



# UK Pyrotechnics Society

[www.pyrosociety.org.uk](http://www.pyrosociety.org.uk)

Dear ELO,

Many thanks for taking the time to learn a little about our society, its aims and achievements. The society was incorporated in 2006 and is a not-for-profit organization. Its main objectives are:

- To preserve the heritage, science, history and art of British fireworks manufacture
- To promote and encourage pyrotechnics as a practical subject and science
- To promote the safe and responsible storage and use of fireworks by members of the general public
- To clarify the laws relating to the manufacture and storage of explosives for our membership
- To establish the society as the liaising body with the HSE and other regulatory agencies in relation to the subject of firework construction by enthusiasts

The society is mainly concerned with the manufacture of fireworks. Historically in the UK, domestic manufacture has long been in decline with most production now carried out in the Far East. Despite this there is a thriving community of individuals whose interest and passion is the display and manufacture of experimental fireworks and pyrotechnics.

In the UK, the manufacture and storage of explosives is highly regulated, and so the society's priorities are to clarify the legal position of our members and provide guidance to our members on how they can go about safely and legally pursuing their hobby.

To achieve this we have worked closely with the Home Office, the HSE and the Police to clarify and direct legislation around the needs of the society. More recently we have been a part of the HSE Explosive Regulations 2014 working group and worked with the regulations from initial consultation through to final publication. We have also assisted the Home Office with the new control of explosive precursor and poison legislation which came into force in 2014.

A large part of the work we contributed to ER 2014 was concerned with the legalities of experimental pyrotechnic substance and article manufacture. We worked with all the aforementioned authorities to define the requirements of legal experimental manufacture and to ensure ER 2014 contained the appropriate regulations to do so. With the publication of ER 2014 and the control of explosives precursor regulations, the main requirements of an individual wishing to conduct experimental manufacture are:

- An explosive certificate for any pyrotechnic substances and black powder or any explosive article subject to certification that is of proven relevance to the field of experimental pyrotechnic manufacture
- An explosives precursor licence for any restricted chemical used in explosive manufacture

With this in mind, it is likely you may begin to receive applications for explosive certificates with reasons for use such as, *"Pyrotechnic substance and article manufacture (less than or equal to 100g) for the purpose of laboratory analysis, testing, demonstration or experimentation as per ER 2014 regulation 6(2)(a)"*.



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As a part of our work with ER 2014, we was tasked with creating a good practice guidance document to assist in helping our membership with legislative, safety and general operating principles that an individual would need to understand if they are to undertake experimental pyrotechnic manufacture. This document has been reviewed by the HSE and senior ELO's and can be downloaded here:

<http://www.pyrosociety.org.uk/media/er-2014-good-practise-guidance/>

I hope this memo provides a useful insight into our society and assists with any explosive certificate applications you may receive. If you would like any further information on our society or experimental pyrotechnics, please don't hesitate to get in touch.

Yours faithfully

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