



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials
Safety Administration

Safety Guidance for Shipping Consumer Fireworks

Consumer fireworks are considered Division 1.4G explosives and their safe transport is regulated by the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR) (see 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR) Parts 171-180).

What is included in a fireworks shipment?

- The shipping description of a hazardous material on shipping papers must include all applicable information found in 49 CFR § 172.202.
- Information on devices which are to be properly loaded, blocked, and braced to restrict movement during transportation and protected against ignition sources (see 49 CFR Part 177, Subpart B).

Note: firework shipments are handled by professionals trained in components specified in the HMR (i.e., general awareness/familiarization, function-specific, safety, and security training) (see 49 CFR Part 172, Subpart H).

How to handle shipments of Division 1.4G fireworks exceeding 1,001 lbs. (gross weight):

- Drivers transporting fireworks in their shipments must have a commercial driver's license (CDL) which includes a hazardous material (hazmat) endorsement (see 49 CFR 177.804 and 49 CFR Part 383).

- Vehicles transporting fireworks must have the appropriate placards on each side and end of the vehicle (49 CFR Part 172, Subpart F).
- Shippers/carriers must both develop/implement security plans including assessments of possible transport risks to fireworks, and measures to address risks. At a minimum, security plans must address personnel security, en route security, and unauthorized access (see 49 CFR Part 172, Subpart I).
- Transporters/carriers must hold a current hazmat registration certificate issued by PHMSA (49 CFR Part 107, Subpart G).

Persons found to be in violation of the HMR may be subject to civil penalties, criminal penalties, and imprisonment. Maximum penalties depend on several factors, including the nature and circumstances, extent and gravity, and severity of the consequences of the violation. Civil penalties are set out in 49 U.S.C. § 5123, but the actual maximum civil penalties are updated annually due to inflation in accordance with the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act of 1990 and the Federal Civil Penalties Inflation Adjustment Act Improvements Act of 2015.

Criminal violations of hazardous materials regulations can result in sentences of up to 10 years imprisonment and additional fines as specified in 49 U.S.C. § 5124.

For more information on the safe transport of consumer fireworks:

- Consult the HMR (49 CFR Parts 171-180) and 49 CFR Part 107, Subpart G, and the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations, FMCSR Parts 390-399 and 385 Subpart E.
- Detailed information/guidance is available on DOT's Hazmat Safety website: www.phmsa.dot.gov/hazmat.
- Specific questions can be addressed to the Hazardous Materials Information Center: 1-800-467-4922 or (202) 366-4488.

The contents of this card do not have the force and effect of law and are not meant to bind the public in any way, and the guide is intended only to provide information to the public regarding existing requirements under the Hazardous Materials Regulations.