



Fireworks and explosives application process

What does the application process involve?

We will notify existing licence holders that their licence is due for renewal.

New applicants will need to apply for a licence.

If the application is for a new licence for the storage of more than 250kg of explosives, a Trading Standards officer will normally wish to visit the proposed store.

In most cases where the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), as the licensing authority, has approved an application, the applicant will then need to ask the Council for its assent before the HSE can grant the licence.

Can I start trading before receiving my licence (i.e. will tacit consent apply)?

We will process your application(s) as quickly as possible and, in any event, within the following timescales:

Application type	Processing target
Apply for an all year round licence to supply adult fireworks	28 calendar days
New or renewal application to store less than 250kg	
New or renewal application to store more than 250kg but less than 2000kg	
Apply to vary a licence	
Apply for the replacement of a licence referred to above if lost	

If you fail to obtain a licence, or to store your fireworks safely, you may commit an offence. It is therefore in the public interest that the Council must process your application before it can grant a registration. If we have not contacted you by the end of our target completion period, please get in touch with us.

What can I do if my application fails?

The application can be refused, amended or revoked once issued, should the place of storage be unsuitable or the applicant be deemed an unfit person to store fireworks.

There are two circumstances when the Council might refuse a licence:

- if it believes that the site of the proposed store is unsuitable on safety grounds. An obvious example would be someone wanting to store fireworks at a petrol station; or

- if it has evidence that leads it to take the view that the applicant is not a fit person to store explosives.

If you wish to remedy a failed application, please contact the [Trading Standards Service](#) in the first instance. If you wish to appeal a decision of the Council, you may appeal to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.

How can I make a complaint?

If you wish to make a complaint about the sale or storage of fireworks, we would always advise that you make the first contact with the trader - preferably in the form a letter (with proof of delivery). If that has not worked, the [Citizens Advice consumer service](#) will give you advice if you are located within the UK. Consumers from outside the UK, should contact the [UK European Consumer Centre](#).

[It is illegal to sell certain products to people under a specific age](#). If you see shops selling these goods to children under the ages specified, you can report the details for us to investigate.

Should you need to complain about, for example, noise, pollution, etc. or should one permit holder have cause to complain about another - please contact the council's [Customer Contact Centre](#) in the first instance.