

A Rocketeer's Guide to Legal Requirements

Version 2.2

This document is published by the Council of the United Kingdom Rocketry Association and supersedes all previous versions.

All the information contained herein has been referenced from MSER 2005 and COER 1991 and checked for accuracy by HSE.

Amendment Status

Version	Date	Pages	Comments
1.0	20th June 2005	ALL	not issued
2.0	26th June 2005	ALL	under revision
2.1	30 June 2005	ALL	first full issue
2.2	20 th Oct 2005	ALL	Quest motor class change.

Index

Page One	-	Introduction
	-	Explosives Certificate - Items Requiring
Page Two	-	Explosives Certificate - Items Not Requiring
Page Three	-	Registered Store
Page Four	-	Registered Store (continued) - Black and Smokeless Powders - Upper Limits for Registration
Page Five	-	RCA Document
Page Six	-	Explosive & Pyrotechnic Article Database
Page Seven	-	Explosive & Pyrotechnic Article Database (continued) - Guidance Notes

Introduction

This is an interpretation of the new MSER 2005 regulations and COER 1991 regulations put in simple English with reference only to rocketry related products, namely motors, ignitors, fuses and black and smokeless powders.

To facilitate understanding of the different UN numbers used within, it is important that the database included at the end of this document is read in conjunction with the main document.

Explosives Certificate

Also called a COER 1 form and is issued by your local police force. This document is required if you wish to acquire and keep any of the following UN Numbers :-

UN 0027, UN 0028, UN 0186, UN 0349 and UN 0351.

This means that, at the time of writing you will need an Explosives Certificate if you want to keep any of the following :-

Aerotech reloadable (RMS) motors	38mm and smaller
Aerotech single use motors	any
Congreve single use motors	E to L power.
Cesaroni motors	any
Black Powder	

If new products or models come on the market, you should ask the supplier for its UN Number so you can identify whether or not you need an Explosives Certificate to acquire and keep it.”

When applying for this certificate, you should list the following UN numbers :-

UN 0027	Black powder - granular or meal	
UN 0028	Black powder - compressed or pellets	
UN 0186	Rocket motors	
UN 0349	Articles, Explosive NOS *	(Haz Div 1.4S)
UN 0351	Articles, Explosive NOS *	(Haz Div 1.4C)

NOS * = Not otherwise specified

You do **not** need an Explosives Certificate if you are **only** acquiring and keeping articles categorised under the following UN Numbers:

UN 0101	Fuse, Instantaneous, Non-Detonating	(Haz Div 1.3G)
UN 0160	Smokeless Powder	(Haz Div 1.1C)
UN 0161	Smokeless Powder	(Haz Div 1.3C)
UN 0275	Cartridges, Power Device	(Haz Div 1.3C)
UN 0276	Cartridges, Power Device	(Haz Div 1.4C)
UN 0432	Articles, Pyrotechnic for technical purposes	(Haz Div 1.4S)
UN 0454	Igniters	(Haz Div 1.4S)

This means that, at the time of writing you do **not** need an Explosives Certificate if you want to acquire and keep any of the following :-

Aerotech reloadable (RMS) motors	54mm, 75mm and 98mm ranges
Congreve reloadable motors	any
Congreve ignitors	any
Estes model rocket motors	any
Quest motors	any
Quickmatch (fuse instant.non.det.)	
Slow Burn / PIC / ICI Slow	
Pyrodex (smokeless powder)	

Registered Store

You are required to register your premises for the storage of explosives if you wish to keep any of the following UN numbers in **any** quantity :-

UN 0186, UN 0349 , UN 0351

This means that, at the time of writing you will need to register your premises if you want to keep **any** of the following :-

Aerotech reloadable (RMS) motors – 38mm and smaller
Aerotech single use motors – any
Congreve single use motors – E to L power.
Cesaroni motors – any

This registration is dealt with by your local police force.

You are required to register your premises for the storage of explosives if you wish to keep any of the following UN numbers in quantities **above 5kg** (net mass) :-

UN 0101, UN 0275, UN 0276, UN 0432, UN 0454

This means that, at the time of writing you will need to register your premises if you want to keep any of the following in quantities **above 5kg** (net mass):-

Aerotech 54, 75 or 98mm reloads
Congreve reloadable motors – any
Congreve ignitors - any
Estes motors – any
Quest motors – any
Quickmatch fuse
Slow burn fuse

If you are **only** keeping articles with these UN Numbers, the registration is issued by your local authority (normally the trading standards department).
In metropolitan counties it will be issued by the fire service.

However, if you are **also** keeping **any** article for which you need an Explosives Certificate (or Smokeless Powder), the issuing authority will be the police.

Black Powder and Smokeless Powder

You are not required to register your premises if you wish to store -

no more than **either**

(a) 15 kg of black powder,

or

(b) 10 kg of black powder **plus** 5 kg of smokeless powder.

(In addition to either (a) or (b) above, 15kg of small arms ammunition and percussion caps may also be kept).

Upper Limit for Registration

Listed below are the upper limits for registering your premises.

If you wish to exceed these limits, you must **Licence** a store as opposed to registering it. All quantities are net mass.

- (a) 30 kg of explosives of any hazard type;
- (b) 100 kg of hazard type 3 explosives;
- (c) 100 kg of a combination of hazard type 3 and hazard type 4 explosives;
- (d) 250 kg of hazard type 4 explosives; or
- (e) 250 kg of small arms ammunition and percussion caps and 30 kg of shooters' powder.

Recipient Competent Authority Transfer Document (POMSTER)

This document, usually abbreviated to an “RCA”, is issued by the HSE in London and is required if you wish to transport any of the following to and from your registered store / premises :-

- Any rocket motor.
- Black or smokeless powder.

HSE will issue an RCA document if you send them a fax or a photocopy of your Explosives Certificate.

The RCA document will contain the UN Numbers for the explosives the police have included on your Explosives Certificate.

HSE will automatically include the UN numbers for those articles and substances for which an RCA document **is** needed to transfer but which do **not** require an Explosives Certificate to acquire and keep.

This will include UN 0160 and 0161 (Smokeless powder), UN 0275 (Cartridges, power device Haz Div 1.3C) and UN 0276 (Cartridges, power device Haz Div 1.4C).

An RCA document is **not** needed to transfer items that are considered to be pyrotechnic articles. UN 0101 (Quickmatch) UN 0432 (Articles, pyrotechnic for technical purposes – eg Estes rocket motors) and UN 0454 (Igniters) come into this category.

Consequently HSE will **not** include these UN numbers on the RCA document.

Explosive and Pyrotechnic Article Database

Manufacturer	Item Type	UN Number	Haz Class	Explosives Cert Exempt ?	Notes
Aerotech	Motor	0351	1.4c	No	18, 24, 29 & 38mm RMS
Aerotech	Motor	0349	1.4s	No	All single use motors
Aerotech	Motor	0275	1.3c	Yes	54, 75 & 98mm RMS
Congreve	Motor	0349	1.4s	No	Single use E motors
Congreve	Motor	0351	1.4c	No	Single use F motors
Congreve	Motor	0186	1.3c	No	Single use G to L motors
Congreve	Motor	0275	1.3c	Yes	Reloads
Congreve	Ignitor	0454	1.4s	Yes	Ignitors
Estes	Motor	0432	1.4s	Yes	A to D power motors
Estes	Motor	0276	1.4c	Yes	E power motors
ICI	Fuse	0101	1.3g	Yes	Quickmatch
ICI	Fuse	0105	1.4s	Yes	"ICI Slow" / Slowburn / PIC
Micromaxx	Motor	0432	1.4s	Yes	Very small motor
Pro (Cesaroni)	Motor	0186	1.3c	No	75, 98 & 150mm Reloads
Pro (Cesaroni)	Motor	0351	1.4c	No	38 & 54mm Reloads
Quest	Motor	0432	1.4s	Yes	A to D power motors
any	Black Powder	0027 & 0028		No	
Pyrodex	Smokeless Powder	0160 & 0161	1.1c & 1.3c	Yes	

Notes on the Explosive and Pyrotechnic Article Database

This database was last modified – 26.06.05

Information obtained from LOCEF database in conjunction with the HSE.

Under the column entitled “Exempt” if an entry reads “Yes” it means that the articles listed are exempt from the requirement of an Explosives Certificate under Schedule 1 of the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991.