



Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal
Pyrotechnic Licensing Division
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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS **REGARDING FIREWORKS DISPLAYS IN ILLINOIS**

The Illinois Legislature amended the Pyrotechnic Use Act (425 ILCS 35), effective July 29, 2005, and the Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator Licensing Act (225 ILCS 227), effective January 1, 2006. The Office of the Illinois State Fire Marshal (“OSFM”) has posted copies of these Acts, the Rules administering these Acts, and applications for the various licenses on its website.

OSFM Website: <https://sfm.illinois.gov>

OSFM Pyro Page: <https://sfm.illinois.gov/iam/business/fireworks.html>

OSFM Permit Rules: <https://www.ilga.gov/commission/jcar/admincode/041/04100235sections.html>

Pyrotechnic Use Act: <https://www.ilga.gov/legislation/ilcs/ilcs3.asp?ActID=1635&ChapterID=38>

This document answers questions OSFM has received related to the use of Consumer Fireworks.

Consumer Distributor/Retailer and Consumer Use

Question 1: What does the OSFM consider to be Approved Consumer Fireworks?

Answer: As defined by the Pyrotechnic Use Act (425 ILCS 35) all Consumer Fireworks must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the U.S. Consumer Products Safety Commission, as set forth in 16 C.F.R. Parts 1500 and 1507 and classified as fireworks UN0336 or UN0337 by the United States Department of Transportation under 49 C.F.R. 172.101.

In addition, Consumer Fireworks must meet the following requirements to be approved by OSFM:

- The Consumer Fireworks must be labeled “1.4G Consumer” or must be 1.4S fireworks classified as UN0337 intended for outdoor consumer use.

Question 2: What do I need to do to have “Consumer Fireworks” on my property?

Answer: The possession, sale, use and display of all fireworks is prohibited in Illinois Except where Villages, Counties and Municipalities have passed Ordinances allowing such displays and ONLY in those locations, may permits be issued for the use of Consumer Fireworks.

To operate a consumer display, an adult must:

- 1 **Attend training** provided or approved by the permitting authority. OSFM sends this Consumer Fireworks Training information to each jurisdiction that permits consumer fireworks displays and has requested the training.
- 2 **Receive site inspection and approval** by the local fire jurisdiction. In many areas, the local fire jurisdiction is independent of the county or municipal permitting authority and may refuse the inspection and/or approval of the permit.

- 3 **Obtain a permit** issued by the appropriate unit of local government – city, town, village, or county. (The OSFM does not issue fireworks permits.) According to the Pyrotechnic Use Act, these applications “shall be made in writing at least 15 days in advance of the date of the display, unless agreed to otherwise by the local jurisdiction issuing the permit and the fire chief of the jurisdiction in which the display will occur.”
- 4 Once the local jurisdiction issues the permit, the Consumer may purchase/acquire **Approved Consumer Fireworks**.

Approved Consumer Fireworks classification of fireworks is not all-inclusive and references the approved list published by the OSFM.

Any sale, possession, or use of consumer fireworks, other than on the list, is prohibited by law.

Once the local jurisdiction has issued a permit, it is not transferable to another person or entity. The sale, possession, use and distribution of consumer fireworks for display are lawful only for the purpose described in the permit.

While the Pyrotechnic Use Act does not require insurance coverage for Consumer Displays; local jurisdictions may require it. The local jurisdiction also has the authority to conduct a criminal background check on the applicant as a condition of issuing a permit. In addition, the local jurisdiction has the authority to adopt rules regarding Consumer Displays that are more stringent than those adopted by the State.

Question 3: How can I obtain a copy of the list of approved and prohibited consumer fireworks?

Answer: OSFM has compiled this list and it is available on the OSFM website, click the following link: [OSFM Approved and Prohibited Consumer Fireworks](#)

Question 4: Do I need a license if I’m going to have an outdoor fireworks display on my property for a private party?

Answer: The need for a pyrotechnic license is related to the type of fireworks or pyrotechnic products being used, and not the private, public, or (non) commercial nature of the use or display of Fireworks/Pyrotechnics.

Approved Consumer Fireworks may be used under a local permit by anyone who has been approved as a Consumer Fireworks Operator on that permit as per Rules Part 235.

The use of Professional Pyrotechnics, including 1.3g Display Fireworks, 1.4s Special Effects Fireworks and Flame Effects, requires the services of a licensed Pyrotechnic Distributor and Operator - even on private property and for “closed” events.

Question 5: Do I need to be fingerprinted if I’m performing a consumer display?

Answer: There is no state requirement for fingerprints for Consumer Fireworks Display Operators. However, Section 2.2 of the Pyrotechnic Use Act authorizes the local jurisdiction issuing the display permit to conduct a criminal background check of the applicant as a condition of issuing the permit.

Question 6: Do I need insurance if I’m doing a private or home display?

Answer: The Fireworks Permitting Rules Part 235 do not require insurance for Consumer Fireworks Display Permits.

The Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Permitting Rules Part 235 require insurance for any display using Pyrotechnics including Professional Outdoor, Special Effects and Flame Effect displays whether the display is open to the public or a closed event.

Local permit authorities may be more restrictive and require insurance for any type of display.

Homeowners and commercial insurance policies may specifically exclude coverage related to the use of Fireworks – Pyrotechnics and the insurance carrier should be consulted.

Question 7: Do I need anything if I want to purchase Sparklers for a private event?

Answer: No. The Pyrotechnic Use Act specifically excludes sparklers, poppers, caps, and other “novelty” items from regulation under the Act.

Question 8: What is required to sell Consumer Fireworks in the state of Illinois?

Answer: Consumer sales require permit or authorization from the local jurisdiction and “registration” with the OSFM.

The first step is to determine whether the local governmental authority (City Council, Village Board of Trustees, and/or County Board) permits or allows the sale of consumer fireworks at the location where the Consumer Fireworks will be sold.

If a local permit or authorization to sell Consumer Fireworks is obtained, the Consumer Fireworks Distributor – Retailer must register with OSFM as a Consumer Fireworks Distributor/Consumer Retailer. OSFM registration requires compliance with Illinois rules for business and tax registration and compliance.

The Consumer Fireworks Distributor/Retailer application can be found on the Pyrotechnics Fireworks Page of the OSFM website: [Consumer Fireworks Distributor/Retailer Application](#)

If you have questions about Fireworks Distributor/Retailer and Consumer Use that was not answered, please e-mail us at SFM.PyroFireworks@illinois.gov