

Guidance for Explosive Operations - Fireworks



Document Control Information

Policy Information

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Accountable Owner

The Accountable Owner for this Policy.

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Table of Contents

1.	INTRODUCTION.....	4
2.	SCOPE.....	4
3.	REQUEST FOR EXPLOSIVE OPERATIONS.....	4
4.	SAFE SYSTEM OF WORK	4
5.	BARGE/VESSEL - DISPLAY FIRING PLATFORMS	4
6.	BERTH EXPLOSIVE SECURITY OFFICER.....	4
7.	EXPLOSIVES ARRIVING/DEPARTING THE PORT	5
8.	EXPLOSIVES IN THE PORT	5
9.	EXCLUSION ZONES.....	6
10.	GENERAL PRECAUTIONS	6
11.	CHARGES/RATES 2021.....	6
12.	INDEMNITY AND ABP SAFETY CODE 02	7

1. Introduction

Associated Ports holds an Explosive License for a number of berths in the Port of Southampton. Berths are licensed according to the class of explosive and a maximum permissible net explosive quantity weight in Kilograms. Fireworks are classified as explosives and are subject to the provisions contained within the Port's Explosive license.

2. Scope

This procedure contains explosive safety and security requirements for fireworks, when handled in the port for display purposes. It does not relate to explosives or fireworks shipped as cargo.

3. Request for Explosive Operations

Applications to handle fireworks are made to the Port Planning, Operations and Compliance Department– Application to Handle Fireworks for Display Purposes.

4. Safe System of Work

The Firework Operator is responsible for demonstrating that a suitable and sufficient risk assessment and safe system of work is in place to cover the entirety of the explosive operation. Where applicable a method statement for the loading or discharging of explosives from vehicle, a barge or vessel is to be provided. Copies of these documents are required to be sent to ABP Operations and Security Department fourteen days prior to the scheduled operation.

5. Barge/Vessel - Display Firing Platforms

The Port Planning department co-ordinate explosive license berth allocation for vessels or barges involved in firework displays. Berth allocation is subject to operational considerations such as weather and commercial vessel movements. Berth allocation is normally made 48 hours prior to the operation but is subject to change. For operations involving firework displays within the jurisdiction of Southampton Harbour Authority, a Notice to Mariners will be required. Notices to Mariners are issued by the Harbour Master's Office. The Port reserves the right to modify, suspend or cancel any explosive berth allocation, as the operational situation may dictate.

6. Berth Explosive Security Officer

An ABP Berth Explosive Security Officer (BESO) is required to oversee any movement, loading or discharge of explosives within the port. BESOs have received Explosive Security Officer

training and will monitor explosive operations in accordance with safety and security requirements of the port's Explosive License.

It remains the responsibility of the Firework Display Operator to comply with all relevant explosive safety, security legislation and recognised best practise.

If it becomes necessary for the BESOs to stop an operation on the grounds of explosive security or safety, the Firework Operator is to:

- Make all explosives safe
- Lower suspended loads to the ground
- Secure the explosives into a lockable container
- Not recommence operations until failings are addressed to the satisfaction of the BESO or Harbour Explosive Security Officer.

BESOs are booked through ABP Operations and Security Department and are charged at an hourly rate (minimum engagement 4 hours).

7. Explosives Arriving/Departing the Port

An ABP Security vehicle will escort loads containing explosives through the port. When arriving at port entrance drivers of vehicles carrying explosives shall:

- Identify the nature of their load to Gate Security Staff
- Confirm the integrity of the explosive load
- Safely park in the nearest layby and await ABP Security vehicle escort
- Follow instructions of Security Officer or BESO

Vehicles leaving the port will be escorted from the quay to the port exit.

The Fire Work Operator is to notify ABP Operations and Security Department the registration details of all vehicles arriving or departing the port carrying explosives. This is to be done 24 hours prior to the vehicle's arrival.

8. Explosives In the Port

Storage of explosives is not permitted within the Port of Southampton. In the event of the nominated explosive licensed berth not being available, if practicable, the explosives will be held temporarily at another licensed berth whilst alternative arrangements are sort. If, through exceptional circumstances, alternative arrangements can not be found, the port reserves the right to direct a vehicle carrying explosives to leave the port estate and return to the Firework Operators licensed storage facility.

9. Exclusion Zones

For each Explosive Licensed berth a number of exclusion zones apply. The BESO is responsible for implementing and enforcing land side exclusion zones. Exclusion zones apply for the period that explosives are present at the berth/quay. Exclusion zone distances are specified in the Port's Explosive License. The distances apply to persons in the open (not involved in the operation), occupied buildings and passenger vessels.

10. General Precautions

Operators using a barge or vessel as firing platform should note.

Loading/unloading of explosives:

- A suitable means of loading/unloading will be required, such as a crane lifting a basket, cage or container or other suitable comparable mechanical method
- The use of mobile cranes will require a crane authorisation form issued by ABP

Safe Access:

- The large tidal range at Southampton can lead to significant height differences between quay height and the barge/vessel deck height, especially at low water
- The Master is responsible for ensuring safe access be provided to a barge/vessel whilst laying alongside
- Portable ladders do not constitute safe access and should not be used
- A workboat is judged to be a suitable method for the provision of access as long as:
 - It is in attendance for the duration that the crew remain on the barge
 - It remains ready for immediate use
 - Has capacity to evacuate all persons working on the barge in a single trip
- Quay side ladders are for emergency use only

11. Charges/Rates 2021

Explosive Operation Administration Fee: £300.00

Berth Explosive Security Officer (minimum charge four hours) £40 per hour

Publication of a Notice to Mariners for displays fired within the marine area jurisdiction of Southampton Harbour Authority is outline in the Port Tariff.

12. Indemnity and ABP Safety Code 02

The Firework Display Operator is required to submit a completed and signed Standard ABP Indemnity Form prior to the operation. Each Firework Operator employee is to sign the declaration part contained within the Standard Indemnity. These documents are to be forwarded to ABP Operations and Security Department. ABP Safety Code 02 "The Port is a Dangerous Place for the Unwary" contains information for people visiting or working within the port and will be provided on request.