

Guidance Note No. GN 6

Approval of Blasting Explosives for Use in Hong Kong



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

1. Introduction

- 1.1 This Guidance Note is intended primarily as information for those persons who want to import or supply blasting explosives for use in Hong Kong. For public safety, the Commissioner of Mines (CoM) will not grant a Removal Permit or a Mode A store licence to any person unless the blasting explosives concerned have been approved for use in Hong Kong.
- 1.2 Any blasting explosives approved by CoM will be included into the “Approved List of Explosives for Use in Hong Kong”, which can be viewed from <https://www.cedd.gov.hk/eng/public-services-forms/explosives-blasting-quarries/mines-explosives-and-blasting/information-provided-by-mines-division/list-of-explosives-approved-for-use-in-hong-kong/index.html>

2. General Information

- 2.1 The applicant should be a company registered in Hong Kong with a locally registered office. The company’s nominated/authorized representatives must have sound knowledge of the blasting explosives for which they apply for approval.
- 2.2 The applicant should submit a separate application for each type of explosives intended to be imported into Hong Kong.
- 2.3 The applicant is responsible for translating any supporting documents written in languages other than English or Chinese.
- 2.4 CoM will conduct a security check on the directors and nominated/authorized representatives of the applicant’s company at management level.
- 2.5 All information submitted to CoM by the applicant will be treated in strict confidence.

3. Application procedures

- 3.1 The applicant who wants to import or supply blasting explosives for use in Hong Kong must apply to CoM using application form “Application Form for Approval of Blasting Explosives for Use in Hong Kong” (Form No. Min f12-e). This form can also be downloaded from https://www.cedd.gov.hk/filemanager/eng/content_680/explosive.pdf.
- 3.2 Each director and nominated/authorised representative including the Secretary of the applicant’s company is also required to fill in the form “Personal Data Authorization Form” for the agreement of the security check. The form can also be downloaded from https://www.cedd.gov.hk/filemanager/eng/content_680/personal_data_authorization_form.pdf.
- 3.3 The applicant should submit to CoM the completed application form together with all the supporting information/documents including the completed “Personal Data Authorization Form”. A full list of the supporting documents is listed in Part VI of the Application Form and details of the supporting documents are given in Form No. Min f12-e.

4. Approving Procedures

- 4.1 CoM will check all the information and supporting documents and respond to the applicant within 28 days. CoM may request the applicant to provide additional information/documents if any of the required information/documents are found missing, inadequate or unclear. CoM will issue a written approval to the applicant, for the use of the blasting explosives in Hong Kong, **when all of the required information/documents at para. 4.2 below have been submitted and have been checked and agreed.**
- 4.2 A new blasting explosive will be exempted from quality acceptance testing if the applicant can **submit documentary evidence (additional to that required to be submitted under para 3.1 to 3.3 above) for the approval of CoM** that the blasting explosive is of high quality and will not deteriorate within the manufacturer's recommended shelf life (MRSL) when stored in the Government Explosives Depot to become unsuitable for its purpose. For guidance, the following documents or their equivalent will generally be accepted:
- (a) Documents or test data showing that the blasting explosive has a proven track record of commercial usage, for a period of either not less than one year, or the manufacturer's recommended shelf life (MRSL) of the explosive, whichever is longer.
- 4.3 **Where any of the information/documents submitted at para. 4.2 are not agreed by CoM then limited approval may be given for the use of samples of the blasting explosive in Hong Kong to allow quality acceptance testing** as described under paragraph 5 below to be carried out.

5. Quality Acceptance Testing

- 5.1 Where limited approval under para 4.3 above is granted, the applicant will be required to import samples of the blasting explosive and to conduct quality acceptance testing (firing tests and physical examination) according to a schedule to be agreed by Mines Division.
- (a) The firing tests will be conducted in accordance with Paras. 5.4 and 5.5 below; and
- (b) The physical examination will be jointly carried out by the applicant and Mines Division checking on the physical condition and the packaging standard of the explosive.
- 5.2 The quality acceptance testing is normally imposed on one representative explosive within a group of similar explosives of an explosives manufacturer. The shelf life approved by CoM for the representative explosive will be applicable to the remaining explosives in the same group of an explosives manufacturer. There is normally no need to apply for an approved shelf-life separately for the same explosive manufactured in different places. However, the explosives manufacturer has to certify those explosives manufactured in different places are the same explosive and of equal quality.
- 5.3 An improved or modified explosive may inherit the approved shelf-life from its original explosive. However, the explosives manufacturer should submit the details of the modification or improvement for the consideration of CoM.
- 5.4 Prior to the delivery of test samples of blasting explosive to Hong Kong for quality acceptance testing, the applicant must submit a proposal for the agreement of CoM on the quality acceptance testing methodology.

- 5.5 The **minimum frequency** of the quality acceptance tests will be **monthly for the first three (3) months** and quarterly for the remaining period in the quality acceptance programme until the MRSL, or the shelf life of the test sample applied for is reached or failure of the acceptance testing whichever is the shorter.
- 5.6 Following successful completion of the quality acceptance tests for the first three (3) months, the applicant will be permitted to import the new blasting explosive into Hong Kong in large quantities for practical use, whilst the remaining tests in the agreed quality acceptance testing period continue.
- 5.7 When the new blasting explosive passes all the quality acceptance tests in the agreed quality acceptance-testing period, the approved shelf-life will be the total test time in months which cannot be greater than the MRSL.
- 5.8 If the new blasting explosive fails in any of the quality acceptance tests, the approved shelf-life will be the length of the test period in months up to the last successful quality acceptance test.
- 5.9 A letter certifying the approval of the blasting explosive for use in Hong Kong and its approved shelf life will be issued by the CoM on the successful completion of the quality acceptance testing period.

6. Arrangement for the Unconsumed Explosive Upon Failure of Quality Acceptance testing

- 6.1 Upon failure of a sample during the quality acceptance-testing period, of the blasting explosives that has been imported in large quantities for practical use, the applicant will make arrangement to:
- (a) consume the explosive within the approved shelf life, and
 - (b) dispose of the unconsumed explosive as soon as the approved shelf life is reached at the applicant's own cost.

7. Extension of Approved Shelf Life

- 7.1 If an explosive has reached the approved shelf life but not the MRSL, the approved shelf life can be extended to the MRSL by carrying out quality acceptance testing in accordance with Para. 5.4, or by application for the exemption of the explosive in accordance with Para. 4.2.

8. Cancellation of Approval

- 8.1 The approval will be cancelled and the blasting explosive will be removed temporarily or permanently from the "Approved List of Explosives for Use in Hong Kong" as determined by CoM:
- (a) upon request of the applicant, or
 - (b) if any of the information/documents submitted are found to be expired, inaccurate, false or forged, or
 - (c) if the explosive is known to be unsafe for delivery, storage or use.
- 8.2 Before removing an explosive from the "Approved List of Explosives for Use in Hong Kong", CoM will inform the applicant of his decision in writing.

9. Related Charge

9.1 There is no charge for applying for approval of blasting explosives for use in Hong Kong.

10. Reference

10.1 IMDG Code International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, International Maritime Organization, London.

Mines Division
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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 explosives. 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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