

# Fireworks Information Sheet

## Why regulate fireworks?

- The safe handling of fireworks is regulated by the *Dangerous Goods (General) Regulations 1998* and is administered by Workplace Standards Tasmania.
- Safety is the objective of these regulations. Fireworks can be dangerous if used inappropriately. Those most at risk are children and young people.
- Tasmania, ACT and NT are the only jurisdictions in Australia which **allow limited** sale of fireworks to the public.

## Has the law changed recently?

- An order was served on a retailer last week prohibiting the sale of type 2 fireworks without a permit. This enforces the existing regulations and the existing law.
- Retailers can continue to sell type 1 fireworks without a permit. Type 1 fireworks are primarily designed to be used indoors.
- While there are plans to introduce new regulations to control the sale of fireworks, these are yet to come into effect.
- Some retailers have in the past, mistakenly or otherwise, sold Type 2 fireworks (requiring a permit) as Type 1 fireworks and not informed the purchaser that a permit was required.
- The dangerous goods legislation and the use of the permit system were designed to lessen neighbourhood disputes re: noise, irresponsible behaviour etc. and also maintain a level of safety expected by the community.

## Will fireworks be banned in Tasmania?

- It has been claimed that the new draft regulations constitute a ban on fireworks. This is not true.
- There are also claims that a ban has been imposed on the sale of Type 1 fireworks. This is not true.
- The draft regulations will still allow the sale of Type 2 fireworks under a permit system – under the current regulations these fireworks should only be sold with a permit. The new regulations will only clarify the definition of Type 2 fireworks.
- Type 2 fireworks are 'shopgoods' fireworks such as roman candles, traditional crackers, small skyrockets, fountains, wheels etc. They are intended for outdoor use. Currently a permit is required to sell, buy and use these fireworks, it is not expected that that situation will change.
- The Australian Standard for classifying these fireworks is to be adopted to prevent any misunderstanding or confusion about which fireworks are available to general consumers for safety reasons.

## Who can I talk to?

- Anyone who is unsure about the current law on fireworks can contact Workplace Standards on 1300 366 322.

## Background

- Fireworks are classified in Tasmania according to three types:
  - Type 1 fireworks comprise sparklers, party poppers, caps, throwdowns, bonbons and the like. They are primarily intended for indoor use and are available to the public without a permit.
  - Type 2 fireworks are 'shopgoods' fireworks such as roman candles, traditional crackers, small skyrockets, fountains, wheels etc. They are intended for outdoor use. A permit is required to sell, buy and use these fireworks. The Australian Standard for classifying these fireworks is to be adopted to prevent any misunderstanding or confusion about which fireworks are available to general consumers for safety reasons.
  - Type 3 fireworks are the spectacular professional display fireworks (seen on New Year's Eve for example) involving larger shell or mortar type fireworks. These can only be purchased and used by persons who have a shot-firer permit endorsed for pyrotechnics.
- The Northern Territory and the ACT currently permit general consumers to buy and use type 2 fireworks for displays on Territory Day (Northern Territory) and the Queen's Birthday long weekend (ACT) only, however these arrangements are under review.
- No state allows the sale of fireworks to the general public, except those designed to be let off indoors, such as party poppers, sparklers and bon bons.