

Information Bulletin



Explosives Inspectorate

Information Bulletin No. 10 (Version 5) | 23 October 2012

Authorisation of explosives and trials of unauthorised/prohibited explosives in Queensland

This bulletin is intended for anyone involved in authorising an explosive, or amending an authorisation, or in approving or extending a trial of an unauthorised or prohibited explosive. It does **not** apply to licences or permits to import, export, manufacture, sell or use explosives, or other activities involving explosives. It does **not** apply to a temporary authorisation of expired explosives.

You may also need to refer to:

- *Explosives Act 1999* (the Act)
- Explosives Regulation 2003 (the Regulation)
- Information Bulletin 71 (**IB71**)—List of authorised explosives; latest version
- Information Bulletin 37 (**IB37**)—Regulatory and security assessment fees; latest version
- Recommendations of the Transport of Dangerous Goods—Manual of Tests and Criteria, 5th edition (**TDG**)
- Australian Code for the Transport of Explosives by Road and Rail, third edition (**AEC3**)
- Australian Code for the Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road and Rail, seventh edition (**ADG7**).

To apply for authorisation of an explosive, amendment of an authorised explosive, trial of an unauthorised explosive or extension of trial of an unauthorised explosive please see **Further Information** at the end of this document.

Important points to note

1. Sections 8 and 12 of the *Explosives Act 1999* stipulate that explosives must be either authorised or approved for trial by the Chief Inspector of Explosives. Regulations 11 to 18 the Explosives Regulation 2003 provide further detail regarding authorisation or trial approval of an explosive.
2. All explosives—including blasting explosives, detonators, propellant powders, marine distress signals and safety fuses—are not permitted to be imported, brought into, manufactured, transported, stored, kept, used, sold or supplied in Queensland, unless they have been authorised or trialled. The granting of an authorisation or trial applies to the explosive only. The person conducting activities with explosives must have an appropriate licence or permit. A trial is limited to the applicant.
3. An explosive is an **unauthorised explosive** when it:
 - is not declared to be authorised by the Chief Inspector of Explosives and has not been included in the register of authorised explosives (see IB71), or
 - differs in composition, quality or character (whether by deterioration or otherwise) from the composition, quality and character defined for the explosive that is declared an authorised explosive by the chief inspector.

Note: An explosive is authorised when the name printed on the explosive article and /or outer packaging of the explosive is the exact name as listed in the register of authorised explosives. The authorised name must also be used in all associated documentation (including the SDS, TDS, import notification, consignment note etc.) A change of authorised explosive name will require application for a new authorisation of explosive.

4. Authorisation of explosives falls under four categories:

General — explosives compositions or articles that are authorised through a request to the Chief Inspector under section 13 of the Explosives Regulation 2003. The request is carried out by completing the application form and paying the fee in accordance with IB37. The application form covers applying to have an explosive authorised or amending an existing authorisation.

Permitted explosives—a special class of explosives authorised for their intended use in underground coal mines. Permitted explosives are restricted for use in underground coal mines and their use is conditional to the system for P1–P5 permitted explosives in underground coal mines.

Explosives designed for use in underground coal mines must be tested as a permitted explosive against the criteria of the Health and Safety Executive (UK) Testing Memorandum No. 2 (TM2). Within Australia, TM2 is the only accepted specification for explosives used in underground coal mines.

In relation to their intended use, TM2 group explosives used in underground coal mines are as follows:

1. P1 – Single, simultaneous or delay firing in shafts and drifts.
2. P3 – Single, simultaneous firing undercut coal, rippings, dintings and scouring.
3. P4 – Primarily for delay firing in undercut coal and rippings.
4. P5 – Primarily for delay firing in solid coal.

Permitted explosives are authorised through a request to the Chief Inspector under section 13 of the Regulation. They are authorised as suitable for use in an underground coal mine only in relation to their intended use in P1–P5 applications.

Defence Explosives Ordnance Classification List (DEOCL)—a list of explosives including articles that are approved by the Department of Defence and are authorised by the Chief Inspector based upon the Department of Defence approval, as published in the latest version of the DEOCL.

Generically authorised explosives— explosives compositions and articles generically authorised by the Chief Inspector. The generic list includes explosives that are widespread in use, have many manufacturers, and are available universally. The controls for these explosives are affected through the declaration of prohibited explosives under section 15 of the Regulation. Examples of generically authorised explosives are: SSAN (security sensitive ammonium nitrate), ANFO (ammonium nitrate fuel oil), fireworks, distress signals, power device cartridges and small arms ammunition.

Trials

Under section 11 of the Explosives Act, unauthorised explosives or prohibited explosives can not be manufactured, stored, kept in one's possession, transported, sold or used in Queensland unless permitted under the Act for trial, experiment or examination.

Note that an explosive may be prohibited under the Act, section 15 of the Regulation and where it is listed in schedule 1 of the Regulation.

An explosives trial approval for the purposes of trial or experiment to manufacture, store, possess, transport, sell or use (all or any of them) in Queensland may be granted by the Chief Inspector upon such terms and conditions as deemed advisable.

Trials of unauthorised explosives are generally sought to be undertaken on various sites. When making an application, the applicant should provide as much of the requested information that can be reasonably obtained and that also meets the requirements of the Chief Inspector: pay particular attention to sections 4, 9 and 12 of the application form.

A report of the trial must be submitted to the Chief Inspector within two months of the completion of the trial. A trial may be extended, but a progress report must be submitted before an extension is granted.

At the end of the trial, all unauthorised or prohibited explosives must be destroyed. Unauthorised and prohibited explosives can not exist legally unless they are legitimised by a trial but only for the duration of the trial.

Fees

Scheduled fees are listed in IB37. Fees are charged for authorisation of an explosive **only**.

Making your application

The Explosives Inspectorate must be provided with a [fully complete form](#) as per the '[How to fill out the application form](#)' document' This is in order to declare an authorisation of an explosive or approve for trial of an explosive.

When the Chief Inspector declares the explosive an authorised explosive, a notice of decision will be given to the person requesting authorisation.

The Chief Inspector will enter this authorised explosive in the register of authorised explosives. This register is published as IB71 and is available on the departmental website.

Further information

Explosives legislation can be found at: http://www.legislation.qld.gov.au/Acts_SLs/Acts_SL_E.htm

IB71 and IB 37 can be found on the [explosives information bulletins](#) page on the DNRM website.

