



Explosives Safe Working Practices

Before explosives are used on any construction or demolition site in England or Wales, notification must be sent to the Local Authority in accordance with the requirements of the Public Health Act 1961 and the Building Act 1984.

Explosives may be acquired, used and stored only by persons in possession of a **Certificate of Fitness** (Form A.12), which is issued by the Police.

An **Immediate Use Certificate**, issued by the Police, allows the purchase and use, but **not** the storage of explosives.

The storage of explosives and detonators is subject to license.

The Explosives Acts 1875 and 1923 refer to methods of storing and types of construction required for a store. Guidance on these matters may be obtained from the Police and local authorities or, where a magazine is involved, the Health and Safety Executive (Inspectorate of Explosives). Advice may also be obtained from the manufacturer of the explosives being used.

The movement of explosives into and out of the store should be recorded, and there should be a formal procedure for accepting delivery of explosives and for checking that they conform to the contents of the advice note. It is essential to ensure that detonators are stored separately from other explosives.

Explosives stores must be kept clean and free from grit. Overshoes must be kept in each store and worn by people who have to enter them. No iron or steel implements should be taken into explosive stores and no naked lights or other means of ignition should be taken within 25m of them.

The issuing of explosives should be restricted to persons who have been authorised in writing by the Site Manager.

The transport of explosives on public roads is subject to the Road Traffic (Carriage of Explosives) Regulations 1989, which place various duties on operators of vehicles including:-

1. the requirement for vehicles to be suitable, having regard to the type of explosives (as defined in the Classification and Labelling of Explosives Regulations 1983) and quantity of explosives carried; quantity limits for various types of explosives are also imposed;

2. the prohibition of the carriage of mixed loads of explosives, except in specified circumstances;
3. the requirement for the marking of vehicles, except for small quantities of certain types of explosives;
4. the requirements for written, specified, information about the load to be kept on the vehicle;
5. the requirement to take all reasonable steps to ensure safe and secure carriage;
6. the training of drivers to understand the dangers and their duties under the regulations; certain types and quantities of explosives are excluded from this requirement.

The Approved Code of Practice: Carriage of Explosives by Road, gives guidance on compliance with the regulations. In particular, the Code recommends the carriage of a suitable fire extinguisher on vehicles carrying explosives.