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GOVERNOR

STATE OF MICHIGAN
DEPARTMENT OF LICENSING AND REGULATORY AFFAIRS
LANSING

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FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Fireworks General

1. Question: What types of fireworks are legal in the State of Michigan?

Answer: Effective January 1, 2012, the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act, PA 256 of 2011 allows the sale and use of consumer fireworks; [Examples of legal fireworks here.](#)

- a) Consumer fireworks, referred to as 1.4G, include: roman candles, bottle rockets, and other items that leave the ground. For reference, please see [American Pyrotechnics Association \(APA\) standard 87.1, 2001 Edition: APA Standard.](#)
- b) Novelty items such as sparklers, snakes, snaps, and poppers remain legal for sale and use. Novelty fireworks are not regulated under the Michigan Fireworks Safety Act.
- c) Low Impact Fireworks such as ground sparkling devices, ground based, or handheld sparklers also remain legal for sale and use in Michigan. Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.456](#) requires a low impact registration be filed with the Bureau of Fire Services. To register to sell low impact fireworks, please see the [fireworks low impact registration](#) page.
- d) Display fireworks, typically referred to as 1.3G, are large and explosive items typically used for public display and are locally permitted for use by professionals. They are not regulated by the Department of Licensing and Regulatory Affairs (LARA).

2. Question: Who may not buy or use consumer fireworks?

Answer: The Michigan Fireworks Safety Act PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.462](#):

- a) Prohibits the sale of consumer fireworks to a minor (anyone under the age of 18).
- b) Prohibits the use of consumer fireworks by anyone who is under the influence of drugs or alcohol.
- c) Prohibits the use of fireworks on public, school, or private property of another person unless express permission is obtained to use the fireworks on that property.

3. Question: For how long is the consumer fireworks certificate valid?

Answer: A consumer fireworks certificate is valid from the date of issuance through April 30th of the following year. A retailer must apply annually and meet all statutory requirements. Guidelines for application process can be found at the BFS Fireworks program home page: <https://www.michigan.gov/lara/bureau-list/bfs/fireworks>.

4. Question: What is a fireworks safety fee and how is it collected?

Answer: Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.460](#), the fireworks safety fee is a 6% safety fee collected by the retailer at the time of sales, in addition to the 6% sales tax on both consumer

and low-impact fireworks. Fire safety fees must be paid to the Bureau of Fire Services and sales tax must be paid to the Department of Treasury.

- a) Firework safety fees are due no later than 20 days after the end of every preceding month. Payments for fireworks safety fees are submitted online (in [Accela](#)).
- b) If you are not selling fireworks every month, you are still *required* to submit a monthly fireworks safety fee report that indicates zero sales.
- c) Applications will be denied if all sales reports from the previous year have not been submitted. This requirement starts during the month of issuance of the certificate and continues until April 30 of the following year or until you have submitted a Cancellation Request from your Fireworks Account.
- d) Once a certificate is successfully cancelled, safety fee reporting is no longer required beginning the following month. *Note: Reversal of the cancellation is not permitted; a new application must be made if you want to sell at the same location again.*

5. Question: What if I only want to sell novelty fireworks like sparklers, snakes, snaps, and poppers?

Answer: PA 256 of 2011 doesn't apply to novelties. Novelty fireworks may be sold without being registered or obtaining a certificate.

6. Question: What if I only want to sell low impact fireworks like sparkling wheel devices and ground sparkling devices?

Answer: Per PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.456](#), the act requires that any retailer selling low-impact fireworks in the State of Michigan:

- a) Register online each calendar year not less than ten days before the low impact fireworks are sold.
- b) The low impact retailer must collect the 6% fireworks safety fee and remit those fees to the Bureau of Fire Services 20 days after the end of each month.
- c) After registration, if you are not selling low impact fireworks every month, you are still *required* to submit a monthly fireworks safety fee report that indicates zero sales. This requirement is valid starting during the month of registry and ending on December 31 of the same year.
- d) In order to sell low impact fireworks the following year, the retailer must re-register.

7. Question: Can I engage in the retail sale of consumer fireworks online if I do not have a physical location in Michigan?

Answer: No. Retail sales of consumer fireworks from out-of-state retailers that do not hold a consumer fireworks sales certificate for a physical location in Michigan are not permitted.

PA 256 of 2011, [Section 28.455\(5\)](#) states a person shall not engage in the retail sale of consumer fireworks over the telephone, internet, or other like manner unless the consumer fireworks are picked up or shipped from a permanent location for which the person holds a valid consumer fireworks certificate.

Violations of the Act are subject to penalties outlined in the Act. This does not apply to out-of-state wholesalers that are selling to Michigan retailers under the wholesale laws of Michigan.

8. Question: I have a display fireworks business; do I have to apply for a fireworks certificate with the Bureau of Fire Services?

Answer: No. All permits issued for the discharge of display fireworks are obtained from the local unit of government, jurisdiction, or municipality where the fireworks are being displayed. Fees, if any, charged for these permits are retained by that local jurisdiction.

8. Question: Where does the city, township or village obtain display fireworks permit forms?

Answer: The application for a Display Permit is posted on the [Fireworks program home page](#).

9. Question: What do I need to do if I want a display permit for my township?

Answer: The permit is approved and issued via the local unit of government, jurisdiction, or municipality where the application is being submitted.

10. Question: Where can I find detailed information about fireworks products and safety?

Answer: Please visit the following websites:

- a) [Consumer Product Safety Commission](#)
- b) [APA Standard 87-01](#)

11. Question: Who do I contact if I have more questions?

Answer: You may refer to the Bureau of Fire Services website at www.michigan.gov/bfs for information related to fireworks. You may email fireworks@michigan.gov. Note: Email is the preferred method of contact during the fireworks season (April — September) due to the high demand on staff. Emails will be responded to promptly within one business day.