

Title 27, Code of Federal Regulations

PART 55 -- COMMERCE IN EXPLOSIVES

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Authority: 18 U.S.C. 847.

Source: T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, unless otherwise noted.

Subpart A—Introduction

§ 55.1 Scope of regulations.

(a) **In general.** The regulations contained in this part relate to commerce in explosives and implement Title XI, Regulation of Explosives (18 U.S.C. Chapter 40; 84 Stat. 952), of the Organized Crime Control Act of 1970 (84 Stat. 922), Public Law 103-322 (108 Stat. 1796), and Public Law 104-132 (110 Stat. 1214).

(b) **Procedural and substantive requirements.** This part contains the procedural and substantive requirements relative to:

- (1) The interstate or foreign commerce in explosive materials;
- (2) The licensing of manufacturers and importers of, and dealers in, explosive materials;
- (3) The issuance of user permits;
- (4) The conduct of business by licensees and operations by permittees;
- (5) The storage of explosive materials;
- (6) The records and reports required of licensees and permittees;
- (7) Relief from disabilities under this part;
- (8) Exemptions, unlawful acts, penalties, seizures, and forfeitures; and
- (9) The marking of plastic explosives.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-363, 60 FR 17449, April 6, 1995, as confirmed at T.D. ATF-396, 63 FR 12643, 12646, March 16, 1998; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.2 Relation to other provisions of law.

The provisions in this part are in addition to, and are not in lieu of, any other provision of law, or regulations, respecting commerce in explosive materials. For regulations applicable to commerce in firearms and ammunition, see Part 178 of this chapter. For regulations applicable to traffic in machine guns, destructive devices, and certain other firearms, see Part 179 of this chapter. For statutes applicable to the registration and licensing of persons engaged in the business of manufacturing, importing or exporting arms, ammunition, or implements of war, see section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778), and regulations of Part 47 of this chapter and in Parts 121 through 128 of Title 22, Code of Federal Regulations. For statutes applicable to nonmailable materials, see 18 U.S.C. 1716 and implementing regulations. For statutes applicable to water quality standards, see 33 U.S.C. 1341.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart B-Definitions

§ 55.11 Meaning of terms.

When used in this part, terms are defined as follows in this section. Words in the plural form include the singular, and vice versa, and words indicating the masculine gender include the feminine. The terms "includes" and "including" do not exclude other things not named which are in the same general class or are otherwise within the scope of the term defined.

Act. 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40.

Ammunition. Small arms ammunition or cartridge cases, primers, bullets, or smokeless propellants designed for use in small arms, including percussion caps, and 3/32 inch and other external burning pyrotechnic hobby fuses. The term does not include black powder.

Approved storage facility. A place where explosive materials are stored, consisting of one or more approved magazines, conforming to the requirements of this part and covered by a license or permit issued under this part.

Articles pyrotechnic. Pyrotechnic devices for professional use similar to consumer fireworks in chemical composition and construction but not intended for consumer use. Such articles meeting the weight limits for consumer fireworks but not labeled as such and classified by U.S. Department of Transportation regulations in 49 CFR 172.101 as UN0431 or UN0432.

Artificial barricade. An artificial mound or revetted wall of earth of a minimum thickness of three feet, or any other approved barricade that offers equivalent protection.

ATF officer. An officer or employee of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms (ATF) authorized to perform any function relating to the administration or enforcement of this part.

Authority having jurisdiction for fire safety. The fire department having jurisdiction over sites where explosives are manufactured or stored.

Barricaded. The effective screening of a magazine containing explosive materials from another magazine, a building, a railway, or a highway, either by a natural barricade or by an artificial barricade. To be properly barricaded, a straight line from the top of any sidewall of the magazine containing explosive materials to the eave line of any other magazine or building, or to a point 12 feet above the center of a railway or highway, will pass through the natural or artificial barricade.

Blasting agent. Any material or mixture, consisting of fuel and oxidizer, that is intended for blasting and not otherwise defined as an explosive; if the finished product, as mixed for use or shipment, cannot be detonated by means of a number 8 test blasting cap when unconfined. A number 8 test blasting cap is one containing 2 grams of a mixture of 80 percent mercury fulminate and 20 percent potassium chlorate, or a blasting cap of equivalent strength. An equivalent strength cap comprises 0.40-0.45 grams of PETN base charge pressed in an aluminum shell with bottom thickness not to exceed to 0.03 of an inch, to a specific gravity of not less than 1.4 g/cc., and primed with standard weights of primer depending on the manufacturer.

Bulk salutes. Salute components prior to final assembly into aerial shells, and finished salute shells held separately prior to being packed with other types of display fireworks.

Bullet-sensitive explosive materials. Explosive materials that can be exploded by 150-grain M2 ball ammunition having a nominal muzzle velocity of 2700 fps (824 mps) when fired from a .30 caliber rifle at a distance of 100 ft (30.5 m), measured perpendicular. The test material is at a temperature of 70 to 75 degrees F (21 to 24 degrees C) and is placed against a 1/2 inch (12.4 mm) steel backing plate.

Bureau. The Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

Business premises. When used with respect to a manufacturer, importer, or dealer, the property on which explosive materials are manufactured, imported, stored or distributed. The premises include the property where the records of a manufacturer, importer, or dealer are kept if different than the premises where explosive materials are manufactured, imported, stored or distributed. When used with respect to a user of explosive materials, the property on which the explosive materials are received or stored. The premises includes the property where the records of the users are kept if different than the premises where explosive materials are received or stored.

Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center. The AFT official responsible for the issuance and renewal of licenses and permits under this part.

Consumer fireworks. Any small firework device designed to produce visible effects by combustion

and which must comply with the construction, chemical composition, and labeling regulations of the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission, as set forth in title 16, Code of Federal Regulations, parts 1500 and 1507. Some small devices designed to produce audible effects are included, such as whistling devices, ground devices containing 50 mg or less of explosive materials, and aerial devices containing 130 mg or less of explosive materials. Consumer fireworks are classified as fireworks UN0336, and UN0337 by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101. This term does not include fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder.

Crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year. Any offense for which the maximum penalty, whether or not imposed, is capital punishment or imprisonment in excess of one year. The term does not include (a) any Federal or State offenses pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade, or (b) any State offense (other than one involving a firearm or explosive) classified by the laws of the State as a misdemeanor and punishable by a term of imprisonment of two years or less.

Customs officer. Any officer of the Customs Service or any commissioned, warrant, or petty officer of the Coast Guard, or any agent or other person authorized to perform the duties of an officer of the Customs Service.

Dealer. Any person engaged in the business of distributing explosive materials at wholesale or retail.

Detonator. Any device containing a detonating charge that is used for initiating detonation in an explosive. The term includes, but is not limited to, electric blasting caps of instantaneous and delay types, blasting caps for use with safety fuses, detonating-cord delay connectors, and nonelectric instantaneous and delay blasting caps.

Director. The Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, Department of the Treasury, Washington, DC.

Display fireworks. Large fireworks designed primarily to produce visible or audible effects by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. This term includes, but is not limited to, salutes containing more than 2 grains (130 mg) of explosive materials, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as "consumer fireworks." Display fireworks are classified as fireworks UN0333, UN0334 or UN0335 by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101. This term also

includes fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50 mg of salute powder.

Distribute. To sell, issue, give, transfer, or otherwise dispose of. The term does not include a mere change of possession from a person to his agent or employee in connection with the agency or employment.

Executed under penalties of perjury. Signed with the required declaration under the penalties of perjury as provided on or with respect to the return, form, or other document or, where no form of declaration is required, with the declaration:

"I declare under the penalties of perjury that this -- (insert type of document, such as, statement, application, request, certificate), including the documents submitted in support thereof, has been examined by me and, to the best of my knowledge and belief, is true, correct, and complete".

Explosive actuated device. Any tool or special mechanized device which is actuated by explosives, but not a propellant actuated device.

Explosive materials. Explosives, blasting agents, water gels and detonators. Explosive materials include, but are not limited to, all items "in the List of Explosive Materials" provided for in § 55.23.

Explosives. Any chemical compound, mixture, or device, the primary or common purpose of which is to function by explosion. The term includes, but is not limited to, dynamite and other high explosives, black powder, pellet powder, initiating explosives, detonators, safety fuses, squibs, detonating cord, igniter cord, and igniters.

Fireworks. Any composition or device designed to produce a visible or an audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, and which meets the definition of "consumer fireworks" or "display fireworks" as defined by this section.

Fireworks mixing building. Any building or area used for mixing and blending pyrotechnic compositions except wet sparkler mix.

Fireworks nonprocess building. Any office building or other building or area in a fireworks plant where no fireworks, pyrotechnic compositions or explosive materials are processed or stored.

Fireworks plant. All land and buildings thereon used for or in connection with the assembly or processing of fireworks, including warehouses used with or in connection with fireworks plant operations.

Fireworks plant warehouse. Any building or structure used exclusively for the storage of materials which are neither explosive materials nor pyrotechnic compositions used to manufacture or assemble fireworks.

Fireworks process building. Any mixing building; any building in which pyrotechnic

compositions or explosive materials is pressed or otherwise prepared for finished and assembly; or any finishing or assembly building.

Fireworks shipping building. A building used for the packing of assorted display fireworks into shipping cartons for individual public displays and for the loading of packaged displays for shipment to purchasers.

Flash powder. An explosive material intended to produce an audible report and a flash of light when ignited which includes but is not limited to oxidizers such as potassium chlorate or potassium perchlorate, and fuels such as sulfur or aluminum powder.

Fugitive from justice. Any person who has fled from the jurisdiction of any court of record to avoid prosecution for any crime or to avoid giving testimony in any criminal proceeding. The term also includes any person who has been convicted of any crime and has fled to avoid imprisonment.

Hardwood. Oak, maple, ash, hickory, or other hard wood, free from loose knots, spaces, or similar defects.

Highway. Any public street, public alley, or public road, including a privately financed, constructed, or maintained road that is regularly and openly traveled by the general public.

Importer. Any person engaged in the business of importing or bringing explosive materials into the United States for purposes of sale or distribution.

Indictment. Includes an indictment or information in any court under which a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year may be prosecuted.

Inhabited building. Any building regularly occupied in whole or in part as a habitation for human beings, or any church, schoolhouse, railroad station, store, or other structure where people are accustomed to assemble, except any building occupied in connection with the manufacture, transportation, storage, or use of explosive materials.

Interstate or foreign commerce. Commerce between any place in a State and any place outside of that State, or within any possession of the United States or the District of Columbia, and commerce between places within the same State but through any place outside of that State.

Licensed dealer. A dealer licensed under this part.

Licensed importer. An importer licensed under this part.

Licensed manufacturer. A manufacturer licensed under this part to engage in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purposes of sale or distribution or for his own use.

Licensee. Any importer, manufacturer, or dealer licensed under this part.

Magazine. Any building or structure, other than an explosives manufacturing building, used for storage of explosive materials.

Manufacturer. Any person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purposes of sale or distribution or for his own use.

Mass detonation (mass explosion). Explosive materials mass detonate (mass explode) when a unit or any part of a larger quantity of explosive material explodes and causes all or a substantial part of the remaining material to detonate or explode.

Natural barricade. Natural features of the ground, such as hills, or timber of sufficient density that the surrounding exposures which require protection cannot be seen from the magazine when the trees are bare of leaves.

Number 8 test blasting cap. (See definition of "blasting agent.")

Permittee. Any user of explosives for lawful purpose, who has obtained a user permit under this part.

Person. Any individual, corporation, company, association, firm, partnership, society, or joint stock company.

Plywood. Exterior, construction grade (laminated wood) plywood.

Propellant actuated device. Any tool or special mechanized device or gas generator system which is actuated by a propellant or which releases and directs work through a propellant charge.

Pyrotechnic compositions. A chemical mixture which, upon burning and without explosion, produces visible, brilliant displays, bright lights, or sounds.

Railway. Any steam, electric, or other railroad or railway which carries passengers for hire.

Region. A geographical region of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

Regional director (compliance). The principal regional official responsible for administering regulations in this part.

Salute. An aerial shell, classified as a display firework, that contains a charge of flash powder and is designed to produce a flash of light and a loud report as the pyrotechnic effect.

Screen barricade. Any barrier that will contain the embers and debris from a fire or deflagration in a process building, thus preventing propagation of fire to other buildings or areas. Such barriers shall be constructed of metal roofing, 1/4 to 1/2 inch (6 to 13 mm) mesh screen, or equivalent material. The barrier extends from floor level to a height such that a straight line from the top of any side wall of the

donor building to the eave line of any exposed building intercepts the screen at a point not less than 5 feet (1.5 m) from the top of the screen. The top 5 feet (1.5 m) of the screen is inclined towards the donor building at an angle of 30 to 45 degrees.

Softwood. Fir, pine, or other soft wood, free from loose knots, spaces, or similar defects.

State. A State of the United States. The term includes the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and the possessions of the United States.

State of residence. The State in which an individual regularly resides or maintains his home. Temporary stay in a State does not make the State of temporary stay the State of residence.

Theatrical flash powder. Flash powder commercially manufactured in premeasured kits not exceeding 1 ounce and mixed immediately prior to use and intended for use in theatrical shows, stage plays, band concerts, magic acts, thrill shows, and clown acts in circuses.

U.S.C. The United States Code.

User-limited permit. A user permit valid only for a single purchase transaction, a new permit being required for a subsequent purchase transaction.

User permit. A permit issued to a person authorizing him (a) to acquire for his own use explosive materials from a licensee in a State other than the State in which he resides or from a foreign country, and (b) to transport explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce.

Water gels. Explosives or blasting agents that contain a substantial proportion of water.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug.7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46916, Sept. 23, 1981; T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10497, Mar. 15, 1985; T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53053, Dec. 27, 1989; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3720, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-314, 56 FR 49140, Sept. 27, 1991; T.D. ATF-382, 61 FR 38084, 38085, July 23, 1996; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999,45001,Aug.24,1998]

Subpart C—Administrative and Miscellaneous Provisions

§ 55.21 Forms prescribed.

(a) The Director is authorized to prescribe all forms required by this part. All of the information called for in each form shall be furnished as indicated by the headings on the form and the instructions on or pertaining to the form. In addition, information called for in each form shall be furnished as required by this part.

(b) Requests for forms should be mailed to the ATF Distribution Center, 7943 Angus Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

[T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46916, Sept. 23, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-249, 52 FR 5961, Feb. 27, 1987; T.D. 372, 61 FR 20721, 20724, May 8, 1996]

§ 55.22 Alternate methods or procedures; emergency variations from requirements.

(a) Alternate methods or procedures. The permittee or licensee, on specific approval by the Director as provided by this paragraph, may use an alternate method or procedure in lieu of a method or procedure specifically prescribed in this part. The Director may approve an alternate method or procedure, subject to stated conditions, when he finds that:

(1) Good cause is shown for the use of the alternate method or procedure;

(2) The alternate method or procedure is within the purpose of, and consistent with the effect intended by, the specifically prescribed method or procedure and that the alternate method or procedure is substantially equivalent to that specifically prescribed method or procedure; and

(3) The alternate method or procedure will not be contrary to any provision of law and will not result in an increase in cost to the Government or hinder the effective administration of this part.

Where the permittee or licensee desires to employ an alternate method or procedure, he shall submit a written application to the regional director (compliance), for transmittal to the Director. The application shall specifically describe the proposed alternate method or procedure and shall set forth the reasons for it. Alternate methods or procedures may not be employed until the application is approved by the Director. The permittee or licensee shall, during the period of authorization of an alternate method or procedure, comply with the terms of the approved application. Authorization of any alternate method or procedure may be withdrawn whenever, in the judgment of the Director, the effective administration of this part is hindered by the continuation of the authorization. As

used in this paragraph, alternate methods or procedures include alternate construction or equipment.

(b) Emergency variations from requirements.

The Director may approve construction, equipment, and methods of operation other than as specified in this part, where he finds that an emergency exists and the proposed variations from the specified requirements are necessary and the proposed variations:

(1) Will afford security and protection that are substantially equivalent to those prescribed in this part;

(2) Will not hinder the effective administration of this part; and

(3) Will not be contrary to any provisions of law.

Variations from requirements granted under this paragraph are conditioned on compliance with the procedures, conditions, and limitations set forth in the approval of the application. Failure to comply in good faith with the procedures, conditions, and limitations shall automatically terminate the authority for the variations and the licensee or permittee shall fully comply with the prescribed requirements of regulations from which the variations were authorized. Authority for any variation may be withdrawn whenever, in the judgment of the Director, the effective administration of this part is hindered by the continuation of the variation. Where the licensee or permittee desires to employ an emergency variation, he shall submit a written application to the regional director (compliance) for transmittal to the Director. The application shall describe the proposed variation and set forth the reasons for it. Variations may not be employed until the application is approved, except when the emergency requires immediate action to correct a situation that is threatening to life or property. Corrective action may then be taken concurrent with the filing of the application and notification of the Director via telephone.

(c) Retention of approved variations. The licensee or permittee shall retain, as part of his records available for examination by ATF officers, any application approved by the Director under this section.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.23 List of explosive materials.

The Director shall compile a list of explosive materials, which shall be published and revised at least annually in the FEDERAL REGISTER. The "List of Explosive Materials" (ATF Publication

5400.8) is available at no cost upon request from the ATF Distribution Center, 7943 Angus Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153.

[T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.24 Right of entry and examination.

Any ATF officer may enter during business hours the premises, including places of storage, of any licensee or permittee for the purpose of inspecting or examining any records or documents required to be kept under this part, and any explosive materials kept or stored at the premises.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.25 Disclosure of information.

Upon receipt of written request from any State or any political subdivision of a State, the regional director (compliance) may make available to the State or political subdivision any information which the regional director (compliance) may obtain under the Act with respect to the identification of persons within the State or political subdivision, who have purchased or received explosive materials, together with a description of the explosive materials.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.26 Prohibited shipment, transportation, receipt, possession, or distribution of explosive materials.

(a) No person, other than a licensee or permittee, shall transport, ship, cause to be transported, or receive in interstate or foreign commerce any explosive materials. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) The transportation, shipment, or receipt of explosive materials by a nonlicensed person or nonpermittee who lawfully purchases explosive materials from a licensee in a State contiguous to the purchaser's State of residence if,

(i) the purchaser's State of residence has enacted legislation, currently in force, specifically authorizing a resident of that State to purchase explosive materials in a contiguous State,

(ii) the provisions of § 55.105(c) are fully complied with, and

(iii) the purchaser is not otherwise prohibited under paragraph (b) of this section from shipping or transporting explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce or receiving explosive materials which have been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce; or

(2) The lawful purchase by a nonlicensee or nonpermittee of commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds, if the black powder is intended to be used solely for

sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(16), or in antique devices as exempted from the term "destructive device" in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4).

(b) No person may ship or transport any explosive material in interstate or foreign commerce or receive or possess any explosive materials which have been shipped or transported in interstate or foreign commerce who:

(1) Is under indictment or information for, or who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year,

(2) Is a fugitive from justice,

(3) Is an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant or stimulant drug, or narcotic drug (as these terms are defined in the Controlled Substances Act; 21 U.S.C. 802), or

(4) Has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to a mental institution.

(c) No person shall knowingly distribute explosive materials to any individual who:

(1) Is under twenty-one years of age,

(2) Is under indictment or information for, or who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year,

(3) Is a fugitive from justice,

(4) Is an unlawful user of or addicted to marijuana, or any depressant or stimulant drug, or narcotic drug (as these terms are defined in the Controlled Substances Act; 21 U.S.C. 802), or

(5) Has been adjudicated as a mental defective or has been committed to a mental institution.

(d) See § 55.180 for regulations concerning the prohibited manufacture, importation, exportation, shipment, transportation, receipt, transfer, or possession of plastic explosives that do not contain a detection agent.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3721, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-363, 60 FR 17449, April 6, 1995, as confirmed at T.D. ATF-396, 63 FR 12643, 12646, March 16, 1998; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.27 Out-of-State disposition of explosive materials.

No nonlicensee or nonpermittee shall distribute any explosive materials to any other nonlicensee or nonpermittee who the distributor knows or has reasonable cause to believe does not reside in the State in which the distributor resides.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.28 Stolen explosive materials.

No person shall receive, conceal, transport, ship, store, barter, sell, or dispose of any stolen explosive materials knowing or having reasonable cause to believe that the explosive materials were stolen. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.29 Unlawful storage.

No person shall store any explosive materials in a manner not in conformity with this part. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.30 Reporting theft or loss of explosive materials.

(a) Any licensee or permittee who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials from his stock shall, within 24 hours of discovery, report the theft or loss by telephoning 1-800-800-3855 (nationwide toll free number) and on ATF F 5400.5 (formerly Form 4712) in accordance with the instructions on the form. Theft or loss of any explosive materials shall also be reported to appropriate local authorities.

(b) Any other person, except a carrier of explosive materials, who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials from his stock shall, within 24 hours of discovery, report the theft or loss by telephoning 1-800-800-3855 (nationwide toll free number) and in writing to the nearest ATF office. Theft or loss shall be reported to appropriate local authorities.

(c) Reports of theft or loss of explosive materials under paragraphs (a) and (b) of this section must include the following information, if known:

- (1) The manufacturer or brand name.
- (2) The manufacturer's marks of identification (date and shift code).
- (3) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, etc.).
- (4) Description (dynamite, blasting agents, detonators, etc.) and United Nations (UN) identification number, hazard division number, and classification letter, e.g., 1.1D, as classified by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101 and 173.52.

(5) Size (length and diameter).

(d) A carrier of explosive materials who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials shall, within 24 hours of discovery, report the theft or loss by telephoning 1-800-800-3855

(nationwide toll free number). Theft or loss shall also be reported to appropriate local authorities. Reports of theft or loss of explosive materials by carriers shall include the following information, if known:

- (1) The manufacturer or brand name.
- (2) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, etc.).
- (3) Description (United Nations (UN) identification number, hazard division number, and classification letter, e.g., 1.1D) as classified by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101 and 173.52.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.31 Inspection of site accidents or fires; right of entry.

Any ATF officer may inspect the site of any accident or fire in which there is reason to believe that explosive materials were involved. Any ATF officer may enter into or upon any property where explosive materials have been used, are suspected of having been used, or have been found in an otherwise unauthorized location.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.32 Special explosive devices.

The Director may exempt certain explosive actuated devices, explosive actuated tools, or similar devices from the requirements of this part. A person who desires to obtain an exemption under this section for any special explosive device, which as designed does not constitute a public safety or security hazard, shall submit a written request to the Director. Each request shall be executed under the penalties of perjury and contain a complete and accurate description of the device, the name and address of the manufacturer or importer, the purpose of and use for which it is intended, and any photographs, diagrams, or drawings as may be necessary to enable the Director to make a determination. The Director may require that a sample of the device be submitted for examination and evaluation. If it is not possible to submit the device, the person requesting the exemption shall advise the Director and designate the place where the device will be available for examination and evaluation.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart D—Licenses and Permits

§ 55.41 General.

(a) Each person intending to engage in business as an importer or manufacturer of, or a dealer in, explosive materials, including black powder, shall, before commencing business, obtain the license required by this subpart for the business to be operated. Each person who intends to acquire for use explosive materials from a licensee in a State other than the State in which he resides, or from a foreign country, or who intends to transport explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce, shall obtain a permit under this subpart; except that it is not necessary to obtain a permit if the user intends to lawfully purchase:

(1) Explosive materials from a licensee in a State contiguous to the user's State of residence and the user's State of residence has enacted legislation, currently in force, specifically authorizing a resident of that State to purchase explosive materials in a contiguous State, or

(2) Commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds, intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms or in antique devices.

(b) Each person intending to engage in business as an explosive materials importer, manufacturer, or dealer shall file an application, with the required fee (see § 55.42), with ATF in accordance with the instructions on the form (see § 55.45). A license shall, subject to law, entitle the licensee to transport, ship, and receive explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce, and to engage in the business specified by the license, at the location described on the license. A separate license must be obtained for each business premises at which the applicant is to manufacture, import, or distribute explosive materials except under the following circumstances:

(1) A separate license shall not be required for storage facilities operated by the licensee as an integral part of one business premises or to cover a location used by the licensee solely for maintaining the records required by this part.

(2) A separate license shall not be required of a licensed manufacturer with respect to his on-site manufacturing.

(3) It shall not be necessary for a licensed importer or a licensed manufacturer (for purposes of sale or distribution) to also obtain a dealer's license in order to engage in business on his licensed premises as a dealer in explosive materials.

(4) A separate license shall not be required of licensed manufacturers with respect to their on-site manufacture of theatrical flash powder.

(c) Except as provided in paragraph (a) of this section, each person intending to acquire explosive materials from a licensee in a State other than a State in which he resides, or from a foreign country, or who intends to transport explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce, shall file an application, with the required fee (see § 55.43), with ATF in accordance with the instructions on the form (see § 55.45). A permit shall, subject to law, entitle the permittee to acquire, transport, ship, and receive in interstate or foreign commerce explosive materials of the class authorized by this permit. Only one permit is required under this part.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10497, Mar. 15, 1985; T.D. ATF0314, 56 FR 49140, Sept. 27, 1991; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.42 License fees.

(a) Each applicant shall pay a fee for obtaining a three year license, a separate fee being required for each business premises, as follows:

(1) Manufacturer -- \$200.

(2) Importer -- \$200.

(3) Dealer -- \$200.

(b) Each applicant for a renewal of a license shall pay a fee for a three year license as follows:

(1) Manufacturer -- \$100.

(2) Importer -- \$100.

(3) Dealer -- \$100.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.43 Permit fees.

(a) Each applicant shall pay a fee for obtaining a permit as follows:

(1) User -- \$100 for a three year permit.

(2) User-limited (nonrenewable) -- \$75.

(b) Each applicant for renewal of a user permit shall pay a fee of \$50 for a three year permit.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.44 License or permit fee not refundable.

No refund of any part of the amount paid as a license or permit fee will be made where the operations of the licensee or permittee are, for any reason, discontinued during the period of an issued license or permit. However, the license or permit fee

submitted with an application for a license or permit will be refunded if that application is denied, withdrawn, or abandoned, or if a license is cancelled subsequent to having been issued through administrative error.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.45 Original license or permit.

(a) Any person who intends to engage in business as an explosive materials importer, manufacturer, or dealer, or who has not timely submitted application for renewal of a previous license issued under this part, shall file with ATF an application for License, Explosives, ATF F 5400.13 with ATF in accordance with the instructions on the form. The application must be executed under the penalties of perjury and the penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 844(a). The application is to be accompanied by the appropriate fee in the form of a money order or check made payable to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. ATF F 5400.13 may be obtained from any ATF office.

(b) Any person, except as provided in § 55.41(a), who intends to acquire explosive materials from a licensee in a state other than the State in which that person resides, or from a foreign country, or who intends to transport explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce, or who has not timely submitted application for renewal of a previous permit issued under this part, shall file an application for Permit, Explosives, ATF F 5400.16 or Permit, User Limited Special Fireworks, ATF F 5400.21 with ATF in accordance with the instructions on the form. The application must be executed under the penalties of perjury and the penalties imposed by 18 U.S.C. 844(a). The application is to be accompanied by the appropriate fee in the form of a money order or check made payable to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms. ATF F 5400.16 and ATF F 5400.21 may be obtained from any ATF office.

[T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10497, Mar. 15, 1985; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.46 Renewal of license or permit.

(a) If a licensee or permittee intends to continue the business or operation described on a license or permit issued under this part after the expiration date of the license or permit, he shall, unless otherwise notified in writing by the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, execute and file prior to the expiration of his license or permit an application for license renewal, ATF F 5400.14 (Part III), or an application for permit renewal, ATF F 5400.15 (Part III), accompanied by the required fee, with ATF in accordance with the instructions on the

form. In the event the licensee or permittee does not timely file a renewal application, he shall file an original application as required by § 55.45, and obtain the required license or permit in order to continue business or operations.

(b) A user-limited permit is not renewable and is valid for a single purchase transaction. Applications for all user-limited permits must be filed on ATF F 5400.16 or ATF F 5400.21, as required by § 55.45. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10497, Mar. 15, 1985; T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53045, Dec. 27, 1989; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.47 Insufficient fee.

If an application is filed with an insufficient fee, the application and fee submitted will be returned to the applicant.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10497, March 15, 1985; T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.48 Abandoned application.

Upon receipt of an incomplete or improperly executed application, the applicant will be notified of the deficiency in the application. If the application is not corrected and returned within 30 days following the date of notification, the application will be considered as having been abandoned and the license or permit fee returned.

§ 55.49 Issuance of license or permit.

(a) The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall issue a license or permit if (1) a properly executed application for the license or permit is received, and (2) through further inquiry or investigation, or otherwise, it is found that the applicant is entitled to the license or permit. The license or permit and one copy will be forwarded to the applicant, except that in the case of a user-limited permit, the original only shall be issued. Each license or permit will bear a serial number and this number may be assigned to the licensee or permittee to whom issued for as long as he maintains continuity of renewal in the same region.

(b) The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall approve a properly executed application for a license or permit, if:

(1) The applicant is 21 years of age or over;

(2) The applicant (including, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or association, any individual possessing, directly or indirectly, the power to direct or cause the direction of the management and policies of the corporation, partnership, or association) is not a person to whom distribution of explosive materials is prohibited under the Act;

(3) The applicant has not willfully violated any provisions of the Act or this part;

(4) The applicant has not knowingly withheld information or has not made any false or fictitious statement intended or likely to deceive, in connection with his application;

(5) The applicant has in a State, premises from which he conducts business or operations subject to license or permit under the Act or from which he intends to conduct business or operations;

(6) The applicant has storage for the class (as described in § 55.202) of explosive materials described on the application, unless he establishes to the satisfaction of the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center that the business or operations to be conducted will not require the storage of explosive materials.

(7) The applicant has certified in writing that he is familiar with and understands all published State laws and local ordinances relating to explosive materials for the location in which he intends to do business; and

(8) The applicant for a license has submitted the certificate required by section 21 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1341).

(c) The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall approve or the regional director (compliance) shall deny any application for a license or permit within the 45-day period beginning on the date a properly executed application was received. However, when an applicant for license or permit renewal is a person who is, under the provisions of § 55.83 or § 55.142, conducting business or operations under a previously issued license or permit, action regarding the application will be held in abeyance pending the completion of the proceedings against the applicant's existing license or permit, or renewal application, or final action by the Director on an application for relief submitted under § 55.142, as the case may be.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-200, 50 FR 10498, March 15, 1985; T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.50 Correction of error on license or permit.

(a) Upon receipt of a license or permit issued under this part, each licensee or permittee shall examine the license or permit to insure that the information on it is accurate. If the license or permit is incorrect, the licensee or permittee shall return the license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, with a statement

showing the nature of the error. The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall correct the error, if the error was made in his office, and return the license or permit. However, if the error resulted from information contained in the licensee's or permittee's application for the license or permit, the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall require the licensee or permittee to file an amended application setting forth the correct information and a statement explaining the error contained in the application. Upon receipt of the amended application and a satisfactory explanation of the error, the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall make the correction on the license or permit and return it to the licensee or permittee.

(b) When the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, finds through any means other than notice from the licensee or permittee that an incorrect license or permit has been issued, (1) the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, may require the holder of the incorrect license or permit to return the license or permit for correction, and (2) if the error resulted from information contained in the licensee's or permittee's application for the license or permit, the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, shall require the licensee or permittee to file an amended application setting forth the correct information, and a statement satisfactorily explaining the error contained in the application. The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, then shall make the correction on the license or permit and return it to the licensee or permittee.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.51 Duration of license or permit.

An original license or permit is issued for a period of three years. A renewal license or permit is issued for a period of three years. However, a user-limited permit is valid only for a single purchase transaction. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.52 Limitations on license or permit.

(a) The license covers the business and class (as described in § 55.202) of explosive materials specified in the license at the licensee's business premises (see § 55.41(b)).

(b) The permit is valid with respect to the type of operations and class (as described in § 55.202) of explosive materials specified in the permit.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.53 License and permit not transferable.

Licenses and permits issued under this part are not transferable to another person. In the event of the lease, sale, or other transfer of the business or operations covered by the license or permit, the successor must obtain the license or permit required by this part before commencing business or operations. However, for rules on right of succession, see § 55.59.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.54 Change of address.

During the term of a license or permit, a licensee or permittee may move his business or operations to a new address at which he intends to regularly carry on his business or operations, without procuring a new license or permit. However, in every case, the licensee or permittee shall--

(a) Give notification of the new location of the business or operations to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center at least 10 days before the move; and

(b) Submit the license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center. The Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center will issue an amended license or permit, which will contain the new address (and new license or permit number, if any).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.55 Change in class of explosive materials.

A licensee or permittee who intends to change the class of explosive materials described in his license or permit from a lower to a higher classification (see § 55.202) shall file an application on ATF F 5400.13 or on ATF F 5400.16 with the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, for an amended license or permit. If the change in class of explosive materials would require a change in magazines, the amended application must include a description of the type of construction as prescribed in this part. Business or operations with respect to the new class of explosive materials may not be commenced before issuance of the amended license or amended permit. Upon receipt of the amended license or amended permit, the licensee or permittee shall submit his superseded license or superseded permit and any copies furnished with the license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.56 Change in trade name.

A licensee or permittee continuing to conduct business or operations at the location shown on his license or permit is not required to obtain a new license or permit by reason of a mere change in trade name under which he conducts his business or operations. However, the licensee or permittee shall furnish his license or permit and any copies furnished with the license or permit for endorsement of the change to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, within 30 days from the date the licensee or permittee begins his business or operations under the new trade name.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.57 Change of control.

In the case of a corporation or association holding a license or permit under this part, if actual or legal control of the corporation or association changes, directly or indirectly, whether by reason of change in stock ownership or control (in the corporation holding a license or permit or in any other corporation), by operation of law, or in any other manner, the licensee or permittee shall, within 30 days of the change, give written notification executed under the penalties of perjury, to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center. Upon expiration of the license or permit, the corporation or association shall file an ATF F 5400.13 or an ATF F 5400.16 as required by § 55.45, and pay the fee prescribed in § 55.42(b) or § 55.43(b).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.58 Continuing partnerships.

Where, under the laws of the particular State, the partnership is not terminated on death or insolvency of a partner, but continues until the winding up of the partnership affairs is completed, and the surviving partner has the exclusive right to the control and possession of the partnership assets for the purpose of liquidation and settlement, the surviving partner may continue to conduct the business or operations under the license or permit of the partnership. If the surviving partner acquires the business or operations on completion of settlement of the partnership, he shall obtain a license or permit in his own name from the date of acquisition, as provided in § 55.45. The rule set forth in this section will also apply where there is more than one surviving partner.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.59 Right of succession by certain persons.

(a) Certain persons other than the licensee or permittee may secure the right to carry on the same explosive materials business or operations at the same business premises for the remainder of the term of license or permit. These persons are:

(1) The surviving spouse or child, or executor, administrator, or other legal representative of a deceased licensee or permittee; and

(2) A receiver or trustee in bankruptcy, or an assignee for benefit of creditors.

(b) In order to secure the right of succession, the person or persons continuing the business or operations shall submit the license or permit and all copies furnished with the license or permit for endorsement of the succession to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, within 30 days from the date on which the successor begins to carry on the business or operations.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.60 Certain continuances of business or operations.

A licensee or permittee who furnishes his license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center, for correction, amendment, or endorsement, as provided in this subpart, may continue his business or operations while awaiting its return.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.61 Discontinuance of business or operations.

Where an explosive materials business or operations is either discontinued or succeeded by a new owner, the owner of the business or operations discontinued or succeeded shall, within 30 days, furnish notification of the discontinuance or succession and submit his license or permit and any copies furnished with the license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center. (See also § 55.128.)

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.62 State or other law.

A license or permit issued under this part confers no right or privilege to conduct business or operations, including storage, contrary to State or other law. The holder of a license or permit issued under this part is not, by reason of the rights and privileges granted by that license or permit, immune from punishment for conducting an explosive

materials business or operations in violation of the provisions of any State or other law. Similarly, compliance with the provisions of any State or other law affords no immunity under Federal law or regulations.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.63 Explosives magazine changes.

(a) General.

(1) The requirements of this section are applicable to magazines used for other than temporary (under 24 hours) storage of explosives.

(2) A magazine is considered suitable for the storage of explosives if the construction requirements of this part are met during the time explosives are stored in the magazine.

(3) A magazine is considered suitable for the storage of explosives if positioned in accordance with the applicable table of distances as specified in this part during the time explosives are stored in the magazine.

(4) For the purposes of this section, notification of the regional director (compliance) may be by telephone or in writing. However, if notification of the regional director (compliance) is in writing it must be at least three business days in advance of making changes in construction to an existing magazine or constructing a new magazine, and at least five business days in advance of using any reconstructed magazine or added magazine for the storage of explosives.

(b) Exception. Mobile or portable type 5 magazines are exempt from the requirements of paragraphs (c) and (d) of this section, but must otherwise be in compliance with paragraphs (a) (2) and (3) of this section during the time explosives are stored in such magazines.

(c) Changes in magazine construction. A licensee or permittee who intends to make changes in construction of an existing magazine shall notify the regional director (compliance) describing the proposed changes prior to making any changes. Unless otherwise advised by the regional director (compliance), changes in construction may commence after explosives are removed from the magazine. Explosives may not be stored in a reconstructed magazine before the regional director (compliance) has been notified in accordance with paragraph (a)(4) of this section that the changes have been completed.

(d) Magazines acquired or constructed after permit or license is issued. A licensee or permittee who intends to construct or acquire additional magazines shall notify the regional director (compliance) in accordance with paragraph (a)(4) of this section describing the additional

magazines and the class and quantity of explosives to be stored in the magazine. Unless otherwise advised by the regional director (compliance), additional magazines may be constructed, or acquired magazines may be used for the storage of explosives. Explosives must not be stored in a

magazine under construction. The regional director (compliance) must be notified that construction has been completed.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

Subpart E—License and Permit Proceedings

§ 55.71 Opportunity for compliance.

Except in cases of willfulness or those in which the public interest requires otherwise, and the regional director (compliance) so alleges in the notice of denial of an application or revocation of a license or permit, no license or permit will be revoked or renewal application denied without first calling to the attention of the licensee or permittee the reasons for the contemplated action and affording him an opportunity to demonstrate or achieve compliance with all lawful requirements and to submit facts, arguments, or proposals of adjustment. The notice of contemplated action, ATF F 5400.12, will afford the licensee or permittee 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice to respond. If no response is received within the 15 days, or if after consideration of relevant matters presented by the licensee or permittee, the regional director (compliance) finds that the licensee or permittee is not likely to abide by the law and regulations, he will proceed as provided in § 55.74. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.72 Denial of initial application.

Whenever the regional director (compliance) has reason to believe that an applicant for an original license or permit is not eligible to receive a license or permit under the provisions of § 55.49, he shall issue a notice of denial on ATF F 5400.11. The notice will set forth the matters of fact and law relied upon in determining that the application should be denied, and will afford the applicant 15 days from the date of receipt of the notice in which to request a hearing to review the denial. If no request for a hearing is filed within that time, a copy of the application, marked "Disapproved", will be returned to the applicant.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.73 Hearing after initial application is denied.

If the applicant for an original license or permit desires a hearing, he shall file a request with the regional director (compliance) within 15 days after receipt of the notice of denial. The request should include a statement of the reasons for a hearing. On receipt of the request, the regional director (compliance) shall refer the matter to an administrative law judge who shall set a time and place (see § 55.77) for a hearing and shall serve notice of the hearing upon the applicant and the regional director (compliance) at least 10 days in

advance of the hearing date. The hearing will be conducted in accordance with the hearing procedures prescribed in Part 200 of this chapter (see § 55.82). Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, and as expeditiously as possible, the administrative law judge shall render his recommended decision. He shall certify to the complete record of the proceedings before him and shall immediately forward the complete certified record, together with four copies of his recommended decision, to the regional director (compliance) for decision.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.74 Denial of renewal application or revocation of license or permit.

If following the opportunity for compliance under § 55.71, or without opportunity for compliance under § 55.71, as circumstances warrant, the regional director (compliance) finds that the licensee or permittee is not likely to comply with the law or regulations or is otherwise not eligible to continue operations authorized under his license or permit, the regional director (compliance) shall issue a notice of denial of the renewal application or revocation of the license or permit, ATF F 5400.11 or ATF F 5400.10, as appropriate. In either case, the notice will set forth the matters of fact constituting the violations specified, dates, places, and the sections of law and regulations violated. The notice will, in the case of revocation of a license or permit, specify the date on which the action is effective, which date will be on or after the date the notice is served on the licensee or permittee. The notice will also advise the licensee or permittee that he may, within 15 days after receipt of the notice, request a hearing and, if applicable, a stay of the effective date of the revocation of his license or permit.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.75 Hearing after denial of renewal application or revocation of license or permit.

If a licensee or permittee whose renewal application has been denied or whose license or permit has been revoked desires a hearing, he shall file a request for a hearing with the regional director (compliance). In the case of the revocation of a license or permit, he may include a request for a stay of the effective date of the revocation. On receipt of the request the regional director (compliance) shall advise the licensee or permittee

whether the stay of the effective date of the revocation is granted. If the stay of the effective date of the revocation is granted, the regional director (compliance) shall refer the matter to an administrative law judge who shall set a time and place (see § 55.77) for a hearing and shall serve notice of the hearing upon the licensee or permittee and the regional director (compliance) at least 10 days in advance of the hearing date. If the stay of the effective date of the revocation is denied, the licensee or permittee may request an immediate hearing. In this event, the regional director (compliance) shall immediately refer the matter to an administrative law judge who shall set a date and place for a hearing, which date shall be no later than 10 days from the date the licensee or permittee requested an immediate hearing. The hearing will be held in accordance with the applicable provisions of Part 200 of this chapter. Within a reasonable time after the conclusion of the hearing, and as expeditiously as possible, the administrative law judge shall render his decision. He shall certify to the complete record of the proceeding before him and shall immediately forward the complete certified record, together with two copies of his decision, to the regional director (compliance), serve one copy of his decision on the licensee or permittee or his counsel, and transmit a copy to the attorney for the Government.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.76 Action by regional director (compliance).

(a) Initial application proceedings. If, upon receipt of the record and the recommended decision of the administrative law judge, the regional director (compliance) decides that the license or permit should be issued, the regional director (compliance) shall cause the application to be approved, briefly stating, for the record, his reasons. If he contemplates that the denial should stand, he shall serve a copy of the administrative law judge's recommended decision on the applicant, informing the applicant of his contemplated action and affording the applicant not more than 10 days in which to submit proposed findings and conclusions or exceptions to the recommended decision with supporting reasons. If the regional director (compliance), after consideration of the record of the hearing and of any proposed findings, conclusions, or exceptions filed with him by the applicant, approves the findings, conclusions and recommended decision of the administrative law judge, the regional director (compliance) shall cause the license or permit to be issued or disapproved the application accordingly. If he disapproves the

findings, conclusions, and recommendation of the administrative law judge, in whole or in part, he shall by order make such findings and conclusions as in his opinion are warranted by the law and the facts in the record. Any decision of the regional director (compliance) ordering the disapproval of an initial application for a license or permit shall state the findings and conclusions upon which it is based, including his ruling upon each proposed finding, conclusion, and exception to the administrative law judge's recommended decision, together with a statement of his findings and conclusions, and reasons or basis for his findings and conclusions, upon all material issues of fact, law or discretion presented on the record. A signed duplicate original of the decision will be served upon the applicant and the original copy containing certificate of service will be placed in the official record of the proceedings. If the decision of the regional director (compliance) is in favor of the applicant, he shall issue the license or permit, to be effective on issuance.

(b) Renewal application and revocation proceedings. Upon receipt of the complete certified records of the hearing, the regional director (compliance) shall enter an order confirming the revocation of the license or permit, or disapproving the application, in accordance with the administrative law judge's findings and decision, unless he disagrees with the findings and decision. A signed duplicate original of the order, ATF F 5400.9, will be served upon the licensee or permittee and the original copy containing certificate of service will be placed in the official record of the proceedings. If the regional director (compliance) disagrees with the findings and decision of the administrative law judge, he shall file a petition with the Director for review of the findings and decision, as provided in § 55.79. In either case, if the renewal application denial is sustained, a copy of the application marked "Disapproved" will be returned to the applicant. If the renewal application denial is reversed, a license or permit will be issued to become effective on expiration of the license or permit being renewed, or on the date of issuance, whichever is later. If the proceedings involve the revocation of a license or permit which expired before a decision is in favor of the licensee or permittee, the regional director (compliance) shall:

(1) If renewal application was timely filed and a stay of the effective date of the revocation was granted, cause to be issued a license or permit effective on the date of issuance;

(2) If renewal application was not timely filed but a stay of the effective date of the revocation had been granted, request that a renewal application be

filed and, following that, cause to be issued a license or permit to be effective on issuance; or

(3) If a stay of the effective date of the revocation had not been granted, request that an application be filed as provided in § 55.45, and process it in the same manner as for an application for an original license or permit.

(c) Curtailment of stay of revocation effective date. If, after approval of a request for a stay of the effective date of an order revoking a license or permit but before actions are completed under this subpart, the regional director (compliance) finds that it is contrary to the public interest for the licensee or permittee to continue the operations or activities covered by his license or permit, the regional director (compliance) may issue a notice of withdrawal of the approval, effective on the date of issuance. Notice of withdrawal will be served upon the licensee or permittee in the manner provided in § 55.81.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.77 Designated place of hearing.

The designated place of hearing set as provided in § 55.73 or § 55.75, will be at the location convenient to the aggrieved party.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.78 Representation at a hearing.

An applicant, licensee, or permittee may be represented by an attorney, certified public accountant, or other person recognized to practice before the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms as provided in 31 CFR Part 8, if he has otherwise complied with the applicable requirements of 26 CFR 601.521 through 601.527. The regional director (compliance) shall be represented in proceedings under §§ 55.73 and 55.75 by an attorney in the office of the chief counsel or regional counsel who is authorized to execute and file motions, briefs, and other papers in the proceedings, on behalf of the regional director (compliance), in his own name as "Attorney for the Government".

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-92, 46 FR 46916, Sept. 23, 1981]

§ 55.79 Appeal on petition to the Director.

An appeal to the Director is not required prior to filing an appeal with the U.S. Court of Appeals for judicial review. An appeal may be taken by the applicant, licensee, or permittee to the Director from a decision resulting from a hearing under § 55.73 or § 55.75. An appeal may also be taken by a regional director (compliance) from a decision resulting from

a hearing under § 55.75 as provided in § 55.76(b). The appeal shall be taken by filing a petition for review on appeal with the Director within 15 days of the service of an administrative law judge's decision or an order. The petition will set forth facts tending to show

(a) action of an arbitrary nature,

(b) action without reasonable warrant in fact, or

(c) action contrary to law and regulations.

A copy of the petition will be filed with the regional director (compliance) or served on the applicant, licensee, or permittee, as the case may be. In the event of appeal, the regional director (compliance) shall immediately forward the complete original record, by certified mail, to the Director for his consideration, review, and disposition as provided in Subpart I of Part 200 of this chapter. When, on appeal, the Director affirms the initial decision of the regional director (compliance) or the administrative law judge, as the case may be, the initial decision will be final.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.80 Court review.

An applicant, licensee, or permittee may, within 60 days after receipt of the decision of the administrative law judge or the final order of the regional director (compliance) or the Director, file a petition for a judicial review of the decision, with the U.S. Court of Appeals for the district in which he resides or has his principal place of business. The Director, upon notification that a petition has been filed, shall have prepared a complete transcript of the record of the proceedings. The regional director (compliance) or the Director, as the case may be, shall certify to the correctness of the transcript of the record, forward one copy to the attorney for the Government in the review of the case, and file the original record of the proceedings with the original certificate in the U.S. Court of Appeals.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.81 Service on applicant, licensee, or permittee.

All notices and other formal documents required to be served on an applicant, licensee, or permittee under this subpart will be served by certified mail or by personal delivery. Where service is by personal delivery, the signed duplicate original copy of the formal document will be delivered to the applicant, licensee, or permittee, or, in the case of a corporation, partnership, or association, by delivering it to an officer, manager, or general agent, or to its attorney of record.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.82 Provisions of Part 200 made applicable.

The provisions of Subpart G of Part 200 of this chapter, as well as those provisions of Part 200 relative to failure to appear, withdrawal of an application or surrender of a permit, the conduct of hearings before an administrative law judge, and record of testimony, are hereby made applicable to application, license, and permit proceedings under this subpart to the extent that they are not contrary to or incompatible with this subpart.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.83 Operations by licensees or permittees after notice of denial or revocation.

In any case where a notice of revocation has been issued and a request for a stay of the effective date of the revocation has not been granted, the licensee or permittee shall not engage in the activities covered by the license or permit pending

the outcome of proceedings under this subpart. In any case where notice of revocation has been issued but a stay of the effective date of the revocation has been granted, the licensee or permittee may continue to engage in the activities covered by his license or permit unless, or until, formally notified to the contrary: Provided, That in the event the license or permit would have expired before proceedings under this subpart are completed, timely renewal application must have been filed to continue the license or permit beyond its expiration date. In any case where a notice of denial of a renewal application has been issued, the licensee or permittee may continue to engage in the activities covered by the existing license or permit after the date of expiration of the license or permit until proceedings under this subpart are completed.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart F—Conduct of Business or Operations

§ 55.101 Posting of license or permit.

A license or permit issued under this part, or a copy of a license or permit, will be posted and available for inspection on the business premises at each place where explosive materials are manufactured, imported, or distributed.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.102 Authorized operations by permittees.

(a) **In general.** A permit issued under this part does not authorize the permittee to engage in the business of manufacturing, importing, or dealing in explosive materials. Accordingly, if a permittee's operations bring him within the definition of manufacturer, importer, or dealer under this part, he shall qualify for the appropriate license.

(b) **Distributions of surplus stocks.** Permittees are not authorized to engage in the business of sale or distribution of explosive materials. However, permittees may dispose of surplus stocks of explosive materials to other licensees or permittees in accordance with § 55.103, and to nonlicensees or to nonpermittees in accordance with § 55.105(d).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45002, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.103 Transactions among licensees/permittees.

(a) General.

(1) A licensed importer, licensed manufacturer or licensed dealer selling or otherwise distributing explosive materials (or a permittee disposing of surplus stock to a licensee or another permittee) who has the certified information required by this section may sell or distribute explosive materials to a licensee or permittee for not more than 45 days following the expiration date of the distributee's license or permit, unless the distributor knows or has reason to believe that the distributee's authority to continue business or operations under this part has been terminated.

(2) A licensed importer, licensed manufacturer or licensed dealer selling or otherwise distributing explosive materials (or a permittee disposing of surplus stock to another licensee or permittee) shall verify the license or permit status of the distributee prior to the release of explosive materials ordered, as required by this section.

(3) Licensees or permittees desiring to return explosive materials to a licensed manufacturer may do so without obtaining a certified copy of the manufacturer's license.

(4) Where possession of explosive materials is transferred at the distributor's premises, the distributor shall in all instances verify the identity of the person accepting possession on behalf of the distributee before relinquishing possession. Before the delivery at the distributor's premises of explosive materials to an employee of a licensee or permittee, or to an employee of a carrier transporting explosive materials to a licensee or permittee, the distributor delivering explosive materials shall obtain an executed ATF F 5400.8 from the employee before releasing the explosive materials. The ATF F 5400.8 must contain all of the information required on the form and required by this part.

Example 1. An ATF F 5400.8 is required when:

- a. An employee of the purchaser takes possession at the distributor's premises.
- b. An employee of a carrier hired by the purchaser takes possession at the distributor's premises.

Example 2. An ATF F 5400.8 is not required when:

- a. An employee of the distributor takes possession of the explosives for the purpose of transport to the purchaser.
- b. An employee of a carrier hired by the distributor takes possession of the explosives for the purpose of transport to the purchaser.

(b) License/permit verification of individuals.

(1) The distributee shall furnish a certified copy (or, in the case of a user-limited, the original) of the license or permit. The certified copy need be furnished only once during the current term of the license or permit. Also, a licensee need not furnish certified copies of licenses to other licensed locations operated by such licensee.

(2) The distributor may obtain any additional verification as the distributor deems necessary.

(c) License/permit verification of business organizations.

(1) A business organization may (in lieu of furnishing a certified copy of a license) furnish the distributor a certified list which contains the name, address, license number and date of license expiration of each licensed location. The certified list need be furnished only once during the current term of the license or permit. Also, a business

organization need not furnish a certified list to other licensed locations operated by such business organization.

(2) A business organization shall, prior to ordering explosive materials, furnish the licensee or permittee a current certified list of the representatives or agents authorized to order explosive materials on behalf of the business organization showing the name, address, and date and place of birth of each representative or agent. A licensee or permittee shall not distribute explosive materials to a business organization on the order of a person who does not appear on the certified list of representatives or agents and, if the person does appear on the certified list, the licensee or permittee shall verify the identity of such person.

(d) Licensee/permittee certified statement.

(1) A licensee or permittee ordering explosive materials from another licensee or permittee shall furnish a current, certified statement of the intended use of the explosive materials; e.g., resale, mining, quarrying, agriculture, construction, road building, oil well drilling, seismographic research, to the distributor.

(2) For individuals, the certified statement of intended use must specify the name, address, date and place of birth, and social security number of the distributee.

(3) For business organizations, the certified statement of intended use must specify the taxpayer identification number, the identity and the principal and local places of business.

(4) The licensee or permittee purchasing explosive materials need revise the furnished copy of the certified statement only when the information is no longer current.

(e) User-limited permit transactions. A user-limited permit issued under the provisions of this part is valid for only a single purchase transaction and is not renewable (see § 55.51). Accordingly, at the time a user-limited permittee orders explosive materials, the licensed distributor shall write on the front of the user-limited permit the transaction date, his signature, and the distributor's license number prior to returning the permit to the user-limited permittee.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.104 Certified copy of license or permit.

Except as provided in § 55.49(a), each person issued a license or permit under this part shall be furnished together with his license or permit a copy for his certification. If a person desires an additional copy of his license or permit for certification and for use under § 55.103, he shall:

(a) Make a reproduction of the copy of his license or permit and execute the certification on it;

(b) Make a reproduction of his license or permit, enter on the reproduction the statement: "I certify that this is a true copy of a (insert the word license or permit) issued to me to engage in the specified business or operations", and sign his name next to the statement; or

(c) Submit a request, in writing, for certified copies of his license or permit to the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center. The request will show the name, trade name (if any), and address of the licensee or permittee and the number of copies of the license or permit desired. There is a fee of \$1 for each copy of a license or permit issued by the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center under this paragraph. Fee payment must accompany each request for additional copies of a license or permit. The fee must be paid by (1) cash, or (2) money order or check made payable to the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.105 Distributions to nonlicensees and nonpermittees.

(a) This section will apply in any case where distribution of explosive materials to the distributee is not otherwise prohibited by the Act or this part.

(b) Except as provided in paragraph (c) of this section, a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer may distribute explosive materials to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee if the nonlicensee or nonpermittee is a resident of the same State in which the licensee's business premises are located, and the nonlicensee or nonpermittee furnishes to the licensee the explosives transaction record, AFT F 5400.4, required by § 55.126. Disposition of AFT F 5400.4 will be made in accordance with § 55.126.

(c) A licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer may sell or distribute explosive materials to a resident of a State contiguous to the State in which the licensee's place of business is located if the purchaser's State or residence has enacted legislation, currently in force, specifically authorizing a resident of that State to purchase explosive materials in a contiguous State and the purchaser and the licensee have, prior to the distribution of the explosive materials, complied with all the requirements of paragraphs (b), (e), and (f) of this section applicable to intrastate transactions occurring on the licensee's business premises.

(d) A permittee may dispose of surplus stocks of explosive materials to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee if the nonlicensee or nonpermittee is a resident of the same State in which the permittee's

business premises or operations are located, or is a resident of a State contiguous to the State in which the permittee's place of business or operations are located, and if the requirements of paragraphs (b), (c), (e) and (f) of this section are fully met.

(e) A licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer selling or otherwise distributing explosive materials to a business entity shall verify the identity of the representative or agent of the business entity who is authorized to order explosive materials on behalf of the business entity. Each business entity ordering explosive materials shall furnish the distributing licensee prior to or with the first order of explosive materials a current certified list of the names of representatives or agents authorized to order explosive materials on behalf of the business entity. The business entity ordering explosive materials is responsible for keeping the certified list current. A licensee shall not distribute explosive materials to a business entity on the order of a person whose name does not appear on the certified list.

(f) Where the possession of explosive materials is transferred at the distributor's premises, the distributor shall in all instances verify the identity of the person accepting possession on behalf of the distributee before relinquishing possession. Before the delivery at the distributor's premises of explosive materials to an employee of a nonlicensee or nonpermittee, or to an employee of a carrier transporting explosive materials to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee, the distributor delivering explosive materials shall obtain an executed ATF F 5400.8 from the employee before releasing the explosive materials. The ATF F 5400.8 must contain all of the information required on the form and by this part. (See examples in § 55.103(a).)

(g) A licensee or permittee disposing of surplus stock may sell or distribute commercially manufactured black powder in quantities of 50 pounds or less to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee if the black powder is intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(16), or in antique devices as exempted from the term "destructive device" in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3721, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.106 Certain prohibited distributions.

(a) A licensee shall not distribute explosive materials to any person not licensed or holding a permit under this part, who the licensee knows or has reason to believe does not reside in the State in which the licensee's place of business is located.

This paragraph does not apply to the distribution of explosive materials to a resident of a State contiguous to the State in which the licensee's place of business is located, if the requirements of § 55.105(c) are fully met.

(b) A licensee shall not distribute any explosive materials to any person:

(1) Who the licensee knows is less than 21 years of age;

(2) In any State where the purchase, possession, or use by a person of explosive materials would be in violation of any State law or any published ordinance applicable at the place of distribution;

(3) Who the licensee has reason to believe intends to transport the explosive materials into a State where the purchase, possession, or use of explosive materials is prohibited or which does not permit its residents to transport or ship explosive materials into the State or to receive explosive materials in the State; or

(4) Who the licensee has reasonable cause to believe intends to use the explosive materials for other than a lawful purpose.

(c) A licensee shall not distribute any explosive materials to any person knowing or having reason to believe that the person:

(1) Is, except as provided under § 55.142 (d) and (e), under indictment or information for, or was convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding 1 year;

(2) Is a fugitive from justice;

(3) Is an unlawful user of marijuana, or any depressant or stimulant drug, or narcotic drug (as these terms are defined in the Controlled Substances Act, 21 U.S.C. 802); or

(4) Was adjudicated as a mental defective or was committed to a mental institution.

(d) The provisions of this section do not apply to the purchase of commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds, intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms or in antique devices, if the requirements of § 55.105(g) are fully met.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.107 Record of transactions.

Each licensee and permittee shall keep records of explosive materials as required by Subpart G of this part.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.108 Importation.

(a) Explosive materials imported or brought into the United States by a licensed importer or

permittee may be released from customs custody to the licensed importer or permittee upon proof of his status as a licensed importer or permittee. Proof of status must be made by the licensed importer or permittee furnishing to the customs officer a certified copy of his license or permit (see § 55.103).

(b) A nonlicensee or nonpermittee may import or bring into the United States commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds. Upon submitting to the customs officer completed ATF F 5400.3, certifying that the black powder is intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms or in antique devices, black powder may be released from customs custody. The disposition of the executed ATF F 5400.3 will be in accordance with the instructions on the form.

(c) The provisions of this section are in addition to, and are not in lieu of, any applicable requirement under 27 CFR Part 47.

(d) For additional requirements relating to the importation of plastic explosives into the United States on or after April 24, 1997, see § 55.183. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.109 Identification of explosive materials.

(a) Each licensed manufacturer of explosive materials shall legibly identify by marking all explosive materials he manufactures for sale or distribution. The marks required by this section must identify the manufacturer and the location, date, and shift of manufacture. The licensed manufacturer shall place on each cartridge, bag, or other immediate container of explosive materials manufactured for sale or distribution the required mark which shall also be placed on the outside container, if any, used for their packaging.

(b) Exceptions.

(1) Licensed manufacturers of blasting caps are only required to place the identification marks prescribed in paragraph (a) on the containers used for the packaging of blasting caps.

(2) The Director may authorize other means of identifying explosive materials upon receipt of a letter application from the licensed manufacturer showing that other identification is reasonable and will not hinder the effective administration of this part.

(3) The Director may authorize the use of other means of identification on fireworks instead of marks prescribed in paragraph (a) of this section. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart G—Records and Reports

§ 55.121 General.

(a)(1) Licensees and permittees shall keep records pertaining to explosive materials in permanent form (i.e., commercial invoices, record books) and in the manner required in this subpart.

(2) Licensees and permittees shall keep records required by this subpart on the business premises for five years from the date a transaction occurs or until discontinuance of business or operations by the licensee or permittee. (See also § 55.128 for discontinuance of business or operations.)

(b) ATF officers may enter the premises of any licensee or permittee for the purpose of examining or inspecting any record or document required by or obtained under this part (see § 55.24). Section 843(f) of the Act requires licensees and permittees to make all required records available for examination or inspection at all reasonable times. Section 834(f) of the Act also requires licensees and permittees to submit all reports and information relating to all required records and their contents, as the regulations in this part prescribe.

(c) Each licensee and permittee shall maintain all records of importation, production, shipment, receipt, sale, or other disposition, whether temporary or permanent, of explosive materials as the regulations in this part prescribe. Sections 842(f) and 842(g) of the Act make it unlawful for any licensee or permittee knowingly to make any false entry in, or fail to make entry in, any record required to be kept under the Act and the regulations in this part.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, April 16, 1984]

§ 55.122 Records maintained by licensed importers.

(a) Each licensed importer shall take true and accurate physical inventories which will include all explosive materials on hand required to be accounted for in the records kept under this part. The licensed importer shall take a special inventory

(1) at the time of commencing business, which is the effective date of the license issued upon original qualification under this part;

(2) at the time of changing the location of his business to another region;

(3) at the time of discontinuing business; and

(4) at any time the regional director (compliance) may in writing require.

Each special inventory is to be prepared in duplicate, the original of which is submitted to the

regional director (compliance), and the duplicate retained by the licensed importer. If a special inventory specified by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section has not been taken during the calendar year, at least one physical inventory will be taken. However, the record of the yearly inventory, other than a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section, will remain on file for inspection instead of being sent to the regional director (compliance). (See also § 55.127.)

(b) Each licensed importer shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of importation or other acquisition of explosive materials, enter the following information in a separate record:

(1) Date of importation or other acquisition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer and country of manufacture.

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(c) Each licensed importer shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of distribution of any explosive materials to another licensee or a permittee, enter in a separate record the following information:

(1) Date of disposition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer and country of manufacture.

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(6) License or permit number of licensee or permittee to whom the explosive materials are distributed.

(d) The regional director (compliance) may authorize alternate records to be maintained by a licensed importer to record his distribution of explosive materials when it is shown by the licensed importer that alternate records will accurately and

readily disclose the information required by paragraph (c) of this section. A licensed importer who proposes to use alternate records shall submit a letter application to the regional director (compliance) and shall describe the proposed alternate records and the need for them. Alternate records are not to be employed by the licensed importer until approval is received from the regional director (compliance).

(e) Each licensed importer shall maintain separate records of the sales or other distribution made of explosive materials to nonlicensees or nonpermittees. These records are maintained as prescribed by § 55.126.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, Apr. 16, 1984; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3721, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.123 Records maintained by licensed manufacturers

(a) Each licensed manufacturer shall take true and accurate physical inventories which will include all explosive materials on hand required to be accounted for in the records kept under this part. The licensed manufacturer shall take a special inventory

(1) at the time of commencing business, which is the effective date of the license issued upon original qualification under this part;

(2) at the time of changing the location of his premises to another region;

(3) at the time of discontinuing business; and

(4) at any other time the regional director (compliance) may in writing require.

Each special inventory is to be prepared in duplicate, the original of which is submitted to the regional director (compliance), and the duplicate retained by the licensed manufacturer. If a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section has not been taken during the calendar year, at least one physical inventory will be taken. However, the record of the yearly inventory, other than a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section, will remain on file for inspection instead of being sent to the regional director (compliance). (See also § 55.127.)

(b) Each licensed manufacturer shall not later than the close of the next business day following the date of manufacture or other acquisition of explosive materials, enter the following information in a separate record:

(1) Date of manufacture or other acquisition.

(2) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(3) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(4) Name, brand name or description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(c) Each licensed manufacturer shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of distribution of any explosive materials to another licensee or a permittee, enter in a separate record the following information:

(1) Date of disposition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer or name of importer, as applicable, if acquired other than by his own manufacture.

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(6) License or permit number of licensee or permittee to whom the explosive materials are distributed.

(d) Each licensed manufacturer who manufactures explosive materials for his own use shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of use, enter in a separate record the following information:

(1) Date of use.

(2) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of special fireworks, etc.).

(3) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

Exception: A licensed manufacturer is exempt from the recordkeeping requirements of this subsection if the explosive materials are manufactured for his own use and used within a 24 hour period at the same site.

(e) The regional director (compliance) may authorize alternate records to be maintained by a licensed manufacturer to record his distribution or use of explosive materials when it is shown by the licensed manufacturer that alternate records will accurately and readily disclose the information required by paragraph (c) of this section. A licensed manufacturer who proposes to use alternate records shall submit a letter application to the regional director (compliance) and shall describe the proposed alternate records and the need for them.

Alternate records are not to be employed by the licensed manufacturer until approval is received from the regional director (compliance).

(f) Each licensed manufacturer shall maintain separate records of the sales or other distribution made of explosive materials to nonlicensees or nonpermittees. These records are maintained as prescribed by § 55.126.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, Apr. 16, 1984; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3721, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.124 Records maintained by licensed dealers.

(a) Each licensed dealer shall take true and accurate physical inventories which will include all explosive materials on hand required to be accounted for in the records kept under this part. The licensed dealer shall take a special inventory

(1) at the time of commencing business, which is the effective date of the license issued upon original qualification under this part;

(2) at the time of changing the location of his premises to another region;

(3) at the time of discontinuing business; and

(4) at any other time the regional director (compliance) may in writing require.

Each special inventory is to be prepared in duplicate, the original of which is submitted to the regional director (compliance), and the duplicate retained by the licensed dealer. If a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section has not been taken during the calendar year, at least one physical inventory will be taken. However, the record of the yearly inventory, other than a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section, will remain on file for inspection instead of being sent to the regional director (compliance). (See also § 55.127.)

(b) Each licensed dealer shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of purchase or other acquisition of explosive materials (except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section), enter the following information in a separate record:

(1) Date of acquisition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer and name of importer (if any).

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.)

and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(6) Name, address, and license or permit number of the person from whom the explosive materials are received.

(c) Each licensed dealer shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of use (if the explosives are used by the dealer) or the date of distribution of any explosive materials to another licensee or a permittee (except as provided in paragraph (d) of this section), enter in a separate record the following information:

(1) Date of disposition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer and name of importer (if any).

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks).

(6) License or permit number of licensee or permittee to whom the explosive materials are distributed.

(d) When a commercial record is kept by a licensed dealer showing the purchase or other acquisition information required for the permanent record prescribed by paragraph (b) of this section, or showing the distribution information required for the permanent record prescribed by paragraph (c) of this section, the licensed dealer acquiring or distributing the explosive materials may, for a period not exceeding seven days following the date of acquisition or distribution of the explosive materials, delay making the required entry into the permanent record of acquisition or distribution. However, until the required entry of acquisition or disposition is made in the permanent record, the commercial record must be

(1) kept by the licensed dealer separate from other commercial documents kept by the licensee, and

(2) readily available for inspection on the licensed premises.

(e) The regional director (compliance) may authorize alternate records to be maintained by a licensed dealer to record his acquisition or disposition of explosive materials, when it is shown by the licensed dealer that alternate records will accurately and readily disclose the required information. A licensed dealer who proposes to use alternate records shall submit a letter application to the regional director (compliance) and shall describe the proposed alternate records and the need for

them. Alternate records are not to be employed by the licensed dealer until approval is received from the regional director (compliance).

(f) Each licensed dealer shall maintain separate records of the sales or other distribution made of explosive materials to nonlicensees or nonpermittees. These records are maintained as prescribed by § 55.126.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, Apr. 16, 1984; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3721, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.125 Records maintained by permittees.

(a) Each permittee shall take true and accurate physical inventories which shall include all explosive materials on hand required to be accounted for in the records kept under this part. The permittee shall take a special inventory

(1) at the time of commencing business, which is the effective date of the permit issued upon original qualification under this part;

(2) at the time of changing the location of his premises to another region;

(3) at the time of discontinuing business; and

(4) at any other time the regional director (compliance) may in writing require. Each special inventory is to be prepared in duplicate, the original of which is submitted to the regional director (compliance) and the duplicate retained by the permittee. If a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section has not been taken during the calendar year, a permittee is required to take at least one physical inventory. However, the record of the yearly inventory, other than a special inventory required by paragraphs (a) (1) through (4) of this section, will remain on file for inspection instead of being sent to the regional director (compliance). (See also § 55.127).

(b) Each permittee shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of acquisition of explosive materials, enter the following information in a separate record:

(1) Date of acquisition.

(2) Name or brand name of manufacturer.

(3) Manufacturer's marks of identification.

(4) Quantity (applicable quantity units, such as pounds of explosives, number of detonators, number of display fireworks, etc.).

(5) Description (dynamite (dyn), blasting agents (ba), detonators (det), display fireworks (df), (etc.) and size (length and diameter or diameter only of display fireworks)).

(6) Name, address, and license number of the persons from whom the explosive materials are received.

(c) Each permittee shall, not later than the close of the next business day following the date of disposition of surplus explosive materials to another permittee or a licensee, enter in a separate record the information prescribed in § 55.124(c).

(d) Each permittee shall maintain separate records of disposition of surplus stocks of explosive materials to nonlicensees or nonpermittees as prescribed in § 55.126.

(e) The regional director (compliance) may authorize alternate records to be maintained by a permittee to record his acquisition of explosive materials, when it is shown by the permittee that alternate records will accurately and readily disclose the required information. A permittee who proposes to use alternate records shall submit a letter application to the regional director (compliance) and shall describe the proposed alternate records and the need for them. Alternate records are not to be employed by the permittee until approval is received from the regional director (compliance).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, Apr. 16, 1984; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.126 Explosives transaction record.

(a) A licensee or permittee shall not temporarily or permanently distribute explosive materials to any person, other than another licensee or permittee, unless he records the transaction on an explosives transaction record, ATF F 5400.4.

(b) Before the distribution of explosive materials to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee who is a resident of the State in which the licensee or permittee maintains his business premises, or to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee who is not a resident of the State in which the licensee or permittee maintains his business premises and is acquiring explosive materials under § 55.105(c), the licensee or permittee distributing the explosive materials shall obtain an executed ATF F 5400.4 from the distributee which contains all of the information required on the form and by the regulations in this part.

(c) Completed ATF F 5400.4 is to be retained by the licensee or permittee as part of his permanent records in accordance with paragraph (d) of this section.

(d) Each ATF F 5400.4 is retained in numerical (by transaction serial number) order commencing with "1" and continuing in regular sequence. When the numbering of any series reaches "1,000,000," the licensee or permittee may recommence the series. The recommenced series is to be given an alphabetical prefix or suffix. Where there is a

change in proprietorship, or in the individual, firm, corporate name or trade name, the series in use at the time of the change may be continued.

(e) The requirements of this section are in addition to any other recordkeeping requirement contained in this part.

(f) A licensee or permittee may obtain, upon request, a supply of ATF F 5400.4 from the Director. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-93, 46 FR 50787, Oct. 15, 1981; T.D. ATF-172, 49 FR 14941, April 16, 1984]

§ 55.127 Daily summary of magazine transactions.

In taking the inventory required by §§ 55.122, 55.123, 55.124, and 55.125, a licensee or permittee shall enter the inventory in a record of daily summary transactions to be kept at each magazine of an approved storage facility; however, these records may be kept at one central location on the business premises if separate records of daily transactions are kept for each magazine. Not later than the close of the next business day, each licensee and permittee shall record by manufacturer's name or brand name, the total quantity received in and removed from each magazine during the day, and the total remaining on hand at the end of the day. Quantity entries for display fireworks may be expressed as the number and size of individual display fireworks in a finished state or as the number of packaged display segments or packaged displays. Information as to the number and size of display fireworks contained in any one packaged display segment or packaged display shall be provided to any ATF officer on request. Any discrepancy which might indicate a theft or loss of explosive materials is to be reported in accordance with § 55.30.

[T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.128 Discontinuance of business.

Where an explosive materials business or operations is discontinued and succeeded by a new licensee, the records prescribed by this subpart shall appropriately reflect such facts and shall be delivered to the successor. Where discontinuance of the business or operations is absolute, the records required by this subpart shall be delivered within 30 days following the business or operations discontinuance to any ATF office located in the region in which the business was located, or to the ATF Firearms Out-of-Business Records Center, 3361F 75th Avenue, Landover, Maryland 20785. Where State law or local ordinance requires the delivery of records to other responsible authority, the Chief, Firearms and Explosives Licensing Center may arrange for the delivery of the records required by this subpart to such authority. (See also, § 55.61.)

[T.D. ATF-290, 54 FR 53054, Dec. 27, 1989]

§ 55.129 Exportation.

Exportation of explosive materials is to be in accordance with the applicable provisions of section 38 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2778) and implementing regulations. However, a licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, or licensed dealer exporting explosive materials shall maintain records showing the manufacture or acquisition of explosive materials as required by this part and records showing the quantity, the manufacturer's name or brand name of explosive materials, the name and address of the foreign consignee of the explosive materials, and the date the explosive materials were exported. See § 55.180 for regulations concerning the exportation of plastic explosives.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8376, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.130 [Reserved]

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart H--Exemptions

§ 55.141 Exemptions.

(a) **General.** Except for the provisions of §§ 55.180 and 55.181, this part does not apply to:

(1) Any aspect of the transportation of explosive materials via railroad, water, highway, or air which is regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation and its agencies, and which pertains to safety.

(2) The use of explosive materials in medicines and medicinal agents in the forms prescribed by the official United States Pharmacopoeia or the National Formulary. "The United States Pharmacopoeia and The National Formulary," USP and NF Compendia, are available from the United States Pharmacopoeial Convention, Inc., 12601 Twinbrook Parkway, Rockville, Maryland 20852.

(3) The transportation, shipment, receipt, or importation of explosive materials for delivery to any agency of the United States or to any State or its political subdivision.

(4) Small arms ammunition and components of small arms ammunition.

(5) The manufacture under the regulation of the military department of the United States of explosive materials for, or their distribution to or storage or possession by, the military or naval services or other agencies of the United States.

(6) Arsenals, navy yards, depots, or other establishments owned by, or operated by or on behalf of, the United States.

(7) The importation, distribution, and storage of fireworks classified as UN0336, UN0337, UN0431, or UN0432 explosives by the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101 and generally known as "consumer fireworks" or "articles pyrotechnic."

(8) Gasoline, fertilizers, propellant actuated devices, or propellant actuated industrial tools manufactured, imported, or distributed for their intended purposes.

(9) Industrial and laboratory chemicals which are intended for use as reagents and which are packaged and shipped pursuant to U.S. Department of Transportation regulations, 49 CFR Parts 100 to 177, which do not require explosives hazard warning labels.

(b) **Black powder.** Except for the provisions applicable to persons required to be licensed under subpart D, this part does not apply with respect to commercially manufactured black powder in quantities not to exceed 50 pounds, percussion caps, safety and pyrotechnic fuses, quills, quick and

slow matches, and friction primers, if the black powder is intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms, as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(16) or antique devices, as exempted from the term "destructive devices" in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981 as amended by T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 46916, Sept. 23, 1981; T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8377, Feb. 25, 1997; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.142 Relief from disabilities incurred by indictment, information or conviction.

(a) Any person may make application for relief from the disabilities under the Act incurred by reason of an indictment or information for, or conviction of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

(b) An application for relief from disabilities is filed with the Director and supported by data that the applicant considers appropriate. In the case of a corporation, or of any person having the power to direct or control the management of the corporation, the supporting data is to include information as to the absence of culpability in the offense for which the corporation, or any such person, was indicted, formally accused or convicted.

(c) The Director may grant relief to an applicant if it is established to the satisfaction of the Director that the circumstances regarding the indictment, information or conviction and the applicant's record and reputation are such that the applicant will not be likely to act in a manner dangerous to public safety, and that the granting of the relief would not be contrary to the public interest.

(d) A person who has been granted relief under this section is relieved of any disabilities imposed by the Act with respect to engaging in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in explosive materials, or the purchase of explosive materials, that were incurred by reason of such indictment, information or conviction.

(e)(1) A licensee or permittee who is under indictment or information for, or convicted of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year during the term of a current license or permit, or while he has pending a license or permit renewal application, shall not be barred from licensed or permit operations for 30 days after the date of indictment or information or 30 days after the date upon which his conviction becomes final.

Also, if he files his application for relief under this section within such 30 day period, he may further continue licensed or permit operations while his application is pending. A licensee or permittee who does not file an application within 30 days from the date of his indictment or information, or within 30 days from the date his conviction becomes final, shall not continue licensed or permit operations beyond 30 days from the date of his indictment or information or beyond 30 days from the date his conviction becomes final.

(2) In the event the term of a license or permit of a person expires during the 30 day period following the date of indictment or information or during the 30 day period after the date upon which his conviction becomes final or while his application for relief is pending, he shall file a timely application for renewal of his license or permit in order to continue licensed or permit operations. The license or permit

application is to show that the applicant has been indicted or under information for, or convicted of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year.

(3) A licensee or permittee shall not continue licensed or permit operations beyond 30 days following the date the Director issues notification that the licensee's or permittee's application for removal of the disabilities resulting from an indictment, information or conviction has been denied.

(4) When a licensee or permittee may no longer continue licensed or permit operations under this section, any application for renewal of license or permit filed by the licensee or permittee while his application for removal of disabilities resulting from an indictment, information or conviction is pending, will be denied by the regional director (compliance). [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

Subpart I—Unlawful Acts, Penalties, Seizures and Forfeitures

§ 55.161 Engaging in business without a license.

Any person engaging in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in explosive materials without a license issued under the Act, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.162 False statement or representation.

Any person who knowingly withholds information or makes any false or fictitious oral or written statement or furnishes or exhibits any false, fictitious, or misrepresented identification, intended or likely to deceive for the purpose of obtaining explosive materials, or a license, permit, exemption, or relief from disability under the Act, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.163 False entry in record.

Any licensed importer, licensed manufacturer, licensed dealer, or permittee who knowingly makes any false entry in any record required to be kept under Subpart G of this part, shall be fined not more than \$10,000 or imprisoned not more than 10 years, or both.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.164 Unlawful storage.

Any person who stores any explosive material in a manner not in conformity with this part, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.165 Failure to report theft or loss.

Any person who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials from his stock and fails to report the theft or loss within 24 hours of discovery in accordance with § 55.30, shall be fined not more than \$1,000 or imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.166 Seizure or forfeiture.

Any explosive materials involved or used or intended to be used in any violation of the Act or of this part or in any violation of any criminal law of the United States are subject to seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of title 26, U.S.C. relating to the seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of firearms, as defined in 26 U.S.C. 5845(a), will, so far as applicable, extend to seizures and forfeitures under the Act. (See § 72.27 of this title for regulations on summary destruction of explosive materials which are impracticable or unsafe to remove to a place of storage.)

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-363, 60 FR 17449, Apr. 6, 1995, as confirmed at T.D. ATF-396, 63 FR 12643, 12646, March 16, 1998]

Subpart J—Marking of Plastic Explosives

§ 55.180 Prohibitions relating to unmarked plastic explosives.

(a) No person shall manufacture any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent.

(b) No person shall import or bring into the United States, or export from the United States, any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent. This paragraph does not apply to the importation or bringing into the United States, or the exportation from the United States, of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by or on behalf of any agency of the United States performing military or police functions (including any military reserve component) or by or on behalf of the National Guard of any State, not later than 15 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives with respect to the United States.

(c) No person shall ship, transport, transfer, receive, or possess any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) The shipment, transportation, transfer, receipt, or possession of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by any person during the period beginning on that date and ending on April 24, 1999; or

(2) The shipment, transportation, transfer, receipt, or possession of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by or on behalf of any agency of the United States performing a military or police function (including any military reserve component) or by or on behalf of the National Guard of any State, not later than 15 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives with respect to the United States.

(d) When used in this subpart, terms are defined as follows:

(1) **Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives** means the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purposes of Detection, Done at Montreal on 1 March 1991.

(2) **Date of entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives** means that date on which the Convention enters into force with respect to the U.S. in accordance with the

provisions of Article XIII of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives.

(3) **Detection agent** means any one of the substances specified in this paragraph when introduced into a plastic explosive or formulated in such explosive as a part of the manufacturing process in such a manner as to achieve homogeneous distribution in the finished explosive, including-

(i) Ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN), $C_2H_4(NO_2)_2$, molecular weight 152, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.2 percent by mass;

(ii) 2,3-Dimethyl-2,3-dinitrobutane (DMNB), $C_6H_{12}(NO_2)_2$, molecular weight 176, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.1 percent by mass;

(iii) Para-Mononitrotoluene (p-MNT), $C_7H_7NO_2$, molecular weight 137, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.5 percent by mass;

(iv) Ortho-Mononitrotoluene (o-MNT), $C_7H_7NO_2$, molecular weight 137, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.5 percent by mass; and

(v) Any other substance in the concentration specified by the Director, after consultation with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, that has been added to the table in Part 2 of the Technical Annex to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives.

(4) **Plastic explosive** means an explosive material in flexible or elastic sheet form formulated with one or more high explosives which in their pure form has a vapor pressure less than 10^4 Pa at a temperature of 25 [degrees] C, is formulated with a binder material, and is as a mixture malleable or flexible at normal room temperature. High explosives, as defined in § 55.202(a), are explosive materials which can be caused to detonate by means of a blasting cap when unconfined.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.181 Reporting of plastic explosives.

All persons, other than an agency of the United States (including any military reserve component) or the National Guard of any State, possessing any plastic explosive on April 24, 1996, shall submit a report to the Director no later than August 22, 1996. The report shall be in writing and mailed by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the Director at

P.O. Box 50204, Washington, DC 20091-0204. The report shall include the quantity of plastic explosives possessed on April 24, 1996; any marks of identification on such explosives; the name and address of the manufacturer or importer; the storage location of such explosives, including the city and State; and the name and address of the person possessing the plastic explosives. [T.D. ATF-382, 61 FR 38084, 38085, July 23, 1996; T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.182 Exceptions.

It is an affirmative defense against any proceeding involving §§ 55.180 and 55.181 if the proponent proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the plastic explosive-

(a) Consisted of a small amount of plastic explosive intended for and utilized solely in lawful-

(1) Research, development, or testing of new or modified explosive materials;

(2) Training in explosives detection or development or testing of explosives detection equipment; or

(3) Forensic science purposes; or

(b) Was plastic explosive that, by April 24, 1999, will be or is incorporated in a military device within the territory of the United States and remains an integral part of such military device, or is intended to be, or is incorporated in, and remains an integral part of a military device that is intended to become, or has become, the property of any agency of the United States performing military or police functions (including any military reserve component) or the National Guard of any State, wherever such device is located. For purposes of this paragraph, the term "military device" includes, but is not restricted to, shells, bombs, projectiles, mines, missiles, rockets, shaped charges, grenades, perforators, and similar devices lawfully manufactured exclusively for military or police purposes.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.183 Importation of plastic explosives on or after April 24, 1997.

Persons filing Form 6 applications for the importation of plastic explosives on or after April 24,

1997, shall attach to the application the following written statement, prepared in triplicate, executed under the penalties of perjury:

(a) "I declare under the penalties of perjury that the plastic explosive to be imported contains a detection agent as required by 27 CFR 55.180(b)"; or

(b) "I declare under the penalties of perjury that the plastic explosive to be imported is a "small amount" to be used for research, training, or testing purposes and is exempt from the detection agent requirement pursuant to 27 CFR 55.182."

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.184 Statements of process and samples.

(a) A complete and accurate statement of process with regard to any plastic explosive or to any detection agent that is to be introduced into a plastic explosive or formulated in such plastic explosive shall be submitted by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer, upon request, to the Director.

(b) Samples of any plastic explosive or detection agent shall be submitted by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer, upon request, to the Director.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8378, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.185 Criminal sanctions.

Any person who violates the provisions of 18 U.S.C. 842(l)-(o) shall be fined under title 18, U.S.C., imprisoned for not more than 10 years, or both.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8378, Feb. 25, 1997]

§ 55.186 Seizure or forfeiture.

Any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent in violation of 18 U.S.C. 842(l)-(n) is subject to seizure and forfeiture, and all provisions of 19 U.S.C. 1595a, relating to seizure, forfeiture, and disposition of merchandise introduced or attempted to be introduced into the U.S. contrary to law, shall extend to seizures and forfeitures under this subpart. See § 72.27 of this chapter for regulations on summary destruction of plastic explosives that do not contain a detection agent.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8374, 8378, Feb. 25, 1997]

Subpart K—Storage

§ 55.201 General.

(a) Section 842(j) of the Act and § 55.29 of this part require that the storage of explosive materials by any person must be in accordance with the regulations in this part. Further, section 846 of this Act authorizes regulations to prevent the recurrence of accidental explosions in which explosive materials were involved. The storage standards prescribed by this subpart confer no right or privileges to store explosive materials in a manner contrary to State or local law.

(b) The Director may authorize alternate construction for explosives storage magazines when it is shown that the alternate magazine construction is substantially equivalent to the standards of safety and security contained in this subpart. Any alternate explosive magazine construction approved by the Director prior to August 9, 1982, will continue as approved unless notified in writing by the Director. Any person intending to use alternate magazine construction shall submit a letter application to the regional director (compliance) for transmittal to the Director, specifically describing the proposed magazine. Explosive materials may not be stored in alternate magazines before the applicant has been notified that the application has been approved.

(c) A licensee or permittee who intends to make changes in his magazines, or who intends to construct or acquire additional magazines, shall comply with § 55.63.

(d) The regulations set forth in §§ 55.221 through 55.224 pertain to the storage of display fireworks, pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials used in assembling fireworks and articles pyrotechnic.

(e) The provisions of § 55.202(a) classifying flash powder and bulk salutes as high explosives are mandatory after March 7, 1990:

Provided, that those persons who hold licenses or permits under this part on that date shall, with respect to the premises covered by such licenses or permits, comply with the high explosives storage requirements for flash powder and bulk salutes by March 7, 1991.

(f) Any person who stores explosive materials shall notify the authority having jurisdiction for fire safety in the locality in which the explosive materials are being stored of the type, magazine capacity, and location of each site where such explosive materials are stored. Such notification shall be

made orally before the end of the day on which storage of the explosive materials commenced and in writing within 48 hours from the time such storage commenced.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.202 Classes of explosive materials.

For purposes of this part, there are three classes of explosive materials. These classes, together with the description of explosive materials comprising each class, are as follows:

(a) **High explosives.** Explosive materials which can be caused to detonate by means of a blasting cap when unconfined, (for example, dynamite, flash powders, and bulk salutes). See also § 55.201(e).

(b) **Low explosives.** Explosive materials which can be caused to deflagrate when confined (for example, black powder, safety fuses, igniters, igniter cords, fuse lighters, and "display fireworks" classified as UN0333, UN0334, or UN0335 by the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR 172.101, except for bulk salutes).

(c) **Blasting agents.** (For example, ammonium nitrate-fuel oil and certain water-gels (see also § 55.11).

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.203 Types of magazines.

For purposes of this part, there are five types of magazines. These types, together with the classes of explosive materials, as defined in § 55.202, which will be stored in them, are as follows:

(a) **Type 1 magazines.** Permanent magazines for the storage of high explosives, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206 and 55.213. Other classes of explosive materials may also be stored in type 1 magazines.

(b) **Type 2 magazines.** Mobile and portable indoor and outdoor magazines for the storage of high explosives, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206, 55.208(b), and 55.213. Other classes of explosive materials may also be stored in type 2 magazines.

(c) **Type 3 magazines.** Portable outdoor magazines for the temporary storage of high explosives while attended (for example, a "day-box"), subject to the limitations prescribed by §§

55.206 and 55.213. Other classes of explosives materials may also be stored in type 3 magazines.

(d) Type 4 magazines. Magazines for the storage of low explosives, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206(b), 55.210(b), and 55.213. Blasting agents may be stored in type 4 magazines, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206(c), 55.211(b), and 55.213. Detonators that will not mass detonate may also be stored in type 4 magazines, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206(a), 55.210(b), and 55.213.

(e) Type 5 magazines. Magazines for the storage of blasting agents, subject to the limitations prescribed by §§ 55.206(c), 55.211(b), and 55.213. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.204 Inspection of magazines.

Any person storing explosive materials shall inspect his magazines at least every seven days. This inspection need not be an inventory, but must be sufficient to determine whether there has been unauthorized entry or attempted entry into the magazines, or unauthorized removal of the contents of the magazines.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.205 Movement of explosive materials.

All explosive materials must be kept in locked magazines meeting the standards in this subpart unless they are:

- (a)** In the process of manufacture;
- (b)** Being physically handled in the operating process of a licensee or user;
- (c)** Being used; or
- (d)** Being transported to a place of storage or use by a licensee or permittee or by a person who has lawfully acquired explosive materials under § 55.106.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.206 Location of magazines.

(a) Outdoor magazines in which high explosives are stored must be located no closer to inhabited buildings, passenger railways, public highways, or other magazines in which high explosives are stored, than the minimum distances specified in the table of distances for storage of explosive materials in § 55.218.

(b) Outdoor magazines in which low explosives are stored must be located no closer to inhabited buildings, passenger railways, public highways, or other magazines in which explosive materials are stored, than the minimum distances specified in the table of distances for storage of low explosives in § 55.219, except that the table of distances in § 55.224 shall apply to the storage of display

fireworks. The distances shown in § 55.219 may not be reduced by the presence of barricades.

(c)(1) Outdoor magazines in which blasting agents in quantities of more than 50 pounds are stored must be located no closer to inhabited buildings, passenger railways, or public highways than the minimum distances specified in the table of distances for storage of explosive materials in § 55.218.

(2) Ammonium nitrate and magazines in which blasting agents are stored must be located no closer to magazines in which high explosives or other blasting agents are stored than the minimum distances specified in the table of distances for the separation of ammonium nitrate and blasting agents in § 55.220. However, the minimum distances for magazines in which explosives and blasting agents are stored from inhabited buildings, etc., may not be less than the distances specified in the table of distances for storage of explosives materials in § 55.218.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.207 Construction of type 1 magazines.

A type 1 magazine is a permanent structure: a building, an igloo or "Army-type structure", a tunnel, or a dugout. It is to be bullet-resistant, fire-resistant, weather-resistant, theft-resistant, and ventilated.

(a) Buildings. All building type magazines are to be constructed of masonry, wood, metal, or a combination of these materials, and have no openings except for entrances and ventilation. The ground around building magazines must slope away for drainage or other adequate drainage provided.

(1) Masonry wall construction. Masonry wall construction is to consist of brick, concrete, tile, cement block, or cinder block and be not less than 6 inches in thickness. Hollow masonry units used in construction must have all hollow spaces filled with well-tamped, coarse, dry sand or weak concrete (at least a mixture of one part cement and eight parts of sand with enough water to dampen the mixture while tamping in place). Interior walls are to be constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material.

(2) Fabricated metal wall construction. Metal wall construction is to consist of sectional sheets of steel or aluminum not less than number 14-gauge, securely fastened to a metal framework. Metal wall construction is either lined inside with brick, solid cement blocks, hardwood not less than four inches thick, or will have at least a six inch sand fill between interior and exterior walls. Interior walls are to be

constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material.

(3) Wood frame wall construction. The exterior of outer wood walls is to be covered with iron or aluminum not less than number 26-gauge. An inner wall of, or covered with nonsparking material will be constructed so as to provide a space of not less than six inches between the outer and inner walls. The space is to be filled with coarse, dry sand or weak concrete.

(4) Floors. Floors are to be constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material and shall be strong enough to bear the weight of the maximum quantity to be stored. Use of pallets covered with a nonsparking material is considered equivalent to a floor constructed of or covered with a nonsparking material.

(5) Foundations. Foundations are to be constructed of brick, concrete, cement block, stone, or wood posts. If piers or posts are used, in lieu of a continuous foundation, the space under the buildings is to be enclosed with metal.

(6) Roof. Except for buildings with fabricated metal roofs, the outer roof is to be covered with no less than number 26-gauge iron or aluminum, fastened to at least 7/8 inch sheathing.

(7) Bullet-resistant ceilings or roofs. Where it is possible for a bullet to be fired directly through the roof and into the magazine at such an angle that the bullet would strike the explosives within, the magazine is to be protected by one of the following methods:

(i) A sand tray lined with a layer of building paper, plastic, or other nonporous material, and filled with not less than four inches of coarse, dry sand, and located at the tops of inner walls covering the entire ceiling area, except that portion necessary for ventilation.

(ii) A fabricated metal roof constructed of 3/16-inch plate steel lined with four inches of hardwood. (For each additional 1/16 inch of plate steel, the hardwood lining may be decreased one inch.)

(8) Doors. All doors are to be constructed of not less than 1/4 inch plate steel and lined with at least two inches of hardwood. Hinges and hasps are to be attached to the doors by welding, riveting or bolting (nuts on inside of door). They are to be installed in such a manner that the hinges and hasps cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(9) Locks. Each door is to be equipped with (i) two mortise locks; (ii) two padlock fastened in separate hasps and staples; (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock; (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open; or (v) a three-point lock. Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a

casehardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4 inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples. These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

(10) Ventilation. Ventilation is to be provided to prevent dampness and heating of stored explosive materials. Ventilation openings must be screened to prevent the entrance of sparks. Ventilation openings in side walls and foundations must be offset or shielded for bullet-resistant purposes. Magazines having foundation and roof ventilators with the air circulating between the side walls and the floors and between the side walls and the ceiling must have a wooden lattice lining or equivalent to prevent the packages of explosive materials from being stacked against the side walls and blocking the air circulation.

(11) Exposed metal. No sparking material is to be exposed to contact with the stored explosive materials. All ferrous metal nails in the floor and side walls, which might be exposed to contact with explosive materials, must be blind nailed, countersunk, or covered with a nonsparking lattice work or other nonsparking material.

(b) Igloos, "Army-type structures", tunnels, and dugouts. Igloo, "Army-type structure", tunnel, and dugout magazines are to be constructed of reinforced concrete, masonry, metal, or a combination of these materials. They must have an earthmound covering of not less than 24 inches on the top, sides and rear unless the magazine meets the requirements of paragraph (a)(7) of this section. Interior walls and floors must be constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material. Magazines of this type are also to be constructed in conformity with the requirements of paragraph (a)(4) and paragraphs (a)(8) through (11) of this section. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.208 Construction of type 2 magazines.

A type 2 magazine is a box, trailer, semitrailer, or other mobile facility.

(a) Outdoor magazines.

(1) General. Outdoor magazines are to be bullet-resistant, fire-resistant, weather-resistant, theft-resistant, and ventilated. They are to be supported to prevent direct contact with the ground and, if less than one cubic yard in size, must be securely fastened to a fixed object. The ground around outdoor magazines must slope away for drainage or other adequate drainage provided.

When unattended, vehicular magazines must have wheels removed or otherwise effectively immobilized by kingpin locking devices or other methods approved by the Director.

(2) Exterior construction. The exterior and doors are to be constructed of not less than 1/4-inch steel and lined with at least two inches of hardwood. Magazines with top openings will have lids with water-resistant seals or which overlap the sides by at least one inch when in a closed position.

(3) Hinges and hasps. Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside of door). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) Locks. Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8-inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4-inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

(b) Indoor magazines

(1) General. Indoor magazines are to be fire-resistant and theft-resistant. They need not be bullet-resistant and weather-resistant if the buildings in which they are stored provide protection from the weather and from bullet penetration.

No indoor magazine is to be located in a residence or dwelling. The indoor storage of high explosives must not exceed a quantity of 50 pounds. More than one indoor magazine may be located in the same building if the total quantity of explosive materials stored does not exceed 50 pounds. Detonators must be stored in a separate magazine (except as provided in § 55.213) and the total quantity of detonators must not exceed 5,000.

(2) Exterior construction. Indoor magazines are to be constructed of wood or metal according to one of the following specifications:

(i) Wood indoor magazines are to have sides, bottoms and doors constructed of at least two inches of hardwood and are to be well braced at the corners. They are to be covered with sheet metal of

not less than number 26-gauge (.0179 inches). Nails exposed to the interior of magazines must be countersunk.

(ii) Metal indoor magazines are to have sides, bottoms and doors constructed of not less than number 12-gauge (.1046 inches) metal and be lined inside with a nonsparking material. Edges of metal covers must overlap sides at least one inch.

(3) Hinges and hasps. Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside of door). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) Locks. Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8-inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4-inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

Indoor magazines located in secure rooms that are locked as provided in this subparagraph may have each door locked with one steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8-inch diameter, if the door hinges and lock hasp are securely fastened to the magazine.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

(c) Detonator boxes. Magazines for detonators in quantities of 100 or less are to have sides, bottoms and doors constructed of not less than number 12-gauge (.1046 inches) metal and lined with a nonsparking material. Hinges and hasps must be attached so they cannot be removed from the outside. One steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8-inch diameter is sufficient for locking purposes. [T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.209 Construction of type 3 magazines.

A type 3 magazine is a "day-box" or other portable magazine. It must be fire-resistant, weather-resistant, and theft-resistant. A type 3

magazine is to be constructed of not less than number 12-gauge (.1046 inches) steel, lined with at least either 1/2-inch plywood or 1/2-inch Masonite-type hardboard.

Doors must overlap sides by at least one inch. Hinges and hasps are to be attached by welding, riveting or bolting (nuts on inside).

One steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8-inch diameter is sufficient for locking purposes. Explosive materials are not to be left unattended in type 3 magazines and must be removed to type 1 or 2 magazines for unattended storage.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.210 Construction of type 4 magazines.

A type 4 magazine is a building, igloo or "Army-type structure", tunnel, dugout, box, trailer, or a semitrailer or other mobile magazine.

(a) Outdoor magazines

(1) **General.** Outdoor magazines are to be fire-resistant, weather-resistant, and theft-resistant. The ground around outdoor magazines must slope away for drainage or other adequate drainage be provided. When unattended, vehicular magazines must have wheels removed or otherwise be effectively immobilized by kingpin locking devices or other methods approved by the Director.

(2) **Construction.** Outdoor magazines are to be constructed of masonry, metal-covered wood, fabricated metal, or a combination of these materials. Foundations are to be constructed of brick, concrete, cement block, stone, or metal or wood posts. If piers or posts are used, in lieu of a continuous foundation, the space under the building is to be enclosed with fire-resistant material. The walls and floors are to be constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material or lattice work. The doors must be metal or solid wood covered with metal.

(3) **Hinges and hasps.** Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside of door). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) **Locks.** Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4 inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

(b) Indoor magazine

(1) **General.** Indoor magazines are to be fire-resistant and theft-resistant. They need not be weather-resistant if the buildings in which they are stored provide protection from the weather.

No indoor magazine is to be located in a residence or dwelling. The indoor storage of low explosives must not exceed a quantity of 50 pounds. More than one indoor magazine may be located in the same building if the total quantity of explosive materials stored does not exceed 50 pounds. Detonators that will not mass detonate must be stored in a separate magazine and the total number of electric detonators must not exceed 5,000.

(2) **Construction.** Indoor magazines are to be constructed of masonry, metal-covered wood, fabricated metal, or a combination of these materials. The walls and floors are to be constructed of, or covered with, a nonsparking material. The doors must be metal or solid wood covered with metal.

(3) **Hinges and hasps.** Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside of door). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) **Locks.** Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4 inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

Indoor magazines located in secure rooms that are locked as provided in this subparagraph may have each door locked with one steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened

shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter, if the door hinges and lock hasp are securely fastened to the magazine.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.211 Construction of type 5 magazines.

A type 5 magazine is a building, igloo or "Army-type structure", tunnel, dugout, bin, box, trailer, or a semitrailer or other mobile facility.

(a) Outdoor magazines

(1) **General.** Outdoor magazines are to be weather-resistant and theft-resistant. The ground around magazines must slope away for drainage or other adequate drainage be provided. When unattended, vehicular magazines must have wheels removed or otherwise be effectively immobilized by kingpin locking devices or other methods approved by the Director.

(2) **Construction.** The doors are to be constructed of solid wood or metal.

(3) **Hinges and hasps.** Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside of door). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) **Locks.** Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4 inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

Trailers, semitrailers, and similar vehicular magazines may, for each door, be locked with one steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter, if the door hinges and lock hasp are securely fastened to the magazine and to the door frame.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

(5) **Placards.** The placards required by Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR part 172, subpart F, for the transportation of blasting agents shall be displayed on all magazines.

(b) Indoor magazines

(1) **General.** Indoor magazines are to be theft-resistant. They need not be weather-resistant if the buildings in which they are stored provide protection from the weather.

No indoor magazine is to be located in a residence or dwelling. Indoor magazines containing quantities of blasting agents in excess of 50 pounds are subject to the requirements of § 55.206 of this subpart.

(2) **Construction.** The doors are to be constructed of wood or metal.

(3) **Hinges and hasps.** Hinges and hasps are to be attached to doors by welding, riveting, or bolting (nuts on inside). Hinges and hasps must be installed so that they cannot be removed when the doors are closed and locked.

(4) **Locks.** Each door is to be equipped with

- (i) two mortise locks;
 - (ii) two padlocks fastened in separate hasps and staples;
 - (iii) a combination of a mortise lock and a padlock;
 - (iv) a mortise lock that requires two keys to open;
- or
- (v) a three-point lock.

Padlocks must have at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter. Padlocks must be protected with not less than 1/4 inch steel hoods constructed so as to prevent sawing or lever action on the locks, hasps, and staples.

Indoor magazines located in secure rooms that are locked as provided in this subparagraph may have each door locked with one steel padlock (which need not be protected by a steel hood) having at least five tumblers and a case-hardened shackle of at least 3/8 inch diameter, if the door hinges and lock hasps are securely fastened to the magazine and to the door frame.

These requirements do not apply to magazine doors that are adequately secured on the inside by means of a bolt, lock, or bar that cannot be actuated from the outside.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981, as amended by T.D. ATF-298, 55 FR 21863, May 30, 1990]

§ 55.212 Smoking and open flames.

Smoking, matches, open flames, and spark producing devices are not permitted:

- (a) In any magazine;
- (b) Within 50 feet of any outdoor magazine; or

(c) Within any room containing an indoor magazine.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.213 Quantity and storage restrictions.

(a) Explosive materials in excess of 300,000 pounds or detonators in excess of 20 million are not to be stored in one magazine unless approved by the Director.

(b) Detonators are not to be stored in the same magazine with other explosive materials, except under the following circumstances:

(1) In a type 4 magazine, detonators that will not mass detonate may be stored with electric squibs, safety fuse, igniters, and igniter cord.

(2) In a type 1 or type 2 magazine, detonators may be stored with delay devices and any of the items listed in paragraph (b)(1) of this section.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.214 Storage within types 1, 2, 3, and 4 magazines.

(a) Explosive materials within a magazine are not to be placed directly against interior walls and must be stored so as not to interfere with ventilation. To prevent contact of stored explosive materials with walls, a nonsparking lattice work or other nonsparking material may be used.

(b) Containers of explosive materials are to be stored so that marks are visible. Stocks of explosive materials are to be stored so they can be easily counted and checked upon inspection.

(c) Except with respect to fiberboard or other nonmetal containers, containers of explosive materials are not to be unpacked or repacked inside a magazine or within 50 feet of a magazine, and must not be unpacked or repacked close to other explosive materials. Containers of explosive materials must be closed while being stored.

(d) Tools used for opening or closing containers of explosive materials are to be of nonsparking materials, except that metal slitters may be used for opening fiberboard containers. A wood wedge and a fiber, rubber, or wooden mallet are to be used for opening or closing wood containers of explosive materials. Metal tools other than nonsparking transfer conveyors are not to be stored in any magazine containing high explosives.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.215 Housekeeping.

Magazines are to be kept clean, dry, and free of grit, paper, empty packages and containers, and rubbish. Floors are to be regularly swept. Brooms

and other utensils used in the cleaning and maintenance of magazines must have no spark-producing metal parts, and may be kept in magazines. Floors stained by leakage from explosive materials are to be cleaned according to instructions of the explosives manufacturer. When any explosive material has deteriorated it is to be destroyed in accordance with the advice or instructions of the manufacturer. The area surrounding magazines is to be kept clear of rubbish, brush, dry grass, or trees (except live trees more than 10 feet tall), for not less than 25 feet in all directions. Volatile materials are to be kept a distance of not less than 50 feet from outdoor magazines. Living foliage which is used to stabilize the earthen covering of a magazine need not be removed.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.216 Repair of magazines.

Before repairing the interior of magazines, all explosive materials are to be removed and the interior cleaned. Before repairing the exterior of magazines, all explosive materials must be removed if there exists any possibility that repairs may produce sparks or flame. Explosive materials removed from magazines under repair must be

(a) placed in other magazines appropriate for the storage of those explosive materials under this subpart, or

(b) placed a safe distance from the magazines under repair where they are to be properly guarded and protected until the repairs have been completed.

T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981.

§ 55.217 Lighting.

(a) Battery-activated safety lights or battery-activated safety lanterns may be used in explosives storage magazines.

(b) Electric lighting used in any explosives storage magazine must meet the standards prescribed by the "National Electrical Code," (National Fire Protection Association, NFPA 70-81), for the conditions present in the magazine at any time. All electrical switches are to be located outside of the magazine and also meet the standards prescribed by the National Electrical Code.

(c) Copies of invoices, work orders or similar documents which indicate the lighting complies with the National Electrical Code must be available for inspection by ATF officers.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.218 Table of distances for storage of explosive materials.

Quantity of Explosives		Distances in feet							
Pounds over	Pounds not over	Inhabited buildings		Public highways with traffic volume 3000 or less vehicles/day		Passenger railways--public highways with traffic volume of more than 3,000 vehicles bay		Separation of magazines	
		Barricaded	Unbarri-aded	Barricaded	Unbarri-aded	Barricaded	Unbarri-aded	Barricaded	Unbarri-aded
0	5	70	140	30	60	51	102	6	12
5	10	90	180	35	70	64	128	8	16
10	20	110	220	45	90	81	162	10	20
20	30	125	250	50	100	93	186	11	22
30	40	140	280	55	110	103	206	12	24
40	50	150	300	60	120	110	220	14	28
50	75	170	340	70	140	127	254	15	30
75	100	190	380	75	150	139	278	16	32
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125	150	215	430	85	170	159	318	19	38
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200	250	255	510	105	210	189	378	23	46
250	300	270	540	110	220	201	402	24	48
300	400	295	590	120	240	221	442	27	54
400	500	320	640	130	260	238	476	29	58
500	600	340	680	135	270	253	506	31	62
600	700	355	710	145	290	266	532	32	64
700	800	375	750	150	300	278	556	33	66
800	900	390	780	155	310	289	578	35	70
900	1,000	400	800	160	320	300	600	36	72
1,000	1,200	425	850	165	330	318	636	39	78
1,200	1,400	450	900	170	340	336	672	41	82
1,400	1,600	470	940	175	350	351	702	43	86
1,600	1,800	490	980	180	360	366	732	44	88
1,800	2,000	505	1,010	185	370	378	756	45	90
2,000	2,500	545	1,090	190	380	408	816	49	98
2,500	3,000	580	1,160	195	390	432	864	52	104
3,000	4,000	635	1,270	210	420	474	948	58	116
4,000	5,000	685	1,370	225	450	513	1,026	61	122
5,000	6,000	730	1,460	235	470	546	1,092	65	130
6,000	7,000	770	1,540	245	490	573	1,146	68	136
7,000	8,000	800	1,600	250	500	600	1,200	72	144
8,000	9,000	835	1,670	255	510	624	1,248	75	150
9,000	10,000	865	1,730	260	520	645	1,290	78	156
10,000	12,000	875	1,750	270	540	687	1,374	82	164
12,000	14,000	885	1,770	275	550	723	1,446	87	174
14,000	16,000	900	1,800	280	560	756	1,512	90	180
16,000	18,000	940	1,880	285	570	786	1,572	94	188
18,000	20,000	975	1,950	290	580	813	1,626	98	196
20,000	25,000	1,055	2,000	315	630	876	1,752	105	210
25,000	30,000	1,130	2,000	340	680	933	1,866	112	224
30,000	35,000	1,205	2,000	360	720	981	1,962	119	238
35,000	40,000	1,275	2,000	380	760	1,026	2,000	124	248
40,000	45,000	1,340	2,000	400	800	1,068	2,000	129	258
45,000	50,000	1,400	2,000	420	840	1,104	2,000	135	270
50,000	55,000	1,460	2,000	440	880	1,140	2,000	140	280
55,000	60,000	1,515	2,000	455	910	1,173	2,000	145	290
60,000	65,000	1,565	2,000	470	940	1,206	2,000	150	300
65,000	70,000	1,610	2,000	485	970	1,236	2,000	155	310
70,000	75,000	1,655	2,000	500	1,000	1,263	2,000	160	320
75,000	80,000	1,695	2,000	510	1,020	1,293	2,000	165	330
80,000	85,000	1,730	2,000	520	1,040	1,317	2,000	170	340
85,000	90,000	1,760	2,000	530	1,060	1,344	2,000	175	350
90,000	95,000	1,790	2,000	540	1,080	1,368	2,000	180	360
95,000	100,000	1,815	2,000	545	1,090	1,392	2,000	185	370
100,000	110,000	1,835	2,000	550	1,100	1,437	2,000	195	390
110,000	120,000	1,855	2,000	555	1,110	1,479	2,000	205	410
120,000	130,000	1,875	2,000	560	1,120	1,521	2,000	215	430
130,000	140,000	1,890	2,000	565	1,130	1,557	2,000	225	450
140,000	150,000	1,900	2,000	570	1,140	1,593	2,000	235	470
150,000	160,000	1,935	2,000	580	1,160	1,629	2,000	245	490
160,000	170,000	1,965	2,000	590	1,180	1,662	2,000	255	510
170,000	180,000	1,990	2,000	600	1,200	1,695	2,000	265	530
180,000	190,000	2,010	2,010	605	1,210	1,725	2,000	275	550
190,000	200,000	2,030	2,030	610	1,220	1,755	2,000	285	570
200,000	210,000	2,055	2,055	620	1,240	1,782	2,000	295	590
210,000	230,000	2,100	2,100	635	1,270	1,836	2,000	315	630
230,000	250,000	2,155	2,155	650	1,300	1,890	2,000	335	670
250,000	275,000	2,215	2,215	670	1,340	1,950	2,000	360	720
275,000	300,000	2,275	2,275	690	1,380	2,000	2,000	385	770

Table: AMERICAN TABLE OF DISTANCES FOR STORAGE OF EXPLOSIVES (December 1910), as Revised and Approved by the Institute of Makers of Explosives-July, 1991.

Notes to the Table of Distances for Storage of Explosives

(1) Terms found in the table of distances for storage of explosive materials are defined in § 55.11.

(2) When two or more storage magazines are located on the same property, each magazine must comply with the minimum distances specified from inhabited buildings, railways, and highways, and, in addition, they should be separated from each other by not less than the distances shown for "Separation of Magazines," except that the quantity of explosives contained in cap magazines shall govern in regard to the spacing of said cap magazines from magazines containing other explosives. If any two or more magazines are separated from each other by less than the specified "Separation of Magazines" distances, then

such two or more magazines, as a group, must be considered as one magazine, and the total quantity of explosives stored in such group must be treated as if stored in a single magazine located on the site of any magazine of the group, and must comply with the minimum of distances specified from other magazines, inhabited buildings, railways, and highways.

(3) All types of blasting caps in strengths through No. 8 cap should be rated at 1 1/2 lbs. of explosives per 1,000 caps. For strengths higher than No. 8 cap, consult the manufacturer.

(4) For quantity and distance purposes, detonating cord of 50 or 60 grains per foot should be calculated as equivalent to 9 lbs. of high explosives per 1,000 feet. Heavier or lighter core loads should be rated proportionately.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45003, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.219 Table of distances for storage of low explosives.

Pounds		From inhabited building distance (feet)	From public railroad and highway distance (feet)	From above ground magazine (feet)
Over	Not over			
0	1,000	75	75	50
1,000	5,000	115	115	75
5,000	10,000	150	150	100
10,000	20,000	190	190	125
20,000	30,000	215	215	145
30,000	40,000	235	235	155
40,000	50,000	250	250	165
50,000	60,000	260	260	175
60,000	70,000	270	270	185
70,000	80,000	280	280	190
80,000	90,000	295	295	195
90,000	100,000	300	300	200
100,000	200,000	375	375	250
200,000	300,000	450	450	300

Table: DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES STANDARDS, TABLE 5-4.1 EXTRACT; 4145.27 M, March 1969

§ 55.220 Table of separation distances of ammonium nitrate and blasting agents from explosives or blasting agents.

Donor weight (pounds)		Minimum separation distance of acceptor from donor when barricaded (feet)		Minimum thickness of artificial barricades (inches)
Over	Not over	Ammonium nitrate	Blasting agent	
0	100	3	11	12
100	300	4	14	12
300	600	5	18	12
600	1,000	6	22	12
1,000	1,600	7	25	12
1,600	2,000	8	29	12
2,000	3,000	9	32	15
3,000	4,000	10	36	15
4,000	6,000	11	40	15
6,000	8,000	12	43	20
8,000	10,000	13	47	20
10,000	12,000	14	50	20
12,000	16,000	15	54	25
16,000	20,000	16	58	25
20,000	25,000	18	65	25
25,000	30,000	19	68	30
30,000	35,000	20	72	30
35,000	40,000	21	76	30
40,000	45,000	22	79	35
45,000	50,000	23	83	35
50,000	55,000	24	86	35
55,000	60,000	25	90	35
60,000	70,000	26	94	40
70,000	80,000	28	101	40
80,000	90,000	30	108	40
90,000	100,000	32	115	40
100,000	120,000	34	122	50
120,000	140,000	37	133	50
140,000	160,000	40	144	50
160,000	180,000	44	158	50
180,000	200,000	48	173	50
200,000	220,000	52	187	60
220,000	250,000	56	202	60
250,000	275,000	60	216	60
275,000	300,000	64	230	60

Table: NATIONAL FIRE PROTECTION ASSOCIATION (NFPA) OFFICIAL STANDARD NO. 492, 1968

Notes of Table of Separation Distances of Ammonium Nitrate and Blasting Agents From Explosives or Blasting Agents

(1) This table specifies separation distances to prevent explosion of ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate-based blasting agents by propagation from nearby stores of high explosives or blasting agents referred to in the table as the "donor." Ammonium nitrate, by itself, is not considered to be a donor when applying this table. Ammonium nitrate, ammonium nitrate-fuel oil or

combinations thereof are acceptors. If stores of ammonium nitrate are located within the sympathetic detonation distance of explosives or blasting agents, one-half the mass of the ammonium nitrate is to be included in the mass of the donor.

(2) When the ammonium nitrate and/or blasting agent is not barricaded, the distances shown in the table must be multiplied by six. These distances allow for the possibility of high velocity metal fragments from mixers, hoppers, truck bodies, sheet metal structures, metal containers, and the like

which may enclose the "donor." Where explosives storage is in bullet-resistant magazines or where the storage is protected by a bullet-resistant wall, distances and barricade thicknesses in excess of those prescribed in the table in § 55.218 are not required.

(3) These distances apply to ammonium nitrate that passes the insensitivity test prescribed in the definition of ammonium nitrate fertilizer issued by the Fertilizer Institute.¹ Ammonium nitrate failing to pass the test must be stored at separation distances in accordance with the table in § 55.218.

¹ Definition and Test Procedures for Ammonium Nitrate Fertilizer, Fertilizer Institute 1015-18th St. N.W. Washington, D.C. 20036.

(4) These distances apply to blasting agents which pass the insensitivity test prescribed in regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation (49 CFR part 173).

(5) Earth or sand dikes, or enclosures filled with the prescribed minimum thickness of earth or sand are acceptable artificial barricades. Natural barricades, such as hills or timber of sufficient density that the surrounding exposures which require protection cannot be seen from the "donor" when the trees are bare of leaves, are also acceptable.

(6) For determining the distances to be maintained from inhabited buildings, passenger railways, and public highways, use the table in § 55.218.

[T.D. ATF-87, 46 FR 40384, Aug. 7, 1981]

§ 55.221 Requirements for display fireworks, pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials used in assembling fireworks or articles pyrotechnic.

(a) Display fireworks, pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials used to assemble fireworks and articles pyrotechnic shall be stored at all times as required by this Subpart unless they are in the process of manufacture, assembly, packaging, or are being transported.

(b) No more than 500 pounds (227 kg) of pyrotechnic compositions or explosive materials are permitted at one time in any fireworks mixing building, any building or area in which the pyrotechnic compositions or explosive materials are pressed or otherwise prepared for finishing or

assembly, or any finishing or assembly building. All pyrotechnic compositions or explosive materials not in immediate use will be stored in covered, non-ferrous containers.

(c) The maximum quantity of flash powder permitted in any fireworks process building is 10 pounds (4.5 kg).

(d) All dry explosive powders and mixtures, partially assembled display fireworks, and finished display fireworks shall be removed from fireworks process buildings at the conclusion of a day's operations and placed in approved magazines.

[T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3722, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45004, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.222 Table of distances between fireworks process buildings and between fireworks process and fireworks nonprocess buildings.

Net weight of fireworks ¹ (pounds)	Display fireworks ² (feet)	Consumer fireworks ³ (feet)
0-100	57	37
101-200	69	37
201-300	77	37
301-400	85	37
401-500	91	37
Above 500	Not permitted ^{4 5}	Not Permitted ^{4 5}

¹ Net weight is the weight of all pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials and fuse only.

² The distances in this column apply only with natural or artificial barricades. If such barricades are not used, the distances must be doubled.

³ While consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic in a finished state are not subject to regulation, explosive materials used to manufacture or assemble such fireworks or articles are subject to regulation. Thus, fireworks process buildings where

consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic are being processed shall meet these requirements.

⁴ A maximum of 500 pounds of in-process pyrotechnic compositions, either loose or in partially-assembled fireworks, is permitted in any fireworks process building. Finished display fireworks may not be stored in a fireworks process building.

⁵ A maximum of 10 pounds of flash powder, either in loose form or in assembled units, is permitted in any fireworks process building. Quantities in excess of 10 pounds must be kept in an approved magazine.

[T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3723, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45004, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.223 Table of distances between fireworks process buildings and other specified areas.

Net weight of fireworks ¹ (pounds)	Display fireworks ¹ (feet)	Consumer fireworks ² (feet)
0-100	200	25
101-200	200	50
201-300	200	50
301-400	200	50
401-500	200	50
Above 500	Not permitted	Not Permitted

¹ Net weight is the weight of all pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials and fuse only.

² While consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic in a finished state are not subject to regulation, explosive materials used to manufacture or assemble such fireworks or articles are subject to regulation. Thus, fireworks process buildings where consumer fireworks or articles pyrotechnic are being processed shall meet these requirements.

³ This table does not apply to the separation distances between fireworks process buildings (see

§ 55.222) and between magazines (see §§ 55.218 and 55.224).

⁴ The distances in this table apply with or without artificial or natural barricades or screen barricades. However, the use of barricades is highly recommended.

⁵ No work of any kind, except to place or move items other than explosive materials from storage, shall be conducted in any building designated as a warehouse. A fireworks plant warehouse is not subject to § 55.222 or this section, tables of distances.

[T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3723, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45004, Aug. 24, 1998]

§ 55.224 Table of distances for the storage of display fireworks (except bulk salutes).

Net weight of firework ¹ (pounds)	Distance between magazine and inhabited building, passenger railway, or public highway ^{3 4} (feet)	Distance between magazines ^{2 3} (feet)
0--1000	150	100
1001--5000	230	150
5001--10000	300	200
Above 10000	Use Table §55.218	

¹ Net weight is the weight of all pyrotechnic compositions, and explosive materials and fuse only.

² For the purposes of applying this table, the term "magazine" also includes fireworks shipping buildings for display fireworks.

³ For fireworks storage magazines in use prior to (30 days from the date of publication of the final rule

in the Federal Register), the distances in this table may be halved if properly barricaded between the magazine and potential receptor sites.

⁴ This table does not apply to the storage of bulk salutes. Use table at § 55.218. [T.D. ATF-293, 55 FR 3723, Feb. 5, 1990; T.D. ATF-400, 63 FR 44999, 45004, Aug. 24, 1998]

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Questions and Answers

18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 and 27 CFR Part 55

Introduction

The following Questions and Answers are intended to aid you in gaining a better understanding of:

**18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 – Importation,
Manufacture, Distribution and Storage
of Explosive Materials**

and the implementing regulations issued within:

27 CFR Part 55 – Commerce in Explosives

This listing is not all-inclusive. However, it contains some of the most frequently asked questions that ATF receives. These questions and answers are only intended as a general overview. To determine how the law and regulations apply to your specific circumstances, you must refer directly to the applicable law and regulation or contact your local ATF office. Please also be aware that the law

and regulations are subject to change. For the most up-to-date information, please contact your nearest ATF office.

Unless otherwise stated, these Questions and Answers apply only to Federal law and regulations. The States and their local jurisdictions have, in many cases, enacted their own requirements relating to explosives. Check with the appropriate State or local authorities for information regarding State or local law. Compliance with Federal law and regulations does not exempt persons from compliance with State and local requirements.

A Table of Contents and a Subject Index have been included for your convenience. The Index is located at the end of the Questions and Answers.

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General Questions

1. Who is affected by the Federal explosives law?

The law affects all persons who import, manufacture, deal in, purchase, use, store, or possess explosive materials. It also affects those who ship, transport or receive explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce. See **Question 46** on the applicability of State and local requirements. Also, see 18 U.S.C. 845 and 27 CFR 55.141 for exemptions.

2. Can I obtain general information from ATF on the Internet?

Yes. ATF maintains a website on the Internet at www.atf.treas.gov.

3. Does the law make some classes of persons ineligible to receive a Federal license to import, manufacture, or deal in explosive materials or to receive a Federal explosives permit?

Yes. A license or permit will not be issued to any person who:

- (a) Is under 21 years of age;
- (b) Has been convicted in any court of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- (c) Is under indictment for a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- (d) Is a fugitive from justice;
- (e) Is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)); or
- (f) Has been adjudicated a mental defective. [18 U.S.C. 842(d), 843(b); 27 CFR 55.49]

4. Are there classes of persons to whom the distribution of explosive materials by licensees is prohibited?

Yes. No person shall knowingly distribute explosive materials to any class of person listed in **Question 3** above. [18 U.S.C. 842(d); 27 CFR 55.106]

5. What other distributions of explosive materials by licensees are prohibited?

A licensee shall not knowingly distribute any explosive materials to any person who:

- (a) is not a licensee or permittee and who the licensee knows or has reason to believe does not reside in the State in which the licensee's place of business is located (unless the "contiguous State"

exception applies. See **Questions 7, 8, and 54**. [18 U.S.C. 842(b), 27 CFR 55.105, 55.106];

(b) is in any State where the purchase, possession, or use of explosive materials would be in violation of any State law or any published ordinance applicable at the place of distribution [18 U.S.C. 842(e); 27 CFR 55.106];

(c) the licensee has reason to believe intends to transport explosive materials into a State where the purchase, possession, or use of explosive materials is prohibited or which does not permit its residents to transport or ship explosive materials into the State or to receive explosive materials in the State [18 U.S.C. 842(c); 27 CFR 55.106]; or

(d) the licensee has reasonable cause to believe intends to use the explosive materials for other than a lawful purpose. [27 CFR 55.106]

6. Does Federal law prohibit certain persons from receiving or possessing explosive materials?

Yes. The law prohibits the receipt or possession of explosive materials by any person who:

- (a) is under indictment for, or who has been convicted in any court of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year;
- (b) is a fugitive from justice;
- (c) is an unlawful user of or addicted to any controlled substance (as defined in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802)); or
- (d) has been adjudicated as a mental defective or who has been committed to a mental institution. [18 U.S.C. 842(i); 27 CFR 55.26(b)]

7. May a licensed manufacturer, importer, or dealer distribute explosive materials to nonlicensees and nonpermittees who are not residents of the same State as the licensee?

Generally, no. However, a licensed manufacturer, importer, or dealer may distribute explosives to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee who is a resident of a State contiguous to the State in which the licensee's place of business is located **only** if the nonlicensee's or nonpermittee's State of residence has enacted legislation, currently in force, specifically authorizing a resident of that State to purchase explosive materials in a contiguous State, and the purchaser and the licensee comply with all the requirements applicable to intrastate transactions occurring on the licensee's business premises. [18 U.S.C. 842(b); 27 CFR 55.105, 55.106]

8. What States allow their citizens to purchase explosive materials in contiguous or bordering States?

State attorneys general or State fire marshals should be contacted to determine whether their particular States have enacted such legislation.

9. When a person purchases explosive materials, must he or she sign anything?

Yes. ATF Form 5400.4 must be executed by the buyer for purchases of explosive materials. A Federal explosives licensee or permittee who purchases explosive materials is not required to complete Form 5400.4 (see also **Question 61**). [27 CFR 55.126]

10. Does Federal law provide penalties for purchasers who give false information to a licensee at the time of purchase?

Yes. The penalty for providing false information or misrepresented identification is a maximum 10 years' imprisonment and/or a fine not exceeding \$250,000. [18 U.S.C. 842(a)(2), 844(a)]

11. Is the theft of explosive materials, as well as the possession of stolen explosive materials, a Federal crime?

Yes. It is a Federal crime for any person to steal any explosive materials. It is also a Federal crime for any person to receive, possess, transport, ship, conceal, store, barter, sell, dispose of, or pledge or accept as security for a loan any stolen explosive materials. [18 U.S.C. 842(h), 844(k), (l)]

12. Are thefts and losses of explosive materials required to be reported to ATF?

Yes. Any licensee or permittee who has knowledge of the theft or loss of any explosive materials from his or her stock shall, within 24 hours of discovery, report the theft or loss by telephoning 1-800-800-3855 (nationwide toll free number) and on ATF Form 5400.5, "Report of Theft or Loss – Explosive Materials", in accordance with the instructions on the form. The theft or loss shall also be reported to appropriate local authorities. The same requirements are imposed upon persons other than licensees and permittees, except that nonlicensees and nonpermittees, other than carriers, need not report a theft or loss on Form 5400.5, but need only forward a report in writing to the nearest ATF office. Carriers of explosive materials must report a theft or loss by telephone but need not make the report on the ATF form or in writing. See 27 CFR 55.30 for the specific information required to be reported in connection

with a theft or loss. [18 U.S.C. 842(k); 27 CFR 55.30]

13. My company holds a Federal explosives license and after conducting an inventory of our explosives on hand, we noticed one case of dynamite missing. After double-checking all Daily Summary of Magazine transactions, invoices, and delivery sheets, we still cannot reconcile the discrepancy. What do we do now?

This should be considered to be a theft or loss of explosive materials. As stated in the answer to **Question 12**, you must report the theft or loss of explosive materials, within 24 hours of discovery, to ATF by telephone (toll free: 1-800-800-3855). ATF Form 5400.5, "Report of Theft or Loss – Explosive Materials", must then be completed and forwarded in accordance with the instructions on the form. [18 U.S.C. 842(k); 27 CFR 55.30]

14. May ATF conduct warrantless inspections of licensees' and permittees' records of explosive materials, stocks of such materials, and magazines?

Any ATF officer may, without a warrant, enter during business hours the premises, including places of storage, of any licensee or permittee for the purpose of inspecting or examining any records or documents required to be kept by the law and regulations and any explosive materials kept or stored at the premises. For inspection purposes, "business hours" includes hours during which business is actually conducted, not just those hours stated on license applications. Any licensee or permittee who refuses to permit the inspection or examination is subject to having his or her license or permit revoked, as well as to denial of an application to renew the license or permit. [18 U.S.C. 843(d), (f); 27 CFR 55.24, 55.74]

15. Will anyone investigate accidents involving explosive materials?

ATF is authorized to inspect the site of any accident or fire where there is reason to believe that explosive materials were involved. Other Federal agencies, or State or local agencies, may also investigate such incidents, depending on the circumstances. [18 U.S.C. 846; 27 CFR 55.31]

16. Is black powder subject to regulation under Federal explosives laws?

Black powder is an explosive material for purposes of Federal explosives laws and regulations. However, the law exempts from regulation commercially manufactured black powder

in quantities not exceeding 50 pounds (as well as percussion caps, safety and pyrotechnic fuses, quills, quick and slow matches, and friction primers) intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in antique firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(16) or in antique devices exempted from the term “destructive device” in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4). However, it should be noted that persons engaged in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in black powder **in any quantity** must have a Federal explosives license. [18 U.S.C. 841(c), (d), 845(a)(5); 27 CFR 55.11: definitions of “explosives” and “explosive materials”, 55.141(b)]

17. Is small arms ammunition subject to regulation under Federal explosives laws?

No. The law specifically exempts small arms ammunition and components thereof; therefore, primers and smokeless propellants designed for use in small arms ammunition are exempt from regulation under Chapter 40 (see also **Question 75**). However, it should be noted that persons engaged in the business of importing and manufacturing smokeless powder must have a Federal explosives license. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(4); 27 CFR 141(a)(4)]

18. Are binary explosives subject to regulation under Federal explosives laws?

Until the compounds are mixed, they are not classified as explosives and, therefore, are not subject to control. However, once mixed, binary explosives are considered to be “explosive materials” and are subject to all applicable Federal requirements. A person who regularly combines compounds of binary explosives to manufacture such explosives for the purpose of sale or distribution or for the person’s own business use is a “manufacturer” of explosives materials and must be licensed as a manufacturer under the law. [18 U.S.C. 841(h); 27 CFR 55.11: definition of “manufacturer”]

19. Does ATF have any regulations governing the actual transportation of explosive materials?

Federal explosives laws and regulations administered by ATF generally prohibit any person from transporting explosive materials interstate unless the person has a Federal explosives license or permit. Also, the transportation of stolen explosives materials is a Federal crime (see also **Question 11**). However, the law exempts from regulation under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 and 27 CFR Part 55 any aspect of the transportation of explosive materials via railroad, water, highway, or air which

are regulated by the United States Department of Transportation and agencies thereof and which pertain to safety. [18 U.S.C. 842(a)(3), (h), 845(a)(1); 27 CFR 55.26, 55.28, 141(a)(1)]

20. What is the “Explosives List”?

The Explosives List is a comprehensive (but not all-inclusive) listing of the more common explosive materials which have been determined to be within the coverage of Chapter 40. The list is published annually by ATF (the 1999 Explosives List can be found in the “General Information” section of this publication). [18 U.S.C. 841(d); 27 CFR 55.23]

21. Are common and contract carriers subject to ATF regulation?

No. Common and contract carriers only provide a delivery service with respect to explosive materials and are, therefore, not subject to the requirements to obtain licenses or permits. However, if an employee of a carrier hired by an explosives purchaser takes possession of the explosives materials at the distributor’s premises, the carrier must complete ATF Form 5400.8. The actual transportation of explosive materials by carriers is subject to Department of Transportation regulations. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(1); 27 CFR 55.103]

22. May a person under the age of 21 be lawfully employed by an explosives business and lawfully receive, possess, and use explosive materials on behalf of the business?

Yes. Federal explosives law prohibits any person from selling explosive materials to persons under 21 years of age. However, it does not prohibit the delivery of explosive materials to persons under the age of 21 who are receiving the materials on behalf of their employers to whom the materials were lawfully sold. Nor does Federal explosives law prohibit a person under the age of 21 from possessing or using explosive materials. [18 U.S.C. 842(d); 27 CFR 55.26, 55.106(b)(1)]

23. ATF regulations require explosive materials to be stored at certain minimum distances from a “public highway”. What is a “public highway” for purposes of the regulations?

A public highway is defined in 27 CFR 55.11 under the term “highway” as “any public street, public alley, or public road, including a privately financed, constructed, or maintained road that is regularly and openly traveled by the general public.” Privately financed, constructed, or maintained roads that are marked and barricaded in a manner that prevents access by the general public do not fall

within the meaning of the term and would, therefore, be exempt from table of distance requirements. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "highway"]

24. Is an airport runway or taxiway considered a public highway for purposes of the Table of Distances for storage of explosive materials?

No. However, airport terminals are considered inhabited buildings for Table of Distance requirements.

25. How is shock tube regulated by ATF?

Shock tube is a high explosive. However, it may be stored as a low explosive when not attached to a detonator. [27 CFR 55.202(b)]

26. What is an EX number? What is a UN number?

An EX number is a number, preceded by the prefix "EX-", which is issued and used by the Department of Transportation (DOT) to identify an explosive which has been tested and classified by DOT. See U.S. Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR 171.8 and 49 CFR 173.56.

A UN (United Nations) number is used by DOT as a method of identification and classification of products for shipping purposes. UN numbers are different from the hazard class or division designations used by DOT (for example, 1.1, 1.2, 1.3, 1.4, and 1.5). ATF regulations in 27 CFR Part 55 also use UN numbers to identify certain explosives. [27 CFR 55.141(a)(7)]

27. How are airbags regulated by ATF?

Unless the product has been classified by ATF as a special explosive device and exempted from regulation under 27 CFR 55.32, an airbag device containing explosive initiators, igniters, or inflators is subject to regulation as containing explosive

materials, i.e., low explosives, and must comply with all applicable requirements under 27 CFR Part 55.

28. Can Federal explosives disabilities resulting from a conviction of a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year be removed if the conviction is expunged or set aside or the convicted person has received a pardon for the offense or has had his or her civil rights restored?

A person convicted of, or under indictment for, a "crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year" may not lawfully receive or possess explosive materials or be issued a Federal explosives license or permit. The term "crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year" does not include offenses pertaining to antitrust violations, unfair trade practices, restraints of trade, or any State offense (other than one involving a firearm or explosive) classified as a misdemeanor and punishable by imprisonment for 2 years or less. There are only 3 means by which Federal explosives disabilities resulting from a conviction of, or indictment for, a "crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year" can be removed:

(a) A decision of a court invalidating a conviction on the basis that the conviction was unconstitutional;

(b) In the case of a Federal conviction, a presidential pardon; and

(c) The granting of relief from Federal explosives disabilities by ATF pursuant to the filing of a relief application with the Director. See also **Question 53** relating to convicted or indicted licensees and permittees. [18 U.S.C. 841(l), 842(d),(i), 845(b); 27 CFR 55.11: definition of "crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year", 55.26(b), 55.142]

Licenses and Permits

29. What persons qualify for a Federal explosives license or permit?

The Chief, National Licensing Center, will approve a properly completed application for a license or permit on ATF Form 5400.13/5400.16 if the applicant:

(a) Is 21 years of age or over;

(b) Is not a person to whom distribution of explosive materials is prohibited under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 (see also **Question 4**);

(c) Has not willfully violated any provision of Chapter 40 or the regulations in 27 CFR Part 55;

(d) Has not knowingly withheld information and has not made any false or fictitious statement intended or likely to deceive concerning the application;

(e) Has premises in the State from which he or she intends to conduct business or operations;

(f) Has storage for the class (as described in 27 CFR 55.202) of explosive materials described on the application, unless it is established that the business or operations to be conducted will not require the storage of explosive materials;

(g) Has certified that he or she is familiar with and understands all published State laws and local ordinances relating to explosive materials for the location in which he or she intends to do business; and

(h) Has submitted the certificate required by section 21 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, as amended (33 U.S.C. 1341) [18 U.S.C. 843(b); 27 CFR 55.49(b)]

30. What activities are covered by licenses and permits?

Licenses allow persons to engage in the business of importing, manufacturing, or dealing in explosive materials. Any individual or business entity intending to engage in any of these activities must first obtain a license. A permit allows the acquisition and transportation of explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce. [27 CFR 55.11: definitions of "importer", "manufacturer", and "dealer", 55.41]

A separate license is needed for each premises where an explosives business or activity is conducted (but see **Questions 42 and 43**). Only one permit is needed by a permittee who uses explosives in more than one location. [27 CFR 55.41]

31. For what period of time are licenses and permits valid?

An original license or permit, as well as a renewal license or permit, is issued for a period of 3 years. However, a user-limited permit and a user-limited display fireworks permit are valid only for a single purchase transaction. [27 CFR 55.51]

32. What are the fees for licenses and permits?

Each license applicant must pay a fee of \$200 for obtaining a 3-year license, a separate license and fee being required for each business premises. The fee for renewal of a license is \$100 for a 3-year license. [27 CFR 55.42]

Each applicant for a user permit must pay a fee of \$100 for a 3-year permit, and each applicant for a user-limited permit (nonrenewable) must pay a fee of \$75. The fee for renewal of a user permit is \$50 for a 3-year permit. [27 CFR 55.43]

33. Will the Government investigate an application for a license or permit?

ATF may investigate any applicant and inspect all places of storage of explosive materials before issuing a license or permit. [27 CFR 55.49(a)]

34. What may a licensed explosives dealer do?

A licensed dealer may engage in the business of distributing explosive materials at wholesale or retail [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "dealer"]

35. What may a licensed explosives importer do?

A licensed importer may engage in the business of importing or bringing explosives materials into the United States for sale or distribution. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "importer"]

It is not necessary for a licensed importer to also obtain a dealer's license to engage in business on his or her licensed premises as a dealer in explosive materials. [27 CFR 55.41(b)(3)]

36. When is a manufacturer's license required?

A manufacturer's license is needed only by persons engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for sale, distribution, or for business use. For example, persons engaged in the business of providing a blasting service using explosives of their own manufacture would be required to have a manufacturer's license. Persons who manufacture explosives for their personal, non-business use would not need a manufacturer's license. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "manufacturer", 55.41]

37. What may a licensed explosives manufacturer do?

Licensed manufacturers may engage in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purposes of sale or distribution or for their own use. They may also engage in on-site manufacture. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "manufacturer", 55.41(b)(2)]

It is not necessary for a licensed manufacturer to also obtain a dealer's license to engage in business on his or her licensed premises as a dealer in explosive materials. [27 CFR 55.41(b)(3)]

38. I want to buy a small quantity of dynamite from my local dealer to use on my property. Do I need a Federal user's permit?

No, provided the dynamite is purchased in your State of residence and not transported across State lines. A user's permit is required when a nonlicensee acquires or transports explosive

materials in interstate or foreign commerce (see **Question 30**).

Except for those items and activities given exempt status under 18 U.S.C. 845 (also see 27 CFR 55.141), all persons who store explosive materials must have storage facilities that meet the requirements of 27 CFR Part 55, Subpart K, "Storage". [18 U.S.C. 842(j); 27 CFR 55.29, 55.201(a)]

39. May black powder be sold without a license?

Anyone who engages in the business of selling black powder, regardless of quantity, must be licensed as an explosives dealer. [27 CFR 55.41(a)]

40. Is a manufacturer's license required for agricultural use of binary explosives?

No, as long as the user is not engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials. For example, if a farmer buys binary explosives for use in blowing tree stumps on his farm, he or she does not need a manufacturer's license. However, if the farmer uses binary explosives in a business of blasting stumps/rocks, etc., for other persons, he or she would be required to have a manufacturer's license. See also **Questions 18, 36 and 37**. [27 CFR 55.11: Definition of "manufacturer", 55.41(a)]

41. What is theatrical flash powder and is there a license for its manufacture?

Theatrical flash powder is flash powder commercially manufactured in premeasured kits not exceeding 1 ounce and mixed immediately prior to use and intended for use in theatrical shows, stage plays, band concerts, magic acts, thrill shows, and clown acts in circuses. A type 19 (manufacturer of theatrical flash powder) license allows on-site manufacturers to operate nationally on one license issued to their principal place of business. The license must be posted at each site where theatrical flash powder is mixed and used. Manufacture of flash powder from larger quantities of base chemicals is not covered by this license. [27 CFR 55.11: definitions of "flash powder" and "theatrical flash powder", 55.41(b)(4)]

42. Is a separate license required for each location where business is conducted?

Yes. A separate license is required for each location where business is conducted. However, a separate license is **not** required for:

(a) Facilities used only for the storage of explosive materials;

(b) Locations used solely for the storage of records relating to the business; and

(c) Licensed manufacturers' on-site manufacturing. [27 CFR 55.41]

43. Must a person who engages in the business of both manufacturing and importing at the same location have both licenses?

Yes. The licenses for manufacturing and importing allow a person to engage in separate and distinct activities, and a separate license is required for each activity. However, a manufacturer or an importer does not need a separate dealer's license to also distribute explosive materials from the licensed premises. [27 CFR 55.41]

44. Are companies having headquarters in one State but doing business in another State required to have a permit in order to acquire explosive materials in the latter State?

No. Companies engaged in business within a State typically acquire residency in that State by virtue of the work being performed. (Applicable State and local residency requirements should be verified in each case.) Explosives purchases made by these companies in the State where work is being performed are considered by ATF to have been made within their State of residence; therefore, no permit is required. [ATF Ruling 76-4]

45. Does a licensed dealer need a permit to use explosive materials outside the State in which the dealer's licensed business premises is located?

No. The dealer, by virtue of his or her dealer's license, is authorized to acquire and transport explosive materials in interstate commerce. [27 CFR 55.41(b)]

46. Does a Federal license or permit exempt the holder from State or local requirements?

No. A license or permit confers no right or privilege to conduct business or operations, including storage, contrary to State or other law. All legal requirements must be followed, whether Federal, State, or local. [18 U.S.C. 848; 27 CFR 55.62]

47. How may I import explosive materials?

Any licensed importer or permittee may import explosive materials by providing the Customs Service a copy of the license or permit. Note, however, that in the case of certain military explosives or propellant powder or other components of small arms ammunition, Federal firearms regulations require the importer to provide

an approved ATF Form 6 to the Customs Service (see also **Question 75**). [27 CFR 47.21, 55.108(a), 55.183, 178.113]

48. How do employees of an explosives licensee or permittee qualify to purchase explosive materials for the employer?

The employee must be on the current certified list of representatives or agents authorized to acquire explosives on behalf of the employer. [27 CFR 55.105(e)]

49. When an explosives licensee or permittee sends his or her truck driver to the distributor's premises for explosive materials that have been purchased by the licensee or permittee, will the driver be required to sign any forms?

Yes. The driver is required to identify himself or herself and complete and sign Section A of Form 5400.8. [27 CFR 55.103(a)(4), 55.105(f)]

50. Will a licensee or permittee be notified in advance when the license or permit needs to be renewed?

Generally, prior to expiration of the license or permit, a licensee or permittee will be notified by way of ATF Form 5400.14/5400.15, Part III, "Renewal of Explosives License or Permit." This application form must be completed and filed with ATF before expiration of the current license or permit for the renewal to be considered timely. If a licensee or permittee does not receive notification, it is still that licensee or permittee's responsibility to ensure that a renewal application is filed prior to expiration of the current license or permit. [27 CFR 55.46]

51. I have timely filed my application for renewal of my license (or user's permit) but I have not received my new license (or permit). May I continue in business even though the expiration date shown on my license (or permit) has passed? If so, how long?

Yes. You may continue to operate the business pursuant to your current license or permit until the application for renewal is acted upon. [5 U.S.C. 558]

52. Can a license or permit be revoked?

Yes. The Division Director for the ATF Division in which a licensee or permittee is located may revoke a license or permit if the holder has violated any

provision of 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 or its implementing regulations or has become ineligible to acquire explosive materials under 18 U.S.C. 842(d). [18 U.S.C. 843(d); 27 CFR 55.71, 55.74]

53. If a Federal explosives licensee or permittee is indicted for or convicted of a "crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year", may he or she continue operations under the license or permit?

As stated in the answer to **Question 3**, a person under indictment for, or convicted of, a crime punishable by imprisonment for a term exceeding one year is not eligible to be issued a license or permit. However, a licensee or permittee who is indicted for, or convicted of, such a crime during the term of his or her existing license or permit is not barred from licensed or permitted operations for 30 days after the date of the indictment or the date the conviction becomes final. If the licensee or permittee files an application for relief from disabilities within such 30-day period, he or she may continue licensed or permit operations while the application is pending. If a relief application is not filed during that period, the licensee or permittee may not continue operations beyond such 30-day period. The right of a licensee to continue licensed or permit operations beyond such 30-day period is also conditioned on the licensee or permittee timely filing a license or permit renewal application disclosing that the applicant has been indicted for, or convicted of, the crime. A licensee or permittee may not continue operations beyond 30 days following the date the Director issues notification that the relief application has been denied (see also **Question 28**). [18 U.S.C. 845(b); 27 CFR 55.142]

54. When may sales of explosive materials by licensed dealers be made to residents of adjoining States who do not hold Federal explosives licenses or permits?

Sales may be made to such out-of-State residents only if their State of residence has enacted specific legislation allowing its residents to purchase explosive materials in a "contiguous" or bordering State and the sale otherwise meets the requirements of the law and regulations. (see also **Question 8**). [18 U.S.C. 842(b); 27 CFR 55.26(a)(1), 55.105(c)]

Recordkeeping

55. Does a licensee or permittee have to keep records of the acquisition, distribution, and storage of explosive materials?

Yes. A licensee or permittee must keep records of all acquisitions, dispositions, and storage of explosive materials. [18 U.S.C. 842(f), 847; 27 CFR 55.107, Subpart G]

56. How do licensees and permittees account for explosive materials in their records?

If acquisitions are recorded by weight, then disbursements must also be recorded by weight. If acquisitions are recorded by physical count, then disbursements must also be recorded by physical count.

57. Must a licensee or permittee maintain a daily summary of magazine transactions?

Yes. After the initial inventory required by regulations has been taken, the inventory shall be entered in a record of daily transactions. Not later than the close of the next business day, each licensee and permittee shall record by manufacturer's name or brand name the total quantity received in and removed from each magazine during the day and the total remaining on hand at the end of the day. [27 CFR 55.127]

58. Where must a licensee or permittee keep the daily summary of magazine transactions?

The records must either be kept at each magazine or at a centrally located area on the business premises, provided a separate record of daily transactions is maintained for each magazine. [27 CFR 55.127]

59. When and how must a report be made of a shortage or theft of explosive materials?

See Questions 12 and 13.

60. Where may additional copies of ATF Form 5400.4, "Explosives Transaction Record", be obtained?

Requests for forms should be mailed to the ATF Distribution Center, 7943 Angus Court, Springfield, Virginia 22153, or requested by telephone at (703) 455-7801. [27 CFR 55.21(c)]

61. What forms will a buyer of black powder have to sign at the time of purchase?

If 50 pounds or less of commercially manufactured black powder is being purchased, and the powder is intended to be used solely for sporting, recreational, or cultural purposes in

antique firearms as defined in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(16) or in antique devices exempt from the term "destructive device" in 18 U.S.C. 921(a)(4), no form is required. If the powder is being purchased for any other purpose (regardless of quantity), ATF Form 5400.4 shall be signed by the buyer. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(5); 18 U.S.C. 926(c); 27 CFR 55.141(b)]

62. Is there a requirement for licensees and permittees to make an annual inventory of explosive materials on hand?

An inventory is required to be taken at least once a year. [27 CFR 55.122-125]

63. Must ATF Form 5400.4, "Explosives Transaction Record", be executed at the time of delivery?

ATF F 5400.4 must be executed **before** explosive materials are distributed to nonlicensees or nonpermittees. "Distribute" is defined as "sell, issue, give, transfer, or otherwise dispose of." Therefore, an ATF F 5400.4 must be executed at the time the materials are sold, even if they are delivered after purchase. [27 CFR 55.126(b)]

64. Who must complete and sign ATF Form 5400.4 for the distributor?

Section B of ATF Form 5400.4 contains the following statement:

"On the basis of: (1) the statements in Section A; (2) the verification of identity noted in Section B; and (3) my knowledge of Federal and State laws and local ordinances relating to explosive materials, it is my belief that it is not unlawful for me to sell, deliver, or otherwise dispose of the explosive materials described in Item 21, or on the attached list, to the person identified in Section A."

Therefore, the person who must sign ATF Form 5400.4 for the distributor is the person who examined the purchaser's statements in Section A of the form and verified the purchaser's identity. [27 CFR 55.126]

65. May I keep computerized records?

Explosives licensees and permittees wishing to use an automated data processing system to keep the required Federal explosives records must first obtain an approved variance in accordance with 27 CFR 55.22. In addition to meeting other requirements, the computerized records must contain the information required by the regulations in 27 CFR Part 55, Subpart G.

Storage

66. Who must meet storage requirements?

All persons who store explosive materials must store them in conformity with the provisions of Subpart K of the regulations, unless the person or the materials are exempt from regulation. [18 U.S.C. 842(j), 845; 27 CFR 55.29, 55.141, 55.164, 55.201(a)]

67. What are the classes of explosive materials for storage purposes?

There are 3 classes of explosive materials:

(a) High explosives (for example, dynamite, flash powders, and bulk salutes);

(b) Low explosives (for example, black powder, safety fuses, igniters, igniter cords, fuse lighters, and “display fireworks” classified as UN0333, UN0334, or UN0335 by U.S. Department of Transportation regulations at 49 CFR 172.101, except for bulk salutes; and

(c) Blasting agents (for example, ammonium nitrate-fuel oil and certain water gels). [27 CFR 55.202]

68. May a person store explosive materials in a residence or dwelling?

No. [27 CFR 55.208(b), 55.210(b), 55.211(b)]

69. What is the “American Table of Distances”?

This table lists the minimum acceptable distances separating explosives magazines from inhabited buildings, passenger railroads, public highways, and other explosives magazines. The table is contained in 27 CFR 55.218.

70. When low and high explosives are stored together, how is the distance determined to meet the table of distance requirements?

The table of distances at 27 CFR 55.218 would be applied using the total weight of explosive materials in the magazine. [27 CFR 55.218]

71. Is it necessary to inspect my explosives magazines on a regular basis?

Yes. Any person storing explosives must inspect the magazines at least once every 7 days to determine whether there has been unauthorized entry or attempted entry into the magazines or unauthorized removal of the contents of the magazines. [27 CFR 55.204]

72. What are the requirements for making changes or additions to an approved storage facility?

Making changes in construction to an approved explosives magazine or adding a magazine require that ATF be notified. Mobile or portable type 5 magazines and magazines used for the temporary (under 24 hours) storage of explosive materials are exempt from this requirement. See 27 CFR 55.63 for details.

73. Is any type of black powder fuse exempt from storage requirements?

Yes, 3/32-inch and other external burning pyrotechnic hobby fuses are exempt from the requirements of Federal explosives laws and regulations. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(4); 27 CFR 55.11: definition of “ammunition”, 55.141(a)(4), 55.141(b)]

74. With the exception of 3/32-inch pyrotechnic safety fuse for use in small arms, must black powder fuses generally be stored in approved explosives magazines?

Yes. Generally igniter fuses, time fuses, blasting fuses, safety fuses, or other black powder fuses by whatever name known, must be stored in approved magazines.

75. Is smokeless powder designed for use in small arms ammunition subject to the explosives storage requirements?

No. Smokeless powder designed for use in small arms ammunition is exempt from regulation under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 and the regulations in 27 CFR Part 55. However, smokeless powder intended for this purpose is subject to control under 27 CFR Part 178, “Commerce in Firearms and Ammunition”, as a component of ammunition (see also **Question 17**). [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(4); 27 CFR 55.11: definition of “ammunition”, 55.141(a)(4)]

76. My office building, in which several company employees work during the day in connection with my explosives business, is located in the general area of my explosives magazine. Do the regulations and the Table of Distances apply to this building as an “inhabited building”?

No. A building such as an office building or repair shop which is a part of the premises of an explosives business and is used by the business in connection with the manufacture, transportation,

storage, or use of explosive materials is not an "inhabited building". [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "inhabited building", 55.218]

77. I bought 12 sticks of dynamite to blast stumps on my property. I have 4 sticks left over. May I give them to my brother, who does not have a Federal explosives license or permit?

Yes, if your brother resides in the same State in which you reside and he is not within any of the categories of persons to whom explosive materials may not be lawfully distributed. If either you or your brother store the dynamite, storage must be in conformity with Federal explosives regulations (see **Question 66**). [18 U.S.C. 842(j); 27 CFR 55.29, 55.201]

78. Am I required to notify my State or local authorities about my explosives storage magazines?

Yes. Any person who stores explosive materials must notify the fire department having jurisdiction over the site where explosive materials are manufactured or stored. Notification must be made orally by the end of the day on which storage begins and in writing within 48 hours from the time storage began. The notification must include the type of explosive materials, magazine capacity, and the location of each storage site. [27 CFR 55.11: Definition of "authority having jurisdiction for fire safety", 27 CFR 55.201(f)]

79. What is a "case hardened shackle?"

Case hardening involves putting carbon (or a combination of carbon and nitrogen) into the surface of the steel to make it a high-carbon steel, which

can be hardened by heat treatment. Only the outer skin gets hard in this manner. The center is still tough and malleable. This makes for a strong lock with a tough surface.

80. Can shock tube be stored with detonators?

No. However, products which are manufactured with a detonator attached to the shock tube as an integral part need not be disassembled and stored separately. [27 CFR 55.213(b)]

81. Can detonators be stored with detonating cord?

No. However, products which are manufactured with a detonator attached to the detonating cord as an integral part need not be disassembled and stored separately. [27 CFR 55.213]

82. Are there storage requirements for oxidizers, such as ammonium nitrate?

Generally, no. However, if ammonium nitrate is located within the sympathetic detonation distance of explosives, or blasting agents, it must be stored in accordance with the table of distances in 27 CFR 55.220.

83. Are State and local government agencies required to store their explosive materials in conformity with Federal storage regulations?

Yes. Although Federal agencies are exempt from the storage requirements, there is no exemption in the law or regulations for the storage of explosive materials by State and local agencies. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(6); 27 CFR 55.141(a)(3), (a)(5)]

Fireworks

84. Are "display fireworks" considered to be explosive materials subject to regulation under Federal explosives laws and regulations?

Yes. "Display fireworks" includes, but is not limited to, salutes containing more than 2 grains (130 mg) of explosive materials, aerial shells containing more than 40 grams of pyrotechnic compositions, and other display pieces which exceed the limits of explosive materials for classification as "consumer fireworks". These fireworks are classified as fireworks UN0333, UN0334, or UN0335 by regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101. Display fireworks also include fused setpieces containing components which together exceed 50

mg of salute powder. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "display fireworks"]

85. How must display fireworks be stored?

Display fireworks are considered to be low explosives and, at a minimum, must be stored in type 4 storage magazines. They may also be stored in type 1 or type 2 magazines for the storage of high explosives. [27 CFR 55.202(b), 55.203(d), 55.210]

86. What fireworks are exempt from regulation under 18 U.S.C. Chapter 40 and 27 CFR Part 55?

The importation, distribution, and storage of fireworks classified as UN0336, UN0337, UN0431, or UN0432 explosives by regulations of the U.S. Department of Transportation at 49 CFR 172.101, and generally known as "consumer fireworks" or "articles pyrotechnic", are exempt from these laws and regulations. [27 CFR 55.11: definitions of "articles pyrotechnic" and "consumer fireworks", 55.141(a)(7)]

87. Must partially assembled display fireworks be removed from a drying building for overnight storage?

Yes. At the end of a day's manufacturing operations, all dry explosive powders and mixtures and partially assembled and finished display fireworks must be removed from fireworks process buildings and stored in a magazine meeting the storage requirements in 27 CFR Part 55, Subpart K. [27 CFR 55.221]

88. What areas of a fireworks manufacturing plant are considered to be "fireworks process buildings?"

Fireworks process buildings include any buildings in which pyrotechnic compositions or explosives materials are mixed, pressed, finished, or

assembled. Fireworks process buildings do not include plant warehouses, office buildings, or other buildings and areas in which no fireworks, pyrotechnic compositions, or explosive materials are processed or stored. [27 CFR 55.11: definition of "fireworks process building"]

89. What are the conditions necessary to receive approval to temporarily store display fireworks (including low explosives for choreographed shows) on trucks?

Approval to temporarily store display fireworks (including low explosives for choreographed shows) on trucks is granted on a case-by-case basis pursuant to applications for an alternate procedure or variance under 27 CFR 55.22.

90. What types of fireworks require an ATF license or permit in order to be lawfully transported or received in interstate commerce?

Any fireworks defined as "display fireworks" in 27 CFR 55.11. No ATF license or permit is required to receive "consumer fireworks" in interstate commerce. [18 U.S.C. 842(a)(3); 27 CFR 55.26, 55.141(a)(7)]

Plastic Explosives

91. What is a plastic explosive?

A plastic explosive is defined as "an explosive material in flexible or elastic sheet form formulated with one or more high explosives which in their pure form has a vapor pressure less than 10^{-4} Pa at a temperature of 25^o C., is formulated with a binder material, and is as a mixture malleable or flexible at normal room temperature." [18 U.S.C. 841(q); 27 CFR 55.180(d)(4)]

92. What plastic explosives are required to contain detection agents?

All plastic explosives manufactured or imported on or after April 24, 1996, must contain a detection agent. Federal law enforcement agencies and the military may possess unmarked plastic explosives if they meet the requirements of the use-up period described in **Question 96**. [18 U.S.C. 841(q), 842(n); 27 CFR 55.180]

93. What are the permissible detection agents for marking plastic explosives?

These agents are listed in the law and regulations at 18 U.S.C. 841(p) and 27 CFR 55.180(d)(3).

94. Is it lawful to manufacture plastic explosives that do not contain a detection agent?

No. [18 U.S.C. 842(l), 27 CFR 55.180(a)]

95. Is it lawful to import into the United States plastic explosives that do not contain a detection agent?

No. [18 U.S.C. 842(m); 27 CFR 55.180(b)]

96. Is it lawful to ship, transport, transfer, receive, or possess any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent?

No. A 15-year use-up period is provided for Federal law enforcement agencies and the military for unmarked plastic explosives imported into or manufactured in the U.S. prior to April 24, 1996 (see also **Question 97**). [18 U.S.C. 842(n); 27 CFR 55.180(c)]

97. If a person acquired plastic explosives not containing a detection agent before April 24,

1996, may he or she continue to lawfully possess the explosives?

No. Unmarked plastic explosives manufactured or imported prior to April 24, 1996, could only be lawfully possessed by persons other than Federal law enforcement agencies and the military until April 24, 1999. [18 U.S.C. 842(n); 27 CFR 55.180(c)]

98. Are police departments exempt from the prohibition against possessing unmarked plastic explosives after April 24, 1999?

No. Police departments and other State or local law enforcement agencies could lawfully possess unmarked plastic explosives acquired on or before April 24, 1996, until April 24, 1999. Such agencies still possessing unmarked plastic explosives should destroy them or abandon them to ATF. Contact the nearest ATF field office for information. [18 U.S.C. 842(n); 27 CFR 55.180(c)(1)]

U.S. Military Explosives

99. Would an ATF license or permit be needed to demilitarize (demil) U.S. military explosives?

As long as the demil operator has a valid Department of Defense contract to perform such operations, the operations would be exempt from 27 CFR Part 55 and no license or permit would be required. However, if title to the explosive materials has passed from the military to the demil operator, then such operations may be regulated by ATF (e.g., storage, sales, manufacturing) and an ATF license or permit may be needed. Contact the nearest ATF field office for further information. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(3), (a)(6) and 27 CFR 55.141(a)(3), (a)(5)]

100. Would a civilian contractor who is manufacturing explosive materials pursuant to a government contract for or on behalf of the United States military be entitled to the exemptions from the explosives laws and regulations?

Yes, provided that all the explosive materials in question are manufactured under a government contract. Any explosive materials manufactured in anticipation of receiving a government contract would not qualify for this exemption.

If the contractor manufactures **any** explosive materials not pursuant to a U.S. military contract, that manufacture and those explosive materials are subject to all requirements of the law and regulations. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(3), (a)(6); 27 CFR 55.26, 55.41, 55.141(a)(3), (a)(5)]

101. Is an ATF licensee or permittee, whose licensed premises are located on a U.S. military installation, subject to the regulations in 27 CFR Part 55?

All activities conducted outside the scope of a U.S. Government contract are subject to the requirements of Part 55, even if the activities are conducted on property owned by the military. [18 U.S.C. 845(a)(3), (a)(6); 27 CFR 55.26, 55.29, 55.41, 55.141(a)(3), (a)(5)]

ATF Explosives Rulings and Procedures

The following are digests of ATF determinations regarding explosive matters which are of special significance to Federal explosives licensees and permittees and to ATF personnel. The full text of each of these determinations can be found in the ATF Cumulative Bulletin (1973-1978), and is cited by year, "CB", and page number at the end of each item.

On August 7, 1981, Part 181 of Title 27, CFR was redesignated as Part 55. The ATF rulings and procedures issued prior to August 1981 and still in effect are presented here with current Part 55 regulation citations and the current titles of ATF personnel.

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1. 27 CFR 55.41: LICENSES AND PERMITS—GENERAL

Requirements for descriptions of explosives storage facilities.

ATF Proc. 75-4

This procedure (which was incorporated in Industry Circular 75-10; effective November 1, 1975) revised requirements for descriptions of explosives storage facilities that must be filed by applicants intending to store explosive materials.

The Director, ATF, determined that this additional descriptive information was and is required in order to ensure compliance with the law and regulations. Accordingly, Forms 4705 and 4707 (now ATF F 5400.13/5400.16, "Application for License or Permit") were revised.

Following is the text of the Procedure, as amended:

Secs. 3 & 4. Licenses and Permits. A person intending to engage in business as an importer, manufacturer or dealer in explosive materials, or who is intending to acquire, transport, ship, import or receive explosive materials in interstate or foreign commerce for his own use and not for resale, shall complete ATF F 5400.13/5400.16, "Application For License or Permit," in accordance with the instructions on the form, and forward the form with the license or permit fee to the office specified on the form. If approved, the Chief, National Licensing Center will issue a license or permit to the applicant. At the time of renewal of a license or permit, the Chief, National Licensing Center may require the filing of a new or amended application, or additional descriptive pages, to be attached to the application upon a determination that the currently approved application is inaccurate or does not fully describe the storage facilities. If the application is denied, the applicant will be advised in writing of the reasons for the denial.

Sec. 5. Storage.

.01 If explosive materials are to be stored, the requirements of 27 CFR Part 55, Subpart K—Storage, must be complied with before the application will be approved. An applicant for a license or permit who intends to store explosive materials shall fully describe the intended storage facilities to support the applicant's affirmation that the storage facilities meet the requirements set forth in 27 CFR Part 55, Subpart K—Storage.

.02 The description should, as a minimum, include the following information:

- (a) The type of magazine (building, igloo, tunnel, portable box, portable trailer, etc.).
- (b) The location and distance from applicant's place of business.
- (c) The distance to the next nearest storage magazine.
- (d) A description of significant terrain features and physical structures, such as buildings,

roads, utilities and other facilities which could be damaged if the magazine exploded. Indicate the distance between the magazine and the feature.

- (e) The materials (including dimensions and thicknesses) used for the structure (e.g., concrete, corrugated iron over wood, plywood, tin and earth, etc.).
- (f) The security, physical safeguards, locks, safety equipment, and anti-theft measures.
- (g) The dimensions and capacity of each magazine.
- (h) The class of explosive materials to be stored in each magazine.
- (i) The owner(s) of the magazine, if other than the applicant.
- (j) The names and telephone numbers of individuals who could open the magazines for inspection by ATF officers.
- (k) Any special conditions, such as inaccessibility in winter, etc.
- (l) [ADDENDUM] A diagram of the premises, providing much of the required descriptive information set out above (preparation by an engineer is not required). [75 CB 79]

2. 27 CFR 55.11: MEANING OF TERMS (Also § 55.206)

An office or repair shop used in connection with the manufacture, etc. of explosive materials is not an “inhabited building.”

ATF Rul. 75-20

ATF has held that a building, such as an office or repair shop, which is a part of the premises of an explosives manufacturer and is used in connection with the manufacture, transportation, storage, or use of explosive materials, is not an “inhabited building.”

Section 55.11 of 27 CFR defines inhabited building as “any building regularly occupied in whole or in part as a habitation for human beings, or any church, schoolhouse, railroad station, store, or other structure where people are accustomed to assemble, except any building occupied in connection with the manufacture, transportation, storage, or use of explosive materials.”

Regulations in 27 CFR §§ 55.206 and 55.218 set forth provisions concerning the location of storage facilities and the minimum distances

such storage facilities may be located from, among other things, “inhabited buildings.”

These provisions are intended to provide protection to persons who inhabit buildings located near premises where explosives are manufactured, stored, etc. However, it is the intent of § 55.11 to exempt buildings used by the explosives industry in connection with the manufacture, transportation, storage, or use of explosive materials from the table of distance requirements on “inhabited buildings.” [75 CB 64]

3. 27 CFR 55.207: CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE 1 MAGAZINES (Also § 55.210)

Certain explosives storage facilities meeting standards of construction prescribed by the Department of Defense Explosives Safety Board for such storage are approved by the Bureau.

ATF Rul. 75-21

ATF has held that explosives storage facilities with smooth-finished concrete floors that were constructed under contract for the use of the Department of Defense (DOD) and that are presently being leased to licensees and permittees for the storage of commercial explosives are considered to be in compliance with the requirements for nonsparking floors, as set forth in 27 CFR §§ 55.207(a)(4), 55.207(b), and 55.210, for the storage of all types of fully packaged explosives, pyrotechnics and propellants, with the exception of black powder.

Any other such magazines which have smooth finished concrete floors and which meet or exceed DOD construction specifications will also be considered to be in compliance with the requirements of Part 55 with respect to nonsparking floors.

It is the responsibility of the licensee or permittee to provide verification that such facilities were manufactured under DOD specifications or that the facilities meet or exceed such specification standards.

If the Division Director determines that the concrete floors of type 1 or type 4 magazines do not meet the preceding requirements, he will require such floors to be covered with a nonsparking material, such as epoxy paint or mastic. [75 CB 67]

4. 27 CFR 55.41: LICENSES AND PERMITS—GENERAL

Certain companies that manufacture explosive materials for use in their own operations are required to obtain licenses as manufacturers of explosive materials.

ATF Rul. 75-31

ATF has held that companies, such as public utility companies engaged in line and facility construction, which manufacture explosives on a regular or continual basis are considered to be engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials and must be appropriately licensed as required by 18 U.S.C. 842.

The term “manufacturer” is defined in 18 U.S.C. 841(h) as “any person engaged in the business of manufacturing explosive materials for purposes of sale or distribution or for his own use.”

Although the term “engaged in the business” is not susceptible to a rigid definition within 18 U.S.C. §§ 841-848, it is interpreted to imply an element of continuity or habitual practice; an element clearly present in the operations of companies described herein.

Therefore, these companies are considered to be “engaged in the business” and must be licensed as explosives manufacturers. [75 CB 65]

5. 27 CFR 55.109: IDENTIFICATION OF EXPLOSIVE MATERIALS

Methods of marking containers of explosive materials are prescribed.

ATF Rul. 75-35

ATF has held that any method or combination of methods for affixing the required marks to the immediate container of explosive materials, or outside container used in the packaging thereof, is authorized provided the identifying marks:

- (1) Are legible
- (2) Show all required information; and,
- (3) Are not rendered indecipherable by extended periods of storage.

Where it is desired to utilize a coding system and to omit printed markings on the container, a letterhead application displaying the coding to be used and the manner of its application shall

be filed with and approved by the Director, ATF, prior to the use of the proposed coding. Further, where a manufacturer operates his plant for only one shift during the day, the shift of manufacture need not be shown.

It was found that liquid components of explosive materials stored for a period of time in polyethylene or other soft containers would seep through the container walls, tending to render illegible the inked, identifying marks on the container.

A manufacturer’s proposal [subsequently approved] of using a system of perforated numbers and code symbols (similar to that used on cancelled checks) to mark containers in addition to other identifying marks stamped in ink, was determined to continue to provide the identification required by 27 CFR 55.109, even if the ink later became illegible. [75 CB 65]

6. 27 CFR 55.11: MEANING OF TERMS—STATE OF RESIDENCE

“State of residence” of business entities who use explosive materials; distribution of explosive materials by licensees to out-of-State business entities other than licensees and permittees; and distribution to nonresident employees of such entities are discussed.

ATF Rul. 76-4

ATF was asked to interpret the term “State of residence” (in § 55.11) as it:

- (1) Pertains to the distribution of explosive materials to out-of-State corporations and other business entities other than licensees and permittees; and
- (2) Relates to the distribution of explosive materials to nonresident employees of such business entities.

The Business Entity

If a person is a corporation or other business entity, “State of residence” means the State in which such corporation or other business entity maintains a “place of business.” A business entity establishing another “place of business” or “job site” in another State would acquire a “State of residence” in that State as well. This means that a company engaged in construction work would acquire a residence in each State wherein its work is performed. Its place of business in

those States would be the job sites at which business is carried on. It would not be essential to a determination of its State of residence that a branch office be maintained in, or administrative work be performed in, the States where job sites are located.

Such a company would not need a permit to acquire explosive materials from a licensee in a State for use at job sites located therein. Form 5400.4, "Explosives Transaction Record," would show the out-of-State addresses of the business entity as the principal place of business, and the location of the job site as the local place of business.

Nonresident Employees

The purpose of the data requested on Form 5400.4 is to identify the person authorized by the business entity to make the purchase of explosive materials on the entity's behalf and to assure the distributor that such person appears on the required certified list of names of representatives or agents authorized by the business entity to acquire the materials. Regulations (27 CFR § 55.105(e)), implementing Title 18 U.S.C. 842(f), in part, provide that each business entity acquiring explosive materials shall furnish the distributing licensed dealer with a current, certified list of the names of representatives or agents authorized to acquire explosive materials on behalf of such business entity. The purpose of the data requested on Form 5400.8, "Explosives Delivery Record," is to identify the employee of the business entity or the employee of a carrier accepting delivery of explosive materials on behalf of the distributee at the distributor's business premises.

Therefore:

In the case of business entities, the information required on ATF Forms 5400.4 and 5400.8 with respect to employees or agents arranging for the distribution is not for the purpose of establishing the residence of such persons but only for identification purposes. [76 CB 104]

7. 27 CFR 55.126: EXPLOSIVES TRANSACTION RECORD

Under certain conditions, a single Form 5400.4 may be used to cover a series of deliveries.

ATF Rul. 76-10

Under the provisions of 27 CFR § 55.126, a sale or other distribution by a licensee or permittee shall not be made to a nonlicensee or nonpermittee unless the transaction is recorded on a Form 5400.4. Under certain conditions, a single Form 5400.4 may be used to cover a series of deliveries.

When an initial sale has been consummated, with partial deliveries to be made in the immediate future, the requirements of § 55.126 will have been satisfied if the following steps are taken:

- (1) Form 5400.4 shall be executed at the time the sale is initially made, although delivery of the explosive material is extended over a period of time not to exceed 30 days.
- (2) The executed Form 5400.4 shall subsequently be noted to accurately reflect the date of each separate delivery and describe each separate lot of explosive materials delivered.
- (3) In lieu of showing the separate deliveries on the Form 5400.4, the proprietor may attach to the executed form a copy of the delivery record or a copy of the bill of lading or commercial invoice covering each delivery; provided that, as to each such delivery, the attachment contains the date of the delivery and all the information required by Item 21 of Form 5400.4.
- (4) All other regulatory requirements and instructions relating to the completion of the form must be complied with. [76 CB 105]

8. 27 CFR 55.207: CONSTRUCTION OF TYPE 1 STORAGE FACILITIES (Also § 55.208)

Alternate construction standards for storage facilities for explosive materials are prescribed.

ATF Rul. 76-18

Section 842(j) of 18 U.S.C. states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to store any explosive material in a manner not in conformity with regulations promulgated by the Secretary. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall take into consideration the class, type, and quantity of explosive materials to be stored, as

well as the standards of safety and security recognized in the explosives industry.”

The regulations in 27 CFR §§ 55.207 and 55.208 prescribe types of storage facilities for explosive materials and provide (among other things) that such storage facilities shall be bullet-resistant. Section 55.201(b) provides that alternate storage facilities may be authorized for the storage of explosive materials when it is shown that such alternate facilities are or will be constructed in a manner substantially equivalent to the standards of construction contained in the applicable regulations.

The term “bullet-resistant” means resistant to penetration of a bullet of 150 grain M2 ball ammunition having a nominal muzzle velocity of 2700 feet per second fired from a .30 caliber rifle from a distance of 100 feet perpendicular to the wall or door.

It has been determined that a wide range of construction criteria meet the bullet-resistant requirements of regulations for construction of storage facilities for explosive materials.

In order to promote standards of safety and security in the storage of explosive materials while allowing the industry a wide latitude in the selection of construction materials, it is held that storage facilities (magazines) that are constructed according to the following minimum specifications are bullet-resistant and meet the requirements of the regulations as set forth in 27 CFR Part 55 (All steel and wood dimensions are actual thicknesses. To meet the concrete block and brick dimensions indicated, the manufacturers’ represented thicknesses may be used).

- (a) Exterior of 5/8 inch steel, lined with an interior of any type of nonsparking material.
- (b) Exterior of 1/2 inch steel, lined with an interior of not less than 3/8 inch plywood.
- (c) Exterior of 3/8 inch steel, lined with an interior of two inches of hardwood.
- (d) Exterior of 3/8 inch steel, lined with an interior of three inches of softwood or 2 1/4 inches of plywood.
- (e) Exterior of 1/4 inch steel, lined with an interior of three inches of hardwood.
- (f) Exterior of 1/4 inch steel, lined with an interior of five inches of softwood or 5 1/4 inches of plywood.
- (g) Exterior of 1/4 inch steel, lined with an intermediate layer of two inches of hardwood and an interior lining of 1 1/2 inches of plywood.

- (h) Exterior of 3/16 inch steel, lined with an interior of four inches of hardwood.
- (i) Exterior of 3/16 inch steel, lined with an interior of seven inches of softwood or 6 3/4 inches of plywood.
- (j) Exterior of 3/16 inch steel, lined with an intermediate layer of three inches of hardwood and an interior lining of 3/4 inch of plywood.
- (k) Exterior of 1/8 inch steel, lined with an interior of five inches of hardwood.
- (l) Exterior of 1/8 inch steel, lined with an interior of nine inches of softwood.
- (m) Exterior of 1/8 inch steel, lined with an intermediate layer of four inches of hardwood and an interior lining of 3/4 inch plywood.
- (n) Exterior of any type of fire-resistant material which is structurally sound, lined with an intermediate layer of four inches of solid concrete block, OR four inches of solid brick OR four inches of solid concrete; AND, an interior lining of 1/2 inch plywood placed securely against the masonry lining.
- (o) Standard eight inch concrete block with voids filled with well-tamped sand/cement mixture.
- (p) Standard eight inch solid brick.
- (q) Exterior of any type of fire-resistant material which is structurally sound, lined with an intermediate six inch space filled with well-tamped dry sand or well-tamped sand/cement mixture.
- (r) Exterior of 1/8 inch steel, lined with a first intermediate layer of 3/4 inch plywood, a second intermediate layer of 3 5/8 inches of well-tamped dry sand or sand/cement mixture and an interior lining of 3/4 inch plywood.
- (s) Exterior of any type of fire-resistant material, lined with a first intermediate layer of 3/4 inch plywood, a second intermediate layer of 3 5/8 inches well-tamped dry sand or sand/cement mixture, a third intermediate layer of 3/4 inch plywood, and a fourth intermediate layer of two inches of hardwood OR 14 gauge steel AND an interior lining of 3/4 inch plywood.
- (t) Eight inch thick solid concrete. [76 CB 106]

9. 27 CFR 55.213: QUANTITY AND STORAGE RESTRICTIONS

(Also § 55.208)**Alternate magazine construction standards for storage of electric blasting caps with other explosive materials are prescribed.****ATF Rul. 77-24**

Section 842(j) of 18 U.S.C. states: "It shall be unlawful for any person to store any explosive material in a manner not in conformity with regulations promulgated by the Secretary. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall take into consideration the class, type, and quantity of explosive materials to be stored, as well as the standards of safety and security recognized in the explosives industry."

The regulations in 27 CFR § 55.213 restrict the storage of blasting caps with other explosive materials. Section 55.201(b) provides that alternate storage magazines may be authorized for the storage of explosive materials when it is shown that such alternate magazines are or will be constructed in a manner substantially equivalent to the standards of construction contained in the applicable regulations.

ATF recognizes that the transportation and storage of explosive materials in the same vehicle along with electric blasting caps is often desired. The Institute of Makers of Explosives established a recommended standard for such transport in their Safety Library Publication No. 22, dated November 5, 1971 [revised January 1985]. This standard prescribes the minimum construction criteria for:

(a) A container securely attached—

(1) Above the cab of the vehicle (see Figure 1, Appendix A), and

(2) To the vehicle frame under the cargo space (see Figure 2, Appendix A), or

(b) A built-in compartment in the cargo space of the vehicle (see Appendix B).

In addition to motorized vehicles, consideration was also given for the use of similar criteria on portable wheeled trailers being used as magazines under § 55.208(a) of the regulations (see Appendix E).

In order to insure standards of safety and security in the storage of explosive materials while allowing the industry a proper latitude in the construction of magazines, it is held that vehicles used for transporting and for storing explosive materials that are constructed in conformity with the standards listed below, and in compliance with all other safety and security provisions contained in Part 55 (e.g., effectively

immobilized when unattended) will meet the requirements of ATF regulations.

Even though constructed on the same vehicle, each compartment will be considered as a separate magazine. The two magazines on the vehicle will, however, be considered as one magazine when applying the American Table of Distances [see Table at § 55.218].

Construction Standards For Storage of Electric Blasting Caps (Non Mass-Detonating)

- a. The container or compartment must provide for total enclosure of the electric blasting caps.
- b. The partition between the explosives storage compartment and the electric blasting cap compartment must be of laminate construction consisting of A/C grade or better exterior plywood, gypsum board [sheetrock] and low carbon steel plates. In order of arrangement, the laminate must conform to the following, with minimum thickness of each lamination as indicated:
 - 1/2 inch plywood
 - 1/2 inch gypsum board [sheetrock],
 - 1/8 inch low carbon steel, and,
 - 1/4 inch plywood,
 with the 1/4 inch plywood facing the explosives storage compartment. See Appendix C for details of laminate construction. The door to the electric blasting cap compartment must be of metal construction or solid wood covered with metal; the outside walls and top must be of the same construction as the rest of the vehicle or trailer. If high explosives or bullet sensitive explosive materials are stored in the vehicle, then the storage compartment of the vehicle must be constructed so as to be bullet-resistant.
- c. As an alternative to the construction requirements shown in paragraph b, a container for use only as illustrated in Appendix A may be used when constructed as follows:
 1. The top, lid or door, and the sides and bottom of each container must be of laminate construction consisting of A/C grade or better exterior plywood, solid hardwood, gypsum board [sheetrock], and sheet metal. In order of arrangement, the laminate must conform to the following,

with minimum thickness of each lamination as indicated:

1/4 inch plywood,
 1 inch solid hardwood,
 1/2 inch plywood,
 1/2 inch gypsum board [sheetrock]
 (OR 1/4 inch particle board), and
 22 gauge sheet metal,

constructed inside to outside in that order. See Appendix D for details of laminate construction.

2. The hardwood must be fastened together with wood screws, the 1/2 inch plywood must be fastened to the hardwood with wood screws, the inner 1/4 inch plywood must be fastened to the hardwood with adhesive, and the 22 gauge sheet metal must be attached to the exterior of the container with screws.
- d. The laminate composite material must be securely bound together by waterproof adhesive or other equally effective means.
 - e. The steel plates at the joints of laminations must be secured by continuous fillet welds.
 - f. All interior surfaces of the container or compartment must be constructed so as to prevent contact of contents with any sparking metal.
 - g. There must be direct access to the container or into a compartment from outside the vehicle.
 - h. Each container or compartment must have a snug fitting continuous piano-type hinged lid or door equipped with a locking device (or devices).
 - i. Without permitting direct access to contents under normal conditions, the locking or hinging mechanisms must permit at least one edge of the lid or door to rise or move outward at least 1/2 inch when subjected to internal pressure.
 - j. The exterior of the container or compartment must be weather-resistant. [77 CB 191]

APPENDIX B

COMPARTMENTS

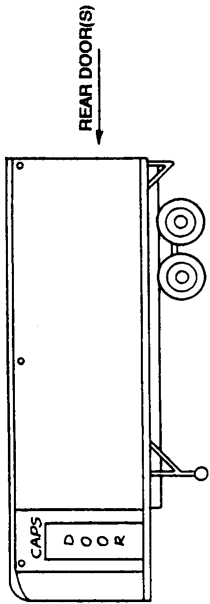


Figure 1

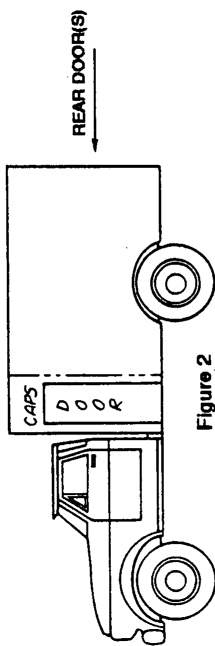


Figure 2

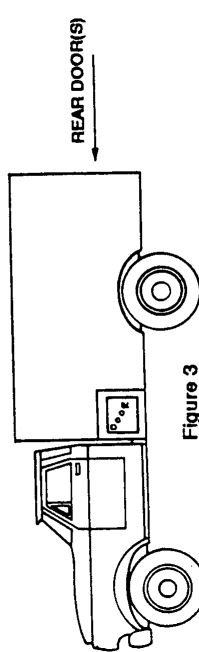


Figure 3

NOTE: The configurations shown in Figures 1 and 2 are equally applicable to multi-axle and "cab-over" vehicles.

[Diagrams: Courtesy of IME]

APPENDIX A

PERMANENTLY MOUNTED CONTAINERS

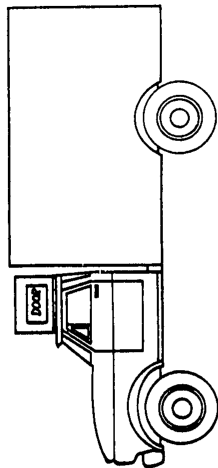


Figure 1

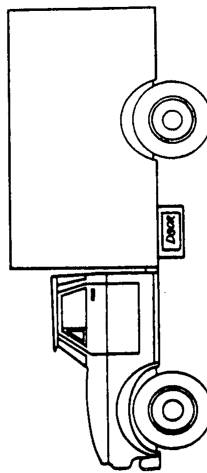


Figure 2

NOTE: The configurations shown in Figures 1 and 2 are equally applicable to multi-axle and "cab-over" vehicles.

[Diagrams: Courtesy of IME]

APPENDIX E

PORTABLE WHEELED TRAILERS

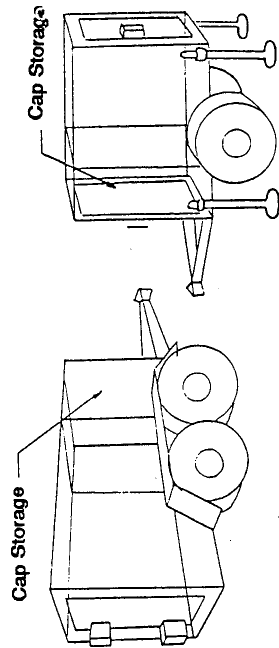


Figure 1

Figure 3

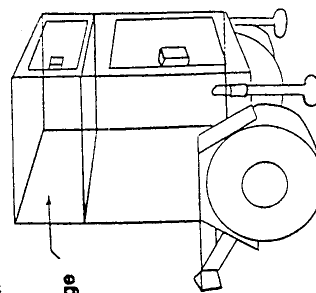


Figure 4

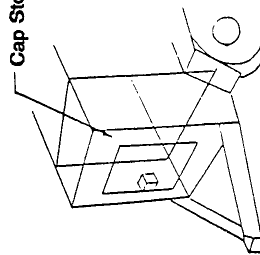
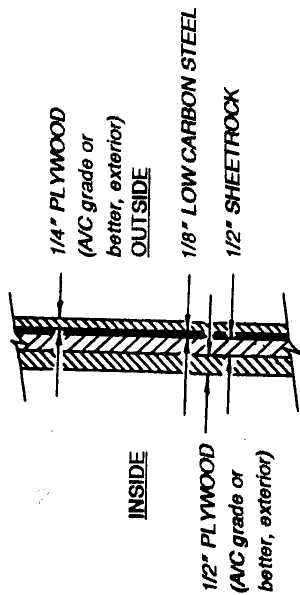


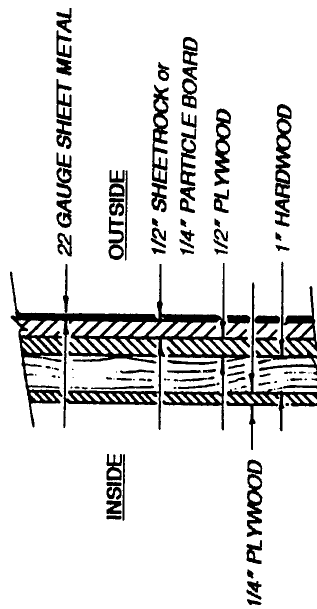
Figure 2

APPENDIX C



Sketch of laminate construction for container or compartment for electric blasting caps use, as illustrated in Appendix A, B, and E.

APPENDIX D



Sketch of laminate construction for container or compartment for electric blasting caps; restricted to use as illustrated in Appendix A.

(Diagrams: Courtesy of IME)

ATF Rul. 77-24, Appendix C - E