



Northern Ireland Office

FIREWORKS AND THE LAW

GUIDANCE FOR MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

- You must not possess, buy or use fireworks (except indoor fireworks and sparklers) unless you have a fireworks licence issued by the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland.
- Fireworks of erratic flight (such as ground spinners, helicopters, jumping jacks and squibs), mini-rockets, bangers and air bombs are illegal.
- You must show your licence to the retailer when you buy your fireworks.
- All sparkler packets must have the following wording on it –
“Warning: not to be given to children under 5 years of age.”
- The packaging of fireworks must be labelled in English.
- Fireworks must not be sold on a street or public place.
(A public place is anywhere to which the public are entitled or permitted access, including parks, school playgrounds and bus stations. To be on the safe side, think of a public place as anywhere other than your own garden.)
- Fireworks must not be thrown or let off in a street or public place.
- Fireworks must not be sold to children under 16 years of age.
- It is illegal for fireworks to be sold from a premises not licensed/registered by the Secretary of State (retailers are required to display their certificates of registration at the point of sale). Selling fireworks at markets and car boot sales, and from vans, including ice-cream vans, is also illegal.
- Never buy or use fireworks which do not have the British Standard Code “BS 7114” printed on the box.
- Members of the general public must not buy or use category 4 (professional use only) fireworks.

Note:

Fireworks offences carry a maximum fine of £5,000 and/or 6 months’ imprisonment.

Application forms for fireworks licences can be downloaded from:

http://www.nio.gov.uk/fireworks_application_form_and_guidance_notes.pdf