



RHODE ISLAND DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

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Rhode Island Fireworks Definitions

Legal Fireworks are:

*** 3.1.1 Ground and Hand-held Sparkling Devices (“Sparklers”)** These devices are ground-based or hand-held devices that produce a shower of white, gold, or colored sparks as their primary pyrotechnic effect. Additional effects may include a colored flame, an audible crackling effect, an audible whistle effect, and smoke.

These devices do not rise into the air, do not fire inserts or projectiles into the air, and do not explode or produce a report (a mild audible crackling-type effect is not considered to be a report.) Ground-based or hand-held devices that produce a cloud of smoke as their sole pyrotechnic effect are also included in this category.

Types of devices in this category include:

*** 3.1.1.1 Cylindrical Fountain** Cylindrical tube containing not more than 75 g of pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, a shower of colored sparks, and sometimes a whistling effect or smoke, is produced. This device may be provided with a spike for insertion into the ground (Spike Fountain), a wood or plastic base for placing on the ground (Base Fountain), or a wood or cardboard handle to be hand held (Handle Fountain). When more than 1 tube is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 200 g. (See section 3.5 for exceptions.)

*** 3.1.1.2 Cone Fountain** Cardboard or heavy paper cone containing not more than 50 g of pyrotechnic composition. The effect is the same as that of a cylindrical fountain. When more than 1 cone is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 200 g. (See section 3.5 for exceptions.)

*** 3.1.1.3 Illuminating Torch** Cylindrical tube containing not more than 100 g of pyrotechnic composition that produces a colored flame upon ignition. May be spike, base, or hand held. When more than 1 tube is mounted on a common base, total pyrotechnic composition may not exceed 200 g. (See section 3.5 for exceptions.)

*** 3.1.1.4 Wheel** Pyrotechnic device intended to be attached to a post or tree by means of a nail or string. May have one or more drivers, each of which may contain not more than 60 g of pyrotechnic composition. No wheel may contain more than 200 g total pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition, the wheel revolves, producing a shower of color and sparks and, sometimes, a whistling effect.

*** 3.1.1.5 Ground Spinner** Small device containing not more than 20 g of pyrotechnic composition, venting out an orifice usually on the side of the tube. Similar in operation to a

wheel but intended to be placed flat on the ground and ignited. A shower of sparks and color is produced by the rapidly spinning device.

* **3.1.1.6 Flitter Sparkler** Narrow paper tube attached to a stick or wire and filled with not more than 5 g of pyrotechnic composition that produces color and sparks upon ignition. The paper at one end of the tube is ignited to make the device function.

* **3.1.1.7 Toy Smoke Device** Small plastic or paper item containing not more than 100g of pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces white or colored smoke as the primary effect. **(For devices containing less than 5 g of pyrotechnic composition, see Section 3.2, Novelties.)** Toy smoke devices, when complying with the provisions of this section, are classed as Fireworks, 1.4G unless classed as 1.4S or not regulated as an explosive on the basis of examination and testing as specified in Title 49 CFR, § 173.56.

* **3.1.1.8 Wire Sparkler/Dipped Stick** These devices consist of a metal wire or wood dowel that has been coated with pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition of the tip of the device, a shower of sparks is produced. Sparklers may contain up to 100 g of **pyrotechnic** composition per item.

C.3.2.1 Party Popper. Small devices with paper or plastic exteriors that are actuated by means of friction (a string or trigger is typically pulled to actuate the device.) They frequently resemble champagne bottles or toy pistols in shape. Upon activation, the device expels flame-resistant paper streamers, confetti, or other novelties and produces a small report. Devices may contain not more than 16 mg (0.25 grains) of explosive composition, which is limited to potassium chlorate and red phosphorus. These devices must be packaged in an inner packaging which contains a maximum of 72 devices. [†]
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C.3.2.2 Snapper. Small, paper-wrapped devices containing not more than 1.0 mg of silver fulminate coated on small bits of sand or gravel. When dropped, the device explodes, producing a small report. Snappers must be in inner packages not to exceed 50 devices each, and the inner packages must contain sawdust or a similar, impact-absorbing material. [†]

C.3.2.3 Toy Smoke Devices. Small devices consisting of cork-like spheres, or cardboard or plastic tubes, containing not more than 5 g of pyrotechnic composition that produces a small cloud of smoke after activation. The devices are typically ignited by means of safety fuse. The outer configuration is usually a sphere (smoke ball), cylindrical tube, or paper cone. The chemical composition for white smoke consists of potassium nitrate and sulfur, while colored smokes are produced by mixtures consisting of potassium chlorate, sulfur or sugar, and a sublimable organic dye. Mixtures containing potassium chlorate must also contain a neutralizer/coolant such as sodium bicarbonate. To be eligible for not regulated status, these devices must produce smoke as their sole pyrotechnic effect following ignition, and must be packaged in inner units containing a maximum of 72 devices. [†]

C.3.2.4 Snakes, Glow Worms. Pressed pellets of pyrotechnic composition that contain 2 g or less of composition per article. Upon burning, they produce a snake-like ash that expands in length as the pellet burns. Chemical compositions vary, but typically contain ammonium perchlorate, nitrated pitch, asphaltum, and similar carbonaceous materials. These devices are limited to a maximum of 25 pellets per inner package in order to be transported as not regulated devices. [†]

C.3.2.5 Wire Sparklers, Dipped Sticks. These devices consist of a metal wire or wood dowel that has been coated with pyrotechnic composition. Upon ignition of the tip of the device, a

shower of sparks is produced. Sparklers may contain up to 100 g of composition per item. Sparklers typically use barium nitrate as the oxidizer, with aluminum and dextrine as fuels. Iron filings produce the spark effect. Color-producing sparklers use potassium perchlorate as an oxidizer. Any sparkler containing a chlorate or perchlorate oxidizer is limited to a maximum of 5 g of composition per article. Sparklers must be packaged in inner packagings that contain 8 devices or less to be transported as not regulated devices. [†]

C.3.3 Toy Caps. Toy plastic or paper caps for toy pistols in sheets, strips, rolls, or individual caps, containing not more than an average of 0.25 grains (16 mg) of explosive composition per cap. Toy caps are described as Toy Caps NA0337 and classed as 1.4S. Toy caps shall only be approved for transportation using the procedure specified in Title 49, CFR, § 173.56(b). [†]

C.3.4 Other Devices. The Approvals Branch at DOT should be contacted regarding the requirements and procedures for approval of any device that is a unique shape or design, or any device that produces unique pyrotechnic or explosive effects, or combinations of effects not enumerated in Section C.3 of this Standard. [†]

ANY FIRECRACKERS, ROCKETS, MORTARS, OR ANY OTHER DEVICES THAT LAUNCH A PROJECTILE AND/OR MAKE A “BANG”/DETONATION/REPORT ARE NOT LEGAL UNDER RIGL 11-13-1.