

# Guidance Note No. GN 5

## Approval of Explosives in Hong Kong



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

## **1. Introduction**

- 1.1 Pursuant to section 6 of the Dangerous Goods Ordinance, Cap. 295, Laws of Hong Kong, no person shall manufacture, store, convey or use any Category 1 dangerous goods (explosives) except under and in accordance with a licence granted by an Authority under the Ordinance. Apart from conveyance of explosives at sea and discharge of fireworks, the Authority for issuing such licences is the Commissioner of Mines (CoM). To safeguard the public, the CoM will only grant a licence to a person (or a company) for approved explosives.
- 1.2 The current “[List of Approved Explosives](#)” can be found on the Civil Engineering and Development Department web site ([www.cedd.gov.hk](http://www.cedd.gov.hk)).
- 1.3 This Guidance Note is intended primarily for a company that wants to include explosives on the approved list.

## **2. General Information**

- 2.1 Normally, to apply for an explosive to be included on the approved list, the applicant should be the authorized representative of a company registered in Hong Kong with a local office. The company’s representatives should have a sound knowledge of the explosives in question.
- 2.2 The applicant is responsible for translating any supporting documents written in languages other than English or Chinese.
- 2.3 Any information submitted to the CoM by the applicant will only be used for the purpose of processing the application and not be disclosed to any third party.

## **3. Application Procedures**

- 3.1 The applicant must complete the “Application Form for Approval of Explosives in Hong Kong” (Form: [MIN f12-e](#)).
- 3.2 The applicant must submit the completed application form together with the necessary supporting information/documents given in Annex A, as follows:
  - (a) UN Class 1 explosives – all the listed documents;
  - (b) UN Class 9 explosives – only items 1 to 6.

## **4. Approving Procedures**

- 4.1 The CoM will check all the information and supporting documents and respond to the applicant within 28 days. The CoM may request the applicant to provide additional information/documents if any of the required information/documents are found to be missing, inadequate or unclear.
- 4.2 The CoM will issue approval in writing to the applicant when all of the information/documents required are found to be satisfactory. The CoM may impose conditions on such approval on public safety grounds. These conditions will be provided in the approval letter and shown on the approved list of explosives (see para.

1.2 above).

## **5. Cancellation of Approval**

- 5.1 The approval will be cancelled and the explosive will be either temporarily or permanently removed from the “List of Approved Explosives”, as determined by the CoM, if:
- (a) any of the information/documents submitted are found to be expired, inaccurate, false or forged;
  - (b) the explosives are found to be unsafe for conveyance, storage or use; or
  - (c) the explosives have not been imported or used for a period of 10 years.
- 5.2 Before removing any explosives from the approved list, the CoM will inform the relevant company of the decision in writing.

## **6. Related Charge**

- 6.1 There is no charge to process an application to include explosives on the approved list of explosives.

**Mines Division  
April 2020**

*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.  
Telephone: (852) 3842 7210 Facsimile: (852) 2714 0193 Email: mines@cedd.gov.hk*

**Explanatory Notes: Supporting Information/Documents****1. Business Registration Certificate**

A copy of the Business Registration Certificate issued by the Inland Revenue Department is required to confirm that the applicant is a registered company in Hong Kong.

**2. Hazard Classification Document**

The hazard classification document is the document issued by the Competent Authorities listed in the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code for the hazard classification of the explosives. In case there is no classification document available, the applicant may submit the following for consideration:

- (a) a document issued by a laboratory recognized by a Competent Authority for the hazard classification of the explosives; or
- (b) a document issued by a government authority for the hazard classification of the explosives by recognition/assignment; or
- (c) the classification document for other explosives with similar ingredients, characteristics and manufacturing process.

**3. Approving Document**

A document issued by the authority of a country approving or authorizing the use, storage, conveyance and manufacture of the explosives.

**4. Manufacturer's Recommended Shelf Life (MRSL)**

A document or test data issued by the explosives manufacturer in which the recommended shelf life of the explosives is clearly indicated. The MRSL can be a statement declared by the explosives manufacturer or contained in published information, such as the Material Safety Data Sheet or Technical Data Sheet. The MRSL may also be determined by a shelf life test, e.g. visual examination and detonation initiation tests, by a recognized independent testing authority approved by the CoM.

**5. Material Safety Data Sheet**

A Material Safety Data Sheet (MSDS) is designed to provide both workers and emergency personnel with the proper procedures for handling or working with a particular substance. The MSDS submitted should be provided by the manufacturer and contain essential information, such as physical properties, toxicity, health effects, first aid, reactivity, storage, disposal, protective equipment, and spill/leak procedures. The MSDS should state clearly if the explosive requires any special precautions or training to use.

**6. Packaging Test Certificate/Drawings/Photographs**

- (a) A packaging test certificate or report issued by a Competent Authority or a recognized testing organization, which indicates that the packaging complies with the requirements stated in the IMDG Code, as well as a brief description of the packaging of the explosives, where appropriate, and UN packaging mark; and
- (b) Drawings or photographs showing the details of the inner, intermediate and outer packaging, with all the markings, descriptions, warnings, labels and other information provided by the manufacturer.

**7. Technical Drawing/Specification/Data Sheet**

- (a) For blasting explosives/entertainment fireworks: a general arrangement drawing (or drawings) sufficient to identify and specify the component parts of the article, including explosive components, fusing arrangement (if any), construction information and dimensions; or
- (b) For UN Class 1 explosives not being blasting explosives or entertainment fireworks: a general specification or data sheet, including the product components, methods of use, operating requirements, common applications, warnings and photographs of the article.