where issued

Expiry date / /

3. Applicant details (please print)

Family name Given names

Date of birth / / Email

Phone (day) (evening) Facsimile

Mobile Motor Driver's Licence no.

Place of issue Expiry date / /

Residential address (Mandatory)

Unit no. Street no. Lot no. Street

Town/suburb State Postcode

Postal address (Complete if different from above)

Unit no. Street no. Lot no. Street

PO box no. Town/suburb State Postcode

4. Integrity information

Have you been convicted of any offence(s) under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia? Yes No

Do you have a charge(s) pending relating to any offences under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia? Yes No

If you answered 'yes' to either of the above questions, please attach a separate sheet with details of your full name, date of birth, description of offence(s) and/or charge(s), places, dates and penalties.

5. Licences held (all applicants to complete)

Do you have a current WA Shotfiring Licence? Yes No

If 'Yes' - please indicate licence number

Do you have a current WA Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence? Yes No

If 'Yes' - please indicate licence number

Do you have a current WA Fireworks Operator Licence? Yes No

If 'Yes' - please indicate licence number

Do you have a current interstate Pyrotechnics Operator Licence? Yes No

If 'Yes' - please indicate licence number and State/Territory of issue

(the original or a certified copy of the licence must accompany application.)

6. Category of licence being applied for (please tick one box)

- Theatrical fireworks
- Parachuting with pyrotechnics
- Scientific meteorological
- Ceremonial purposes
- Special effects in movies and entertainment
- Agriculture
- Advanced model rocketry

Details of accredited training course attended to support this request:
(where no course has been attended, please write 'N/A' and complete details on practical experience in next part)

Training provider

Date of course / / to / /

Phone Email

Details of practical experience (new licence or upgrade, attach separate sheet if insufficient space)

Date	Location	Purpose	Supervisors name

For advanced model rockets

• Approved Rocketry Club membership	Attach copy
Name of club:	
Name of secretary:	
Phone:	

For parachute displays

• Australian Parachute Federation (APF) membership	Attach copy
• Display licence granted by the APF	Attach copy
• Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) approval to carry explosives (under <i>Civil Aviation Act 1988</i>)	Attach copy
I agree to adhere to APF Operational Regulations and the APF Display Manual	Yes / No
I agree that all jumps must be supervised by a person with a current Display Organiser’s Licence from APF	Yes / No

For ceremonial purposes (Chinese cracker chains)

Please detail experience with Chinese cracker chains:

For special effects entertainment

Attach a separate sheet that briefly details:

- Current or previous employers for whom you utilised these skills
- Experience with special effects over the past 5 years, including locations, types of explosives/pyrotechnics used and effects created

For scientific/meteorological applications

Attach a separate sheet that briefly details:

- Current or previous employers for whom you utilised these skills
- Experience with explosives in scientific/meteorological applications over the past 5 years, including locations and types of explosives/pyrotechnics used

For agricultural applications

Attach a separate sheet that briefly details:

- Current or previous employers for whom you utilised these skills
- Experience with explosives in agricultural applications over the past 5 years, including locations and types of explosives/pyrotechnics used

7. Applicant’s declaration

I certify that the above criteria have been met and the details contained in this application are true and correct.

Signature of applicant

Date / /

8. Checklist (please tick the appropriate boxes to ensure your application is complete. Write N/A against items not applicable)

- Application form completed and signed
- A certified copy of a current Pyrotechnics Operator licence issued in another State or Territory of Australia (if applicable)
- Details of any convictions and/or charges pending in relation to offences under any explosives or dangerous goods legislation in Australia (only if answered 'yes' to questions at Part 4)
- A clear, colour passport size photograph, not more than 6 months old with your name printed on the back. **Please staple (through edge of photo) to the application to ensure it is not misplaced**
- Payment of licence fee
- A certified copy of certificate from an approved pyrotechnics training provider (not more than six months old) (theatrical fireworks operator licence only)

Detailed evidence to support your practical experience and skills with manufactured pyrotechnic and firework devices used for **one** of the following:

- theatrical and stage (**theatrical fireworks operator licence only**)
- advanced model rocketry
- ceremonial purposes
- special effects entertainment
- scientific/meteorological applications
- agricultural applications
- A copy of evidence of current membership of an approved rocketry club (**model rocket licences only**)
- A copy of current Australian Parachute Federation (APF) membership (**parachute display licences only**)
- A copy of the relevant parachute display licence from APF (**parachute display licences only**)
- A copy of Civil Aviation Safety Authority (CASA) approval to carry explosives (under *Civil Aviation Act 1988*) (**parachute display licences only**)

Incomplete applications cannot be processed and will be returned. Licences cannot be issued over the counter. Please post applications to the Department of Consumer and Employment Protection - Resources Safety. Application processing takes approximately ten working days.

9. Payment details

Please forward your application and remittance by mail to:
Resources Safety – Department of Consumer and Employment Protection
Locked Bag 14, CLOISTERS SQUARE WA 6850

Application no. *(office use only)*

EPS

Cheques and money orders should be made payable to: Department of Consumer and Employment Protection

Pyrotechnics (Special Use) Licence
Complete this section if paying by credit card

Card number

Expiry date /

Card type *(please tick)* Mastercard Visa

Cardholder's name

Amount

Signature

Phone number of card holder

Date signed / /