

# **Guidance Note No. GN 11**

## **How to Apply for a Use (Individual) Licence for Fireworks Display**



**Mines Division, Geotechnical Engineering Office  
Civil Engineering and Development Department**

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Under section 72(1) of the Dangerous Goods (Control) Regulation (Cap. 295G) (DG(C)R), a person must not discharge any fireworks, or cause or permit any fireworks to be discharged, for the production of any pyrotechnic effect for fireworks display on land unless they are manufactured fireworks discharged under a discharge (fireworks) permit. For fireworks displays on land and at sea (e.g. in Victoria Harbour VH), the Authorities for the issue of discharge (fireworks) permits are the Secretary for Culture, Sports and Tourism and the Director of Marine, respectively.
- 1.2 Under section 76(1) of the DG(C)R, the permit holder of a discharge (fireworks) permit must employ or engage at least one licensee of a use (individual) licence for the discharge of manufactured fireworks in fireworks display on land.

## **2. Application for a Use (Individual) Licence**

### **2.1 Fireworks Master (FM) and Fireworks Assistant (FA)**

A FM is a licensee of a use (individual) licence who can handle, prepare and discharge fireworks at a designated location. A FA is also a licensee of a use (individual) licence but can only handle, prepare and discharge fireworks under the direct supervision of a FM.

### **2.2 Submission of Application**

An applicant can submit an application in writing (Form No. MIN f13) (Rev 2022) or via the Centralised Explosives Licensing and Management System (CELIMS) of Mines Division. The applicant shall submit information showing his/her qualifications and experience (e.g. training records and curriculum vitae). In case of doubt, the Commissioner of Mines (CoM) may request additional information to verify the qualifications/experience of the applicant. CoM may consider other relevant records, e.g. previous adverse performance records, in assessing the suitability of the applicant as a FM/FA.

The applicant shall also submit a Personal Data Authorization Form (Form No. MIN SC1). Mines Division will submit the completed form to the Hong Kong Police Force to check the criminal record of the applicant. CoM will use the information obtained from the Police to assess the security risk of the applicant in relation to handling and discharge of fireworks. CoM may waive this requirement for an overseas applicant.

### **2.3 Processing of Application**

If the applicant satisfies the qualification and experience requirements of a FM/FA as detailed in Annex A, he/she shall sit a written examination. The applicant shall be invited to attend an interview after passing the written examination.

## 2.4 Issue of Licence

If the applicant successfully passes the written examination and the interview, upon payment of the prescribed fee specified in section 3 of Schedule 8 of the DG(C)R, CoM will issue a use (individual) licence via CELIMS, authorizing the applicant to handle/discharge fireworks under the conditions endorsed on the licence.

## 2.5 Renewal of Licence

A use (individual) licence is normally valid for one year. The licensee must apply for renewal of the licence at least one month, but not more than 3 months, before its expiry date, together with the documents mentioned in section 2.2.

After vetting the application and subject to the applicant's satisfactory results of the written examination and interview, the CoM will issue the renewed use (individual) licence in a similar manner as stated in section 2.4.

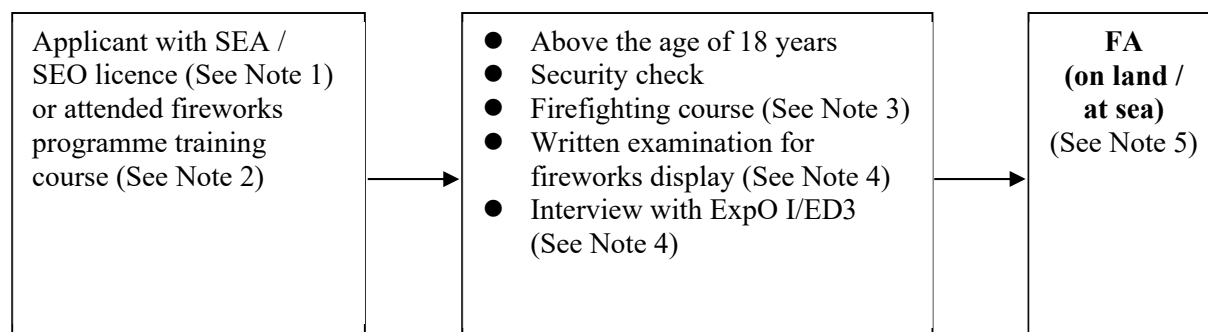
## **Mines Division**

**November 2022**

*General guidance is provided in this Note. Specific requirements may be imposed by the Commissioner of Mines to suit the conditions and characteristics of the site. Any feedback on this document should be sent to the Chief Geotechnical Engineer/Mines, Geotechnical Engineering Office, Civil Engineering and Development Department.*

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CELIMS hotline: (852) 3842 7210 CELIMS Website: celims.cedd.gov.hk*

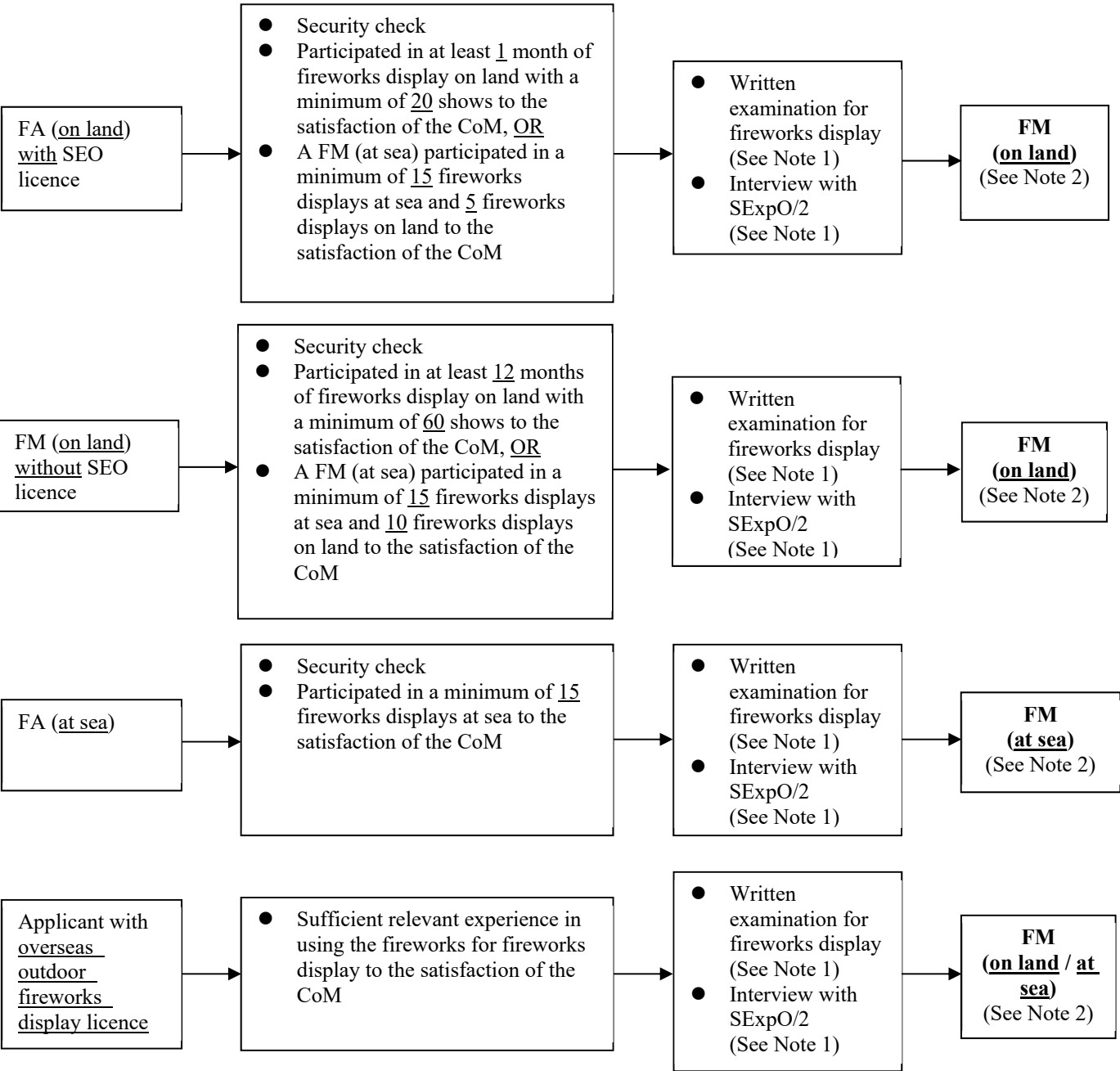
## Application Requirements for Fireworks Assistants for Fireworks Displays on Land or at Sea



### Notes :

1. SEA / SEO Licence: Special Effects Assistant / Special Effects Operator Licence issued by the Entertainment Special Effects Licensing Authority.
2. The course shall be a 2-day course conducted by an approved Fireworks Master which covers the following topics:
  - (a) international practice for hazard identification, packaging and transport of fireworks products, including by sea and by air;
  - (b) laws and regulations related to transport, storage, packaging, labelling, marking and use of fireworks products in Hong Kong; and
  - (c) operation procedures (i.e. transport, storage, pre-loading, loading, firing and handling of misfired fireworks products, safety procedures etc.) and emergency procedures associated with fireworks display.
3. Applicants should have successfully completed any of the following firefighting courses:
  - (a) 2-day Basic Fire Fighting Course conducted by the Hong Kong Fire Services Department
  - (b) 1-day Fire Safety Ambassador Course conducted by the Hong Kong Fire Services Department
  - (c) 2-day Fire Fighting (Local Crafts) Course conducted by Maritime Services Training Institute
  - (d) 1-day Fire Prevention (Entertainment Establishments) course conducted by Occupational Safety & Health Council
  - (e) any other equivalent courses approved by the CoM
4. The written examination (2 hours) and interview are intended to test the applicant's knowledge of using fireworks (including the operation procedures related to the transport, storage, preloading, loading, firing, handling of misfired fireworks, and emergency procedures) and to ensure that the applicant is fully conversant with the information given in the method statement.
5. A FA (on land / at sea) shall only handle and/or discharge the fireworks under the direct supervision of a FM (on land / at sea).

**Application Requirements for Fireworks Masters for Fireworks Displays on Land or at Sea**



**Notes :**

1. The written examination (2 hours) and interview are intended to test the applicant’s knowledge of using fireworks (including the operation procedures related to the transport, storage, preloading, loading, firing, handling of misfired fireworks, and emergency procedures) and to ensure that the applicant is fully conversant with the information given in the method statement.
2. If a FM (on land / at sea) intends to apply for changing the scope of discharging fireworks e.g. from fireworks display on land to firework display at sea or vice versa, he/she should sit a written examination of the respective scope and be interviewed by SExpO/2.