
Attention Stand Owner,

It has come to the attention of the Shoalwater Bay Police Department and the Firework committee that the classification of fireworks has changed. The firework committee felt it important to give you a copy for your information and records. This **does not** change anything in the code, it is just for clarification. This is the information the police department will refer to. Please read the attached so you may become familiar with the changes in wording. For any questions or concerns you may contact either the police department or the firework committee (Monty Baker, Leatta Anderson, Joel Blake, Doug Davis, & Jennifer Taylor).

Thank you for your understanding in this matter,

The Firework Committee

6/6/13

Fireworks classifications in the United States

The United States government has classified fireworks and similar devices according to their potential hazards.

Previous US Department of Transportation explosives classifications

Explosives, including fireworks, were previously divided into three classifications for transportation purposes by the DOT.

- **Class A** explosives included [high explosives](#) such as [dynamite](#), [TNT](#), [blasting caps](#), packages of [flash powder](#), bulk packages of [black powder](#) and blasting agents such as [ANFO](#) and other slurry types of explosives.
- **Class B** explosives included [low explosives](#) such as "display fireworks" which were the larger and more powerful fireworks used at most public displays.
- **Class C** explosives included other low explosives such as igniters, fuses and "common fireworks", which were the smaller and less powerful fireworks available for sale to and use by the general public.

At the time most purchases and use of all of these explosives, with specific exceptions for high explosives purchased and used in state, black powder used for sporting purposes and common fireworks, required either a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) license or permit to purchase and use, and/or a state or local license or permit to purchase and use.

New explosives classes

The U.S. government now uses the United Nations [explosives shipping classification system](#). This new system is based on hazard in shipping only, vs. the old USA system of both shipping and use hazards. The [BATF](#) and most states performed a direct substitution of **Shipping Class 1.3** for **Class B**, and **Shipping Class 1.4** for **Class C**. This allows some hazardous items that would have previously been classified as **Class B** and regulated to be classified as **Shipping Class 1.4** due to some packaging method that confines any explosion to the package. Being **Shipping Class 1.4**, they can now be sold to the general public and are unregulated by the BATF.

A code number and suffix (such as **1.3G**) is not enough to fully describe a material and how it is regulated, especially in **Shipping Class 1.4G**. It also must have a **UN Number** that exactly describes the material. For example, common consumer fireworks are **UN0336**, or **Shipping Class 1.4G UN0336**.

Here are some *common* fireworks classes:

- **Class 1.1G** (Mass Explosion Possible: Pyrotechnics) **UN0094** Flashpowder
- **Class 1.1G** (Mass Explosion Possible: Pyrotechnics) **UN0333** Fireworks (Salutes in bulk or in manufacture)
- **Class 1.2G** (Projection but not mass explosion: Pyrotechnics) **UN0334** Fireworks (Rarely used)
- **Class 1.3G** (Fire, Minor Blast: Pyrotechnics) **UN0335** Fireworks (Most Display Fireworks) Current federal law states that without appropriate ATF license/permit, the possession or sale of any display/professional fireworks is a felony punishable by up to 5 years in prison.

- Any ground [salute](#) device with over 50 milligrams (0.0018 oz.) of explosive composition
- Torpedoes (except for railroad signaling use)
- Multi-tube devices containing over 500 grams (17.6 oz.) of pyrotechnic composition and without 1/2" space between each tube
- Any multiple tube fountains with over 500 grams (17.6 oz.) of pyrotechnic composition and without 1/2" space between each tube
- Any reloadable aerial shells over 1.75" diameter
- Display shells
- Any single-shot or reloadable aerial shell/mine/comet/tube with over 60 grams (2.1 oz.) of pyrotechnic composition
- Any Roman candle or rocket with over 20 grams (0.7 oz.) of pyrotechnic composition
- Any aerial salute with over 130 milligrams (0.0046 oz.) of explosive composition
- **Class 1.4G** (Minor Explosion Hazard Confined to Package: Pyrotechnics) **UN0336** Fireworks (Consumer or Common Fireworks) Most popular consumer fireworks sold in the US.
 - Reloadable aerial shells 1.75" or less sold in a box with not more than 12 shells and one launching tube
 - Single-shot aerial tubes
 - [Bottle rockets](#)
 - [Skyrockets](#) and missiles
 - Ground spinners, pinwheels and helicopters
 - [Flares](#) & fountains
 - [Roman candles](#)
 - Smoke and novelty items
 - Multi-shot aerial devices, or "[cakes](#)"
 - [Firecracker](#) packs (see this link for various brand/label images). Although some firecracker items may be called "[M-80's](#)", "[M-1000's](#)", "[Cherry bombs](#)" or "[Silver Salutes](#)" by the manufacturer, they must contain less than 50 milligrams (0.0018 oz.) of flash or other explosive powder in order to be legally sold to consumers in the United States.
 - [Sparklers](#)
 - [Catherine wheel](#)
 - [Black snakes](#) and strobes
 - Mines
- **Class 1.4S** (Minor Explosion Hazard Confined To Package: Packed As To Not Hinder Nearby Firefighters) **UN0336** Fireworks (Consumer or Common Fireworks)

- **Class 1.4G** (Minor Explosion Hazard Confined To Package: Pyrotechnics) **UN0431** ARTICLES, PYROTECHNIC for technical purposes (Proximate Pyrotechnics)
- **Class 1.4S** (Minor Explosion Hazard Confined To Package: Packed As To Not Hinder Nearby Firefighters) **UN0432** ARTICLES, PYROTECHNIC for technical purposes (Proximate Pyrotechnics)

Fireworks tubes are made by rolling thick paper tightly around a former, such as a dowel. They can be made by hand, although most firework factories use machinery to manufacture tubes. Whenever tubes are used in fireworks, at least one end is always plugged with clay to keep both chemicals and burning gases from escaping through that end. The tooling is always made of non-sparking materials such as aluminum or brass. Experts at handling explosives, called pyrotechnicians, add chemicals for special effects.

The United States government categorizes fireworks into several different classifications. The two main ones are shown in the chart here. You may have heard some of these terms before, and this page is an attempt to make it all a little bit clearer.

	The "large" fireworks (used in big shows)	The "small" fireworks (that you can buy)
Old name:	Special Fireworks	Common Fireworks
Old explosives class:	Class B	Class C
United Nations shipping category:	UN0335	UN0336
New name in U.S.:	Display Fireworks	Consumer Fireworks
New explosives class in U.S.:	1.3G	1.4G

(An exception to the table above involves a recent change to the classification of Display Fireworks. Aerial shells that are 8 inches or larger in diameter are now classified as 1.1G instead of 1.3G. That means different transportation and storage requirements for shells that are 8 inches and larger, compared to the requirements for shells smaller than 8 inches in diameter.)