

<b>PROCEDURE</b>		
<b>Title:</b>	<b>EXPLOSIVES LICENSING</b>	
Practice / Business Area:	Firearms (non-police)	
Department Responsible:	Information Management	
First Published:	27/10/98	
Last Reviewed:	01/11/2019	
Next review Date:	November 2022	This document applies to employees of the:
Version Number:	08	Chief Constable
<b>SOUTH WALES POLICE PROCEDURE OBJECTIVE:</b>		
To deliver public safety through appropriate controls on the possession and safe storage of explosives.		
<b>GENERIC RISK ASSERSMENT:</b>		
No H&S risk assessment required		
<b>PROCEDURE:</b>		
<p><b>Members of the public applying for a certificate</b>            Any person wishing to apply for a grant/renewal of an explosives certificate or for a registration or store licence, must obtain the relevant application form and notes of guidance, by contacting the Firearms Licensing Department on 01656 869244 or e-mail the department at: <a href="mailto:firearms.licensing@south-wales.pnn.police.uk">firearms.licensing@south-wales.pnn.police.uk</a>. Or download the application forms from the force web-site at: <a href="http://www.south-wales.police.uk">www.south-wales.police.uk</a></p> <p><b>Certificates available</b>            Acquire only: For permission to obtain explosives which are to be used straight away and not kept overnight. The certificate lasts up to five years.            Acquire and keep: For permission to obtain explosives and to keep them in an approved place of storage. This certificate also lasts up to five years.</p> <p><b>Application forms</b>            There are three application forms depending on the use and type of explosive needed:            ER4a: For individuals wishing to use black powder in their own firearms or shotguns, or for historic re-enactment events.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Use this form for an 'acquire only' or an 'acquire and keep' certificate for black powder.</li> <li>• Not applicable to clubs, societies, or organisations or for any explosive other than black powder.</li> </ul> <p>ER4: For companies, clubs and societies, powder masters or users.</p>		

- Not applicable for personally held firearms and shotguns, or historic re-enactment when using black powder only.

ER4b:

- Use this form when renewing an explosives certificate at the same time as a firearm or shotgun certificate

### **Storing explosives**

You can store one or more of the following without a license:

- No more than 10kg of shooters' powder
- No more than 5kg of -
- Shooters' powder, or
- Any hazard type 3 or 4 explosive, or desensitised explosive, which is not a relevant explosive, or a combination of hazard type 3 or 4 explosives, or desensitised explosives, which are not relevant explosives; or
- A combination of shooters' powder and any hazard type 3 or 4 explosives, or desensitised explosives which are not relevant explosives
- 15kg of percussion caps or small arms ammunition (or a mixture of them).

### **Application Form ER2**

The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) deals with the licensing of all manufacture, factories, mines and harbours, and all stores holding more than 2,000kg.

FEES are payable for some explosives certificates and for registration/licensing of explosives stores. The fees are set by the Health & Safety (Fees) Regulations and are adjusted annually with effect from the 6<sup>th</sup> April each year. A full copy of the current Health & Safety (Fees) Regulations can be found on the OPSI website:

[http://opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi\\_20080736\\_en.pdf](http://opsi.gov.uk/si/si2008/pdf/uksi_20080736_en.pdf)

All completed application forms together with the fee (if applicable) must be sent direct to the Firearms Licensing Department, Data Management & Disclosure Unit, Police Headquarters, Bridgend. CF31 3SU. Cash must not be sent in the post and cheques should be made payable to The Police & CC for South Wales.

Forms will not be accepted at any police station or by individual officers.

### **Application process (South Wales Police)**

All applications for the grant of explosives certificates will be investigated thoroughly to ensure that certificates are only granted to persons who satisfy the Chief Officer of Police that they are responsible persons and have a good reason to possess explosives. If explosives are to be kept, the person must have the ability to store them securely without danger to public safety and the peace.

All applications for the grant of a store licence will be investigated thoroughly to ensure that registrations are only granted to persons who satisfy the Chief Officer of the Police that they have a proper place of keeping.

The Chief Constable shall appoint suitably qualified Enforcement Officers under Section 19(1) of the Health & Safety at Work Act 1974 to carry out routine inspections of all explosives stores, to exercise powers of an Inspector specified in Sections 20,21,22,35 and in England and Wales, Section 39 and to institute proceedings in England and Wales pursuant to Section 38 of the Act.

On receipt of applications they will be checked for completeness and accuracy, the fee received and details entered on to the National Firearms Licensing Management System (NFLMS).

Vetting checks will be carried out on the applicant and persons having responsibility for, or access to explosives to confirm good character.

All applications for the grant/renewal of an explosives certificate will be visited by a suitably trained Explosives Liaison Officer (ELO).

All applications will be assessed in accordance with ER2014 and over-arching guidance [www.hse.gov.uk/explosives](http://www.hse.gov.uk/explosives)

A report will be completed and submitted by an ELO.

Applications will be granted or refused based upon their individual merits.

South Wales Police are committed to ensuring that thorough enquiries are undertaken to ensure that certificates for the possession of explosives are held only by persons who the Chief Constable is satisfied that:

- (1) have a good reason to possess explosives
- (2) the ability to store them safely and securely
- (3) the intention to use them reasonably without danger to public safety or the peace as is required by the Control Of Explosives Regulations 1991 and the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005

South Wales Police is committed to robustly administering the licensing of explosives and reviewing the suitability of any certificate holder who comes to the notice of the police in circumstances which may call into question their continued suitability to hold explosives certificates.

**NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED**

<b>LEGISLATION &amp; REGULATION:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Explosives Regulations 2014</li><li>• Health &amp; Safety at Work etc., Act 1974</li></ul>

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