

Questions/Answers for Special Permits and Approvals

1. How do I submit an application for Approval?
 - a. For most efficient processing it is recommended that Applications for Approvals be submitted electronically to the one of the e-mail addresses below:
Approvals@dot.gov – General Approvals
Fireworks@dot.gov – Fireworks
Explo@dot.gov - Explosives
2. How do I submit an Application for Special Permit?
 - a. For most efficient processing it is recommended that Applications for Special Permits be submitted electronically to the e-mail address below:
Specialpermits@dot.gov
3. Where are the requirements for a submitting an application for Approval?
 - a. The requirements for submission of an application for approval are found in 107.705 of the HMR.
4. Where are the requirements for a submitting an application for a Special Permit?
 - a. The requirements for submission of an application for approval are found in 107.105 of the HMR.
5. How long does it take to process an application for a Special Permit?
 - a. It is our goal to process all applications for special permits within 120 days of the date of submission of the application; however, the time frame may be longer if the application is technically complex or precedent setting.
6. How long does it take to process an application for approval?
 - a. It is our goal to process all applications for approvals with 120 from the date of submission of the application; however, the time frame may be longer if the application is technically complex or precedent setting.
7. How do I apply for an emergency special permit?
 - a. In accordance with 107.113 of the HMR an applicant may request emergency processing of a special permit if it meets certain specific criteria. The application must meet the requirements specified in 107.105 of the HMR and must be submitted to the modal agency with primary responsibility for the transportation (see § 107.117(d)).
8. Do explosive approvals have expiration dates?
 - a. Yes, all newly issued approvals for explosives contain an expiration date. The normal duration of the approval is five years unless conditions warrant a shorter time period.
9. Will I need to retest my explosives when I apply for a renewal?
 - a. No, if the applicant certifies that there have been no modifications to the explosive and the data in the initial application remains valid there is no need to retest the explosive. If there are any changes to the explosive, then retesting must be conducted.
10. What is PHMSA doing to address the backlog of special permits and approvals?
 - a. PHMSA has dedicated additional staff and expects to work through the backlog by the spring of 2010.

11. Will the revised Standard Operating Procedures include an explosives manual guidance?
 - a. Yes, an explosives manual guidance is included in the Approvals Action Plan.