



# Fireworks operator licence – general information

*Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004*

Dangerous Goods Safety (Explosives) Regulations 2007

ABN: 69 410 335 356

The following information is to guide you on the requirements for applying for and renewing [fireworks operator licences](#). Licences are issued for five years. Refer to [schedule of fees and charges](#) for the applicable fee.

## 1. Do you need a licence?

A fireworks operator licence is required:

- to possess, set up and initiate outdoor fireworks at a display covered under a fireworks event permit while under the employ or supervision of a licensed fireworks contractor
- to initiate firecracker chains at ceremonial occasions under a Ceremonial Fireworks notice provided to the WA Police and the local council
- to initiate indoor fireworks under a permit issued by Department of Fire and Emergency Services.

This licence **does not** allow the holder to:

- purchase fireworks
- or
- apply for a fireworks event permit.

## 2. Suitability of applicant

To be eligible to apply for a fireworks operator licence you must:

- be an individual applicant
- be at least 18 years of age
- hold a current [Dangerous Goods Security Card or recognised security clearance](#)
- pass a [medical assessment](#) against the standards in *Assessing Fitness to Drive – Medical Standards for Commercial and Private Vehicle Drivers* not more than six months before the day the application is lodged
- possess [competencies](#) acceptable to the Chief Officer.

## 3. Mutual recognition

If you **are not** resident in this State, but hold a fireworks operator licence in another State or Territory of Australia, and/or New Zealand, you may apply for:

- Mutual recognition of your interstate licence (refer to [Mutual recognition of Australian occupations](#))
- or
- Mutual recognition of your New Zealand licence (refer to [Trans-Tasman mutual recognition in Western Australia](#))

## 4. Security clearances

A Dangerous Goods Security Card or a recognised security clearance is a pre-requisite for obtaining a fireworks operator licence.

**The licence only remains valid while the security clearance is current.**

Explosives and security sensitive ammonium nitrate licences or permits issued by other States and Territories of Australia (see table below) are valid security clearances in this State.

State / Territory	Legislation
New South Wales	Explosives Regulations 2013
Queensland	<i>Explosives Act 1999</i>
South Australia	Explosives (Security Sensitive Substances) Regulations 2006
Tasmania	<i>Security-Sensitive Dangerous Substances Act 2005</i>
Victoria	Dangerous Goods (Explosives) Regulations 2011 Dangerous Goods (HCDG) Regulations 2006
Northern Territory	None applicable
Australian Capital Territory	None applicable

## 5. Before completing your application

- Apply for a Dangerous Goods Security Card or provide proof of your current recognised security clearance.
- Colour copy both sides of your security clearance.
- Print the medical certificate and take it to your medical practitioner to complete.
- For proof of your entity, a colour copy of one of the following documents is required:
  - Motor driver's licence from any Australian State or Territory or New Zealand
  - Australian passport
  - Licence or permit issued by other States and Territories of Australia
  - Proof of Age card
- Provide original or original certified copies of documents detailing any relevant offence (refer to item 6 Relevant offence).
- Have a coloured passport photograph taken (refer to item 8 Passport photograph).

## 6. Relevant offence

All individuals applying for a licence must disclose details of:

- any relevant offence for which they have been convicted
- any charge of a relevant offence that is pending.

**Relevant offence** is an offence against the *Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004* (the Act), or any regulations made under the Act; and

- a law of another place that substantially corresponds to the Act or the regulations made under it
- the law of this State or another place an element of which is the handling, storage or transport of explosives.

## 7. Medical assessment

Assessment by a medical practitioner is required for both new and renewal applications not more than six months before the day the application is lodged.

Where a medical condition is noted on your MDL the doctor should as a minimum recommend the same condition for your licence. If you wear items such as spectacles or hearing aids take them to the examination.

## 8. Passport photograph

The photograph lodged with your application must be the same as for an Australian passport. Refer to [www.passports.gov.au](http://www.passports.gov.au) for more information.

## 9. Competency

To demonstrate your competency in the safe handling of fireworks, the following is required:

- detailed summary of your experience in fireworks events you have participated in, the fireworks permit number, and the level of involvement in the events
- references from your employer(s) to support the claim
- training completed in other jurisdictions of Australia will be accepted, but is not mandatory.

To upgrade the competency on your current licence, a detailed summary of your experience is required. Refer to item 13 Amending the licence for more information.

## 10. Lodging your application

The completed application form and supporting documentation, must be:

- the original or the original certified document (where a **copy** is requested this does not apply)
- dated not more than six months before the day the application is lodged.

Lodgement details are included on the application form.

## 11. Processing the application

Failure to provide the required documentation may delay the processing of your application, or result in it being returned. Processing time for a compliant application that does not need complex internal assessment may take up to 20 business days.

## 12. Obligation of a licence holder

You must notify the Chief Dangerous Goods Officer within 14 days of any material changes to the details on your licence, e.g. change of name, change of address, or change to medical status.

Refer to item 13 Amending the licence for more information.

## 13. Amending the licence

A fee is not required to amend or upgrade your licence and a completed application form must be lodged. Refer to the following information or visit the Resources Safety website.

*Note: Before lodging, check the application form for any supporting evidence required.*

- Change of personal details (e.g. change of name or change of address) – complete a [Change of details form](#)
- Upgrade of licence (e.g. competency review) – complete an [Application for a fireworks operator licence](#)

## 14. Renewing your licence

A renewal notice is sent three months prior to the licence expiry date. You must lodge the renewal prior to the expiry date of your licence.

*Note: Expired licences cannot be renewed and you must apply for a new licence.*

## 15. Reference material

Further information can be found at the [Resources Safety website](#) and as follows:

- [Dangerous Goods Safety Act 2004](#)
- [Dangerous Goods Safety \(Explosives\) Regulations 2007](#)

(download of the Act and regulations are available free on the State Law Publisher's website at [www.slp.wa.gov.au](http://www.slp.wa.gov.au))

- [Australian Explosives Code, 3rd edition](#)

(available from [www.canprint.com.au](http://www.canprint.com.au) or CanPrint. Phone: 1300 889 873)

- [Code of practice – safe use of outdoor fireworks in Western Australia](#)
- [Dangerous goods information sheet – overview of explosives regulations](#)
- [Dangerous goods guidance note – storage of explosives](#)

(available from the Resources Safety website at [www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety](http://www.dmp.wa.gov.au/ResourcesSafety))