

## OHIO

### 3743.01 Fireworks definitions.

As used in this chapter:

- (A) "Beer" and "intoxicating liquor" have the same meanings as in section 4301.01 of the Revised Code.
- (B) "Booby trap" means a small tube that has a string protruding from both ends, that has a friction-sensitive composition, and that is ignited by pulling the ends of the string.
- (C) "Cigarette load" means a small wooden peg that is coated with a small quantity of explosive composition and that is ignited in a cigarette.
- (D)(1) "1.3G fireworks" means display fireworks consistent with regulations of the United States department of transportation as expressed using the designation "division 1.3" in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.
- (2) "1.4G fireworks" means consumer fireworks consistent with regulations of the United States department of transportation as expressed using the designation "division 1.4" in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations.
- (E) "Controlled substance" has the same meaning as in section 3719.01 of the Revised Code.
- (F) "Fireworks" means any composition or device prepared for the purpose of producing a visible or an audible effect by combustion, deflagration, or detonation, except ordinary matches and except as provided in section 3743.80 of the Revised Code.
- (G) "Fireworks plant" means all buildings and other structures in which the manufacturing of fireworks, or the storage or sale of manufactured fireworks by a manufacturer, takes place.
- (H) "Highway" means any public street, road, alley, way, lane, or other public thoroughfare.
- (I) "Licensed exhibitor of fireworks" or "licensed exhibitor" means a person licensed pursuant to sections 3743.50 to 3743.55 of the Revised Code.
- (J) "Licensed manufacturer of fireworks" or "licensed manufacturer" means a person licensed pursuant to sections 3743.02 to 3743.08 of the Revised Code.
- (K) "Licensed wholesaler of fireworks" or "licensed wholesaler" means a person licensed pursuant to sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code.
- (L) "List of licensed exhibitors" means the list required by division (C) of section 3743.51 of the Revised Code.
- (M) "List of licensed manufacturers" means the list required by division (C) of section 3743.03 of the Revised Code.
- (N) "List of licensed wholesalers" means the list required by division (C) of section 3743.16 of the Revised Code.
- (O) "Manufacturing of fireworks" means the making of fireworks from raw materials, none of which in and of themselves constitute a fireworks, or the processing of fireworks.
- (P) "Navigable waters" means any body of water susceptible of being used in its ordinary condition as a highway of commerce over which trade and travel is or may be conducted in the customary modes, but does not include a body of water that is not capable of navigation by barges, tugboats, and other large vessels.
- (Q) "Novelties and trick noisemakers" include the following items:
- (1) Devices that produce a small report intended to surprise the user, including, but not limited to, booby traps, cigarette loads, party poppers, and snappers;
  - (2) Snakes or glow worms;
  - (3) Smoke devices;
  - (4) Trick matches.
- (R) "Party popper" means a small plastic or paper item that contains not more than sixteen milligrams of friction-sensitive explosive composition, that is ignited by pulling a string protruding from the item, and from which paper streamers are expelled when the item is ignited.
- (S) "Processing of fireworks" means the making of fireworks from materials all or part of which in and of themselves constitute a fireworks, but does not include the mere packaging or repackaging of fireworks.
- (T) "Railroad" means any railway or railroad that carries freight or passengers for hire, but does not include auxiliary tracks, spurs, and sidings installed and primarily used in serving a mine, quarry, or plant.
- (U) "Retail sale" or "sell at retail" means a sale of fireworks to a purchaser who intends to use the fireworks, and not resell them.
- (V) "Smoke device" means a tube or sphere that contains pyrotechnic composition that, upon ignition, produces white or colored smoke as the primary effect.

(W) "Snake or glow worm" means a device that consists of a pressed pellet of pyrotechnic composition that produces a large, snake-like ash upon burning, which ash expands in length as the pellet burns.

(X) "Snapper" means a small, paper-wrapped item that contains a minute quantity of explosive composition coated on small bits of sand, and that, when dropped, implodes.

(Y) "Trick match" means a kitchen or book match that is coated with a small quantity of explosive composition and that, upon ignition, produces a small report or a shower of sparks.

(Z) "Wire sparkler" means a sparkler consisting of a wire or stick coated with a nonexplosive pyrotechnic mixture that produces a shower of sparks upon ignition and that contains no more than one hundred grams of this mixture.

(AA) "Wholesale sale" or "sell at wholesale" means a sale of fireworks to a purchaser who intends to resell the fireworks so purchased.

(BB) "Licensed premises" means the real estate upon which a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks conducts business.

(CC) "Licensed building" means a building on the licensed premises of a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks that is approved for occupancy by the building official having jurisdiction.

(DD) "Fireworks incident" means any action or omission that occurs at a fireworks exhibition, that results in injury or death, or a substantial risk of injury or death, to any person, and that involves either of the following:

(1) The handling or other use, or the results of the handling or other use, of fireworks or associated equipment or other materials;

(2) The failure of any person to comply with any applicable requirement imposed by this chapter or any applicable rule adopted under this chapter.

(EE) "Discharge site" means an area immediately surrounding the mortars used to fire aerial shells.

(FF) "Fireworks incident site" means a discharge site or other location at a fireworks exhibition where a fireworks incident occurs, a location where an injury or death associated with a fireworks incident occurs, or a location where evidence of a fireworks incident or an injury or death associated with a fireworks incident is found.

(GG) "Storage location" means a single parcel or contiguous parcels of real estate approved by the fire marshal pursuant to division (I) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code or division (G) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code that are separate from a licensed premises containing a retail showroom, and which parcel or parcels a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks may use only for the distribution, possession, and storage of fireworks in accordance with this chapter.

#### 3743.05 Rules governing classification, manufacturing, and packaging.

The fire marshal shall adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code governing the classification of fireworks that are consistent with the classification of fireworks by the United States department of transportation as set forth in Title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, and the manufacture of fireworks and the storage of manufactured fireworks by licensed manufacturers of fireworks. The rules shall be designed to promote the safety and security of employees of manufacturers, members of the public, and the fireworks plant.

The rules shall be consistent with sections 3743.02 to 3743.08 of the Revised Code, shall be substantially equivalent to the most recent versions of chapters 1123, 1124, and 1126 of the most recent national fire protection association standards, and shall apply to, but not be limited to, the following subject matters:

(A) A classification of fireworks by number and letter designation, including, specifically, a 1.4 G designation of fireworks. The classes of fireworks established by the fire marshal shall be substantially equivalent to those defined by the United States department of transportation by regulation, except that, if the fire marshal determines that a type of fireworks designated as common fireworks by the United States department of transportation meets the criteria of any class of fireworks, other than 1.4 G fireworks, as adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to this section, the fire marshal may include the type of fireworks in the other class instead of 1.4 G.

(B) Appropriate standards for the manufacturing of types of fireworks that are consistent with standards adopted by the United States department of transportation and the consumer product safety commission, including, but not limited to, the following:

(1) Permissible amounts of pyrotechnic or explosive composition;

(2) Interior and exterior dimensions;

(3) Structural specifications.

(C) Cleanliness and orderliness in, the heating, lighting, and use of stoves and flame-producing items in, smoking in, the prevention of fire and explosion in, the availability of fire extinguishers or other fire-fighting equipment and their use in, and emergency procedures relative to the buildings and other structures located on the premises of a fireworks plant.

(D) Appropriate uniforms to be worn by employees of manufacturers in the course of the manufacturing, handling, and storing of fireworks, and the use of protective clothing and equipment by the employees.

(E) The manner in which fireworks are to be packed, packaged, and stored.

(F) Required distances between buildings or structures used in the manufacturing, storage, or sale of fireworks and occupied residential and nonresidential buildings or structures, railroads, highways, or any additional buildings or structures located on the licensed premises. The rules adopted pursuant to this division do not apply to factory buildings in fireworks plants that were erected on or before May 30, 1986, and that were legally being used for fireworks activities under authority of a valid license issued by the fire marshal as of December 1, 1990, pursuant to sections 3743.03 and 3743.04 of the Revised Code.

(G) Requirements for the operation of storage locations, including packaging, assembling, and storage of fireworks.

#### 3743.15 Application for wholesaler's license.

(A) Except as provided in division (C) of this section, any person who wishes to be a wholesaler of fireworks in this state shall submit to the fire marshal an application for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks before the first day of October of each year. The application shall be submitted prior to commencement of business operations, shall be on a form prescribed by the fire marshal, shall contain all information requested by the fire marshal, and shall be accompanied by the license fee, fingerprints, and proof of insurance coverage described in division (B) of this section.

The fire marshal shall prescribe a form for applications for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks and make a copy of the form available, upon request, to persons who seek that licensure.

(B) An applicant for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks shall submit with the application all of the following:

(1) A license fee of two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars, which the fire marshal shall use to pay for fireworks safety education, training programs, and inspections. If the applicant has any storage locations approved in accordance with division (G) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code, the applicant also shall submit a fee of one hundred dollars per storage location for the inspection of each storage location.

(2) Proof of comprehensive general liability insurance coverage, specifically including fire and smoke casualty on premises, in an amount not less than one million dollars for each occurrence for bodily injury liability and wrongful death liability at its business location. Proof of such insurance coverage shall be submitted together with proof of coverage for products liability on all inventory located at the business location. All applicants shall submit evidence of comprehensive general liability insurance coverage verified by the insurer and certified as to its provision of the minimum coverage required under this division.

(3) One set of the applicant's fingerprints or similar identifying information and a set of fingerprints or similar identifying information of any individual holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the applicant for the license. The fire marshal may adopt rules in accordance with Chapter 119 of the Revised Code specifying the method to be used by the applicant to provide the fingerprint or similar identifying information, fees to be assessed by the fire marshal to conduct such background checks, and the procedures to be used by the fire marshal to verify compliance with this section. Such rules may include provisions establishing the frequency that license renewal applicants must update background check information filed by the applicant with previous license applications and provisions describing alternative forms of background check information that may be accepted by the fire marshal to verify compliance with this section.

(C) A licensed manufacturer of fireworks is not required to apply for and obtain a wholesaler of fireworks license in order to engage in the wholesale sale of fireworks as authorized by division (C)(2) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code. A business which is not a licensed manufacturer of fireworks may engage in the wholesale and retail sale of fireworks in the same manner as a licensed manufacturer of fireworks is authorized to do under this chapter without the necessity of applying for and obtaining a license pursuant to this section, but only if the business sells the fireworks on the premises of a fireworks plant covered by a license issued under section 3743.03 of the Revised Code and the holder of that license owns at least a majority interest in that business. However, if a licensed manufacturer of fireworks wishes to engage in the wholesale sale of fireworks in this state at a location other than the premises of the fireworks plant described in its application for licensure as a manufacturer or in a notification submitted under division (B) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code, the manufacturer shall first apply for and obtain a wholesaler of fireworks license before engaging in wholesale sales of fireworks at the other location.

(D) A separate application for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks shall be submitted for each location at which a person wishes to engage in wholesale sales of fireworks.

#### 3743.16 Reviewing application of wholesaler.

(A) If a person submits an application for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks, together with the license fee, fingerprints, and proof of the insurance coverage, as required by section 3743.15 of the Revised Code, the fire marshal shall review the application and accompanying matter, request the criminal records check described in division (D) of this section, inspect the premises on which the fireworks would be sold, and determine whether the applicant will be issued the license. In determining whether to issue the license, the fire marshal shall consider the results of the criminal records check and the inspection, and the information set forth in the application, and shall decide whether the applicant and the premises on which the fireworks will be sold conform to sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code, and are in full compliance with Chapters 3781. and 3791. of the Revised Code, and any applicable building or zoning regulations.

(B) Subject to section 3743.70 of the Revised Code, the fire marshal shall issue a license in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code to the applicant for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks only if the applicant and the premises on which the fireworks will be sold conform to sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code, only if the premises on which the fireworks will be sold complies with the Ohio building code adopted under Chapter 3781. of the Revised Code, if that premises was constructed after May 30, 1986, and only if the fire marshal is satisfied that the application and accompanying matter are complete and in conformity with section 3743.15 of the Revised Code. The requirements of this chapter and of the rules adopted under this chapter as applicable to the structure of a building do not apply to a building used by a wholesaler if the building was inspected and approved by the department of industrial relations or by any building department certified pursuant to division (E) of section 3781.10 of the Revised Code prior to May 30, 1986.

(C) Each license issued pursuant to this section shall contain a distinct number assigned to the particular wholesaler. The fire marshal shall maintain a list of all licensed wholesalers of fireworks. In this list next to each wholesaler's name, the fire marshal shall insert the period of licensure and the license number of the particular wholesaler.

(D) Upon receipt of an application and the required accompanying matter under section 3743.15 of the Revised Code, the fire marshal shall forward to the superintendent of the bureau of criminal identification and investigation a request that the bureau conduct an investigation of the applicant and, if applicable, additional individuals who hold, own, or control a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the applicant, to determine whether the applicant or the additional associated individuals have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States.

If the applicant for initial licensure has resided in this state for less than five continuous years immediately prior to the date the applicant submits an initial application, the superintendent also shall request that the federal bureau of investigation conduct an investigation of the applicant and, if applicable, additional individuals who hold, own, or control a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the applicant, to determine whether the applicant or the additional associated individuals have been convicted of or pled guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States.

The superintendent shall forward the results of an investigation conducted pursuant to this division to the fire marshal and may charge a reasonable fee for providing the results. The fire marshal shall assess any fee charged by the superintendent for the results to the applicant.

#### 3743.17 Wholesaler's license renewal.

(A) The license of a wholesaler of fireworks is effective for one year beginning on the first day of December. The fire marshal shall issue or renew a license only on that date and at no other time. If a wholesaler of fireworks wishes to continue engaging in the wholesale sale of fireworks at the particular location after its then effective license expires, it shall apply not later than the first day of October for a new license pursuant to section 3743.15 of the Revised Code. The fire marshal shall send a written notice of the expiration of its license to a licensed wholesaler at least three months before the expiration date.

(B) If, during the effective period of its licensure, a licensed wholesaler of fireworks wishes to perform any construction, or make any structural change or renovation, on the premises on which the fireworks are sold, the wholesaler shall notify the fire marshal in writing. The fire marshal may require a licensed wholesaler also to submit documentation, including, but not limited to, plans covering the proposed construction or structural change or renovation, if the fire marshal determines the documentation is necessary for evaluation purposes in light of the proposed construction or structural change or renovation.

Upon receipt of the notification and additional documentation required by the fire marshal, the fire marshal shall inspect the premises on which the fireworks are sold to determine if the proposed construction or structural change or renovation conforms to sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code and the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code. The fire marshal shall issue a written authorization to the wholesaler for the construction or structural change or renovation if the fire marshal determines, upon the inspection and a review of submitted documentation, that the construction or structural change or renovation conforms to those sections and rules.

(C) The license of a wholesaler of fireworks authorizes the wholesaler to engage only in the following activities:

(1) Possess for sale at wholesale and sell at wholesale fireworks to persons who are licensed wholesalers of fireworks, to out-of-state residents in accordance with section 3743.44 of the Revised Code, to residents of this state in accordance with section 3743.45 of the Revised Code, or to persons located in another state provided the fireworks are shipped directly out of this state to them by the wholesaler. The possession for sale shall be at the location described in the application for licensure or in the notification submitted under division (B) of this section, and the sale shall be from the inside of a licensed building and from no structure or device outside a licensed building. At no time shall a licensed wholesaler sell any class of fireworks outside a licensed building.

(2) Possess for sale at retail and sell at retail fireworks, other than 1.4 G fireworks as designated by the fire marshal in rules adopted pursuant to division (A) of section 3743.05 of the Revised Code, to licensed exhibitors in accordance with sections 3743.50 to 3743.55 of the Revised Code, and possess for sale at retail and sell at retail fireworks, including 1.4 G fireworks, to out-of-state residents in accordance with section 3743.44 of the Revised Code, to residents of this state in accordance with section 3743.45 of the Revised Code, or to persons located in another state provided the fireworks are shipped directly out of this state to them by the wholesaler. The possession for sale shall be at the location described in the application for licensure or in the notification submitted under division (B) of this section, and the sale shall be from the inside of the licensed building and from no other structure or device outside this licensed building. At no time shall a licensed wholesaler sell any class of fireworks outside a licensed building.

A licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall sell under division (C) of this section only fireworks that meet the standards set by the consumer product safety commission or by the American fireworks standard laboratories or that have received an EX number from the United States department of transportation.

(D) The license of a wholesaler of fireworks shall be protected under glass and posted in a conspicuous place at the location described in the application for licensure or in the notification submitted under division (B) of this section. Except as otherwise provided in this section, the license is not transferable or assignable. A license may be transferred to another person for the same location for which the license was issued if the assets of the wholesaler are transferred to that person by inheritance or by a sale approved by the fire marshal. The license is subject to revocation in accordance with section 3743.21 of the Revised Code.

(E) The fire marshal shall adopt rules for the expansion or contraction of a licensed premises and for the approval of an expansion or contraction. The boundaries of a licensed premises, including any geographic expansion or contraction of those boundaries, shall be approved by the fire marshal in accordance with rules the fire marshal adopts. If the licensed premises of a licensed wholesaler from which the wholesaler operates consists of more than one parcel of real estate, those parcels must be contiguous, unless an exception is allowed pursuant to division (G) of this section.

(F)(1) Upon application by a licensed wholesaler of fireworks, a wholesaler license may be transferred from one geographic location to another within the same municipal corporation or within the unincorporated area of the same township, but only if all of the following apply:

(a) The identity of the holder of the license remains the same in the new location.

(b) The former location is closed prior to the opening of the new location and no fireworks business of any kind is conducted at the former location after the transfer of the license.

(c) The new location has received a local certificate of zoning compliance and a local certificate of occupancy, and otherwise is in compliance with all local building regulations.

(d) Every building or structure at the new location is separated from occupied residential and nonresidential buildings or structures, railroads, highways, or any other buildings or structures located on the licensed premises in accordance with the distances specified in the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code. If the licensee fails to comply with the requirements of division (F)(1)(d) of this section by the licensee's own act, the license at the new location is forfeited.

(e) Neither the licensee nor any person holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the licensee has been convicted of or has pleaded guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States after June 30, 1997.

(f) The fire marshal approves the request for the transfer.

(2) The new location shall comply with the requirements specified in divisions (C)(1) and (2) of section 3743.25 of the Revised Code whether or not the fireworks showroom at the new location is constructed, expanded, or first begins operating on and after June 30, 1997.

(G)(1) A licensed wholesaler may expand its licensed premises within this state to include not more than two storage locations that are located upon one or more real estate parcels that are noncontiguous to the licensed premises as that licensed premises exists on the date a licensee submits an application as described below, if all of the following apply:

(a) The licensee submits an application to the fire marshal requesting the expansion and an application fee of one hundred dollars per storage location for which the licensee is requesting approval.

(b) The identity of the holder of the license remains the same at the storage location.

(c) The storage location has received a valid certificate of zoning compliance, as applicable, and a valid certificate of occupancy for each building or structure at the storage location issued by the authority having jurisdiction to issue the certificate for the storage location, and those certificates permit the distribution and storage of fireworks regulated under this chapter at the storage location and in the buildings or structures. The storage location shall be in compliance with all other applicable federal, state, and local laws and regulations.

(d) Every building or structure located upon the storage location is separated from occupied residential and nonresidential buildings or structures, railroads, highways, and any other buildings or structures on the licensed premises in accordance with the distances specified in the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code.

(e) Neither the licensee nor any person holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the licensee has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, any other state, or the United States, after September 29, 2005.

(f) The fire marshal approves the application for expansion.

(2) The fire marshal shall approve an application for expansion requested under division (G)(1) of this section if the fire marshal receives the application fee and proof that the requirements of divisions (G)(1)(b) to (e) of this section are satisfied. The storage location shall be considered part of the original licensed premises and shall use the same distinct number assigned to the original licensed premises with any additional designations as the fire marshal deems necessary in accordance with section 3743.16 of the Revised Code.

(H)(1) A licensee who obtains approval for use of a storage location in accordance with division (G) of this section shall use the site exclusively for the following activities, in accordance with division (C)(1) of this section:

(a) Packaging, assembling, or storing fireworks, which shall occur only in buildings or structures approved for such hazardous uses by the building code official having jurisdiction for the storage location or, for 1.4 G fireworks, in containers or trailers approved for such hazardous uses by the fire marshal if such containers or trailers are not subject to regulation by the building code adopted in accordance with Chapter 3781. of the Revised Code. All such storage shall be in accordance with the rules adopted by the fire marshal under division (B)(4) of section 3743.18 of the Revised Code for the packaging, assembling, and storage of fireworks.

(b) Distributing fireworks to other parcels of real estate located on the wholesaler's licensed premises, to licensed manufacturers or other licensed wholesalers in this state or to similarly licensed persons located in another state or country;

(c) Distributing fireworks to a licensed exhibitor of fireworks pursuant to a properly issued permit in accordance with section 3743.54 of the Revised Code.

(2) A licensed wholesaler shall not engage in any sales activity, including the retail sale of fireworks otherwise permitted under division (C)(2) of this section or pursuant to section 3743.44 or 3743.45 of the Revised Code, at a storage location approved under this section.

(3) A storage location may not be relocated for a minimum period of five years after the storage location is approved by the fire marshal in accordance with division (G) of this section.

(I) A licensee shall prohibit public access to all storage locations it uses. The fire marshal shall adopt rules establishing acceptable measures a wholesaler shall use to prohibit access to storage sites.

(J) The fire marshal shall not place the license of a wholesaler of fireworks in temporarily inactive status while the holder of the license is attempting to qualify to retain the license.

(K) Each licensed wholesaler of fireworks or a designee of the wholesaler, whose identity is provided to the fire marshal by the wholesaler, annually shall attend a continuing education program . The fire marshal shall develop the program and the fire marshal or a person or public agency approved by the fire marshal shall conduct it. A licensed wholesaler or the wholesaler's designee who attends a program as required under this division, within one year after attending the program, shall conduct in-service training as approved by the fire marshal for other employees of the licensed wholesaler regarding the information obtained in the program. A licensed wholesaler shall provide the fire marshal with notice of the date, time, and place of all in-service training . For any program conducted under this division, the fire marshal shall, in accordance with rules adopted by the fire marshal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, establish the subjects to be taught, the length of classes, the standards for approval, and time periods for notification by the licensee to the state fire marshal of any in-service training.

(L) A licensed wholesaler shall maintain comprehensive general liability insurance coverage in the amount and type specified under division (B)(2) of section 3743.15 of the Revised Code at all times. Each policy of insurance required under this division shall contain a provision requiring the insurer to give not less than fifteen days' prior written notice to the fire marshal before termination, lapse, or cancellation of the policy, or any change in the policy that reduces the coverage below the minimum required under this division. Prior to canceling or reducing the amount of coverage of any comprehensive general liability insurance coverage required under this division, a licensed wholesaler shall secure supplemental insurance in an amount and type that satisfies the requirements of this division so that no lapse in coverage occurs at any time. A licensed wholesaler who secures supplemental insurance shall file evidence of the supplemental insurance with the fire marshal prior to canceling or reducing the amount of coverage of any comprehensive general liability insurance coverage required under this division.

#### 3743.18 Storage and business operations.

(A) The fire marshal shall adopt rules pursuant to Chapter 119 of the Revised Code governing the storage of fireworks by and the business operations of licensed wholesalers of fireworks. These rules shall be designed to promote the safety and security of employees of wholesalers, members of the public, and the premises upon which fireworks are sold.

(B) The rules shall be consistent with sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code, shall be substantially equivalent to the most recent versions of chapters 1123, 1124, and 1126 of the most recent national fire protection association standards, and shall apply to, but not be limited to, the following subject matters:

(1) Cleanliness and orderliness in, the heating, lighting, and use of stoves and flame-producing items in, smoking in, the prevention of fire and explosion in, the availability of fire extinguishers or other fire-fighting equipment and their use in, and emergency procedures relative to the buildings and other structures on a wholesaler's premises;

(2) Appropriate uniforms to be worn by employees of wholesalers in the course of handling and storing of fireworks, and the use of protective clothing and equipment by the employees;

(3) The manner in which fireworks are to be stored;

(4) Required distances between buildings or structures used in the manufacturing, storage, or sale of fireworks and occupied residential and nonresidential buildings or structures, railroads, highways, or any additional buildings or structures on a licensed premises.

(5) Requirements for the operation of storage locations, including packaging, assembling, and storage of fireworks.

(C) Rules adopted pursuant to division (B)(4) of this section do not apply to buildings that were erected on or before May 30, 1986, and that were legally being used for fireworks activities under authority of a valid license issued by the fire marshal as of December 1, 1990, pursuant to sections 3743.16 and 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

#### 3743.19 Additional requirements for wholesalers.

In addition to conforming to the rules of the fire marshal adopted pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code, licensed wholesalers of fireworks shall conduct their business operations in accordance with the following:

(A) A wholesaler shall conduct its business operations from the location described in its application for licensure or in a notification submitted under division (B) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

(B) Signs indicating that smoking is generally forbidden and trespassing is prohibited on the premises of a wholesaler shall be posted on the premises as determined by the fire marshal.

(C) Reasonable precautions shall be taken to protect the premises of a wholesaler from trespass, loss, theft, or destruction.

(D) Smoking or the carrying of pipes, cigarettes, or cigars, matches, lighters, other flame-producing items, or open flame on, or the carrying of a concealed source of ignition into, the premises of a wholesaler is prohibited, except that a wholesaler may permit smoking in specified lunchrooms or restrooms in buildings or other structures in which no sales, handling, or storage of fireworks takes place. "NO SMOKING" signs shall be posted on the premises as required by the fire marshal.

(E) Fire and explosion prevention and other reasonable safety measures and precautions shall be implemented by a wholesaler.

(F) Persons shall not be permitted to have in their possession or under their control, while they are on the premises of a wholesaler, any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance, and they shall not be permitted to enter or remain on the premises if they are found to be under the influence of any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance.

(G) A wholesaler shall conform to all building, safety, and zoning statutes, ordinances, rules, or other enactments that apply to its premises.

(H) Each building used in the sale of fireworks shall be kept open to the public for at least four hours each day between the hours of eight a.m. and five p.m., five days of each week, every week of the year. Upon application from a licensed wholesaler, the fire marshal may waive any of the requirements of this division.

(I) Awnings, tents, or canopies shall not be used as facilities for the storage or sale of fireworks. This division does not prohibit the use of an awning or canopy attached to a public access showroom for storing nonflammable shopping convenience items such as shopping carts or baskets or providing a shaded area for patrons waiting to enter the public sales area.

(J) 1.4 G fireworks may be stored in trailers if the trailers are properly enclosed, secured, and grounded and are separated from any structure to which the public is admitted by a distance that will, in the fire marshal's judgment, allow fire-fighting equipment to have full access to the structures on the licensed premises. Such trailers may be moved into closer proximity to any structure only to accept or discharge cargo for a period not to exceed forty-eight hours. Only two such trailers may be placed in such closer proximity at any one time. At no time may trailers be used for conducting sales of any class of fireworks nor may members of the public have access to the trailers.

Storage areas for fireworks that are in the same building where fireworks are displayed and sold to the public shall be separated from the areas to which the public has access by an appropriately rated fire wall. If the licensee installs and properly maintains an early suppression fast response sprinkler system or equivalent fire suppression system as described in the fire code adopted by the fire marshal in accordance with section 3737.82 of the Revised Code throughout the structure, a fire barrier wall may be substituted for a fire wall between the areas to which the public has access and the storage portions of the structure.

(K) A fire suppression system as defined in section 3781.108 of the Revised Code may be turned off only for repair, drainage of the system to prevent damage by freezing during the period of time, approved by the fire marshal under division (I) of this section, that the facility is closed to public access during winter months, or maintenance of the system. If any repair or maintenance is necessary during times when the facility is open for public access and business, the licensed wholesaler shall notify in advance the appropriate insurance company and fire chief or fire prevention officer regarding the nature of the maintenance or repair and the time when it will be performed.

(L) If any fireworks item is removed from its original package or is manufactured with any fuse other than a fuse approved by the consumer product safety commission, then the item shall be covered completely by repackaging or bagging or it shall otherwise be covered so as to prevent ignition prior to sale.

(M) A safety officer shall be present during regular business hours at a building open to the public during the period commencing fourteen days before, and ending two days after, each fourth day of July. The officer shall be highly visible, enforce this chapter and any applicable building codes to the extent the officer is authorized by law, and be one of the following:

- (1) A deputy sheriff;
  - (2) A law enforcement officer of a municipal corporation, township, or township or joint township police district;
  - (3) A private uniformed security guard registered under section 4749.06 of the Revised Code.
- (N) All doors of all buildings on the licensed premises shall swing outward.



(O) All wholesale and commercial sales of fireworks shall be packaged, shipped, placarded, and transported in accordance with United States department of transportation regulations applicable to the transportation, and the offering for transportation, of hazardous materials. For purposes of this division, "wholesale and commercial sales" includes all sales for resale and any nonretail sale made in furtherance of a commercial enterprise. For purposes of enforcement of these regulations under section 4905.83 of the Revised Code, any sales transaction exceeding one thousand pounds shall be rebuttably presumed to be a wholesale or commercial sale.

#### 3743.20 Records.

(A) Licensed wholesalers of fireworks shall keep complete records of all fireworks in their inventory.

(B) Licensed wholesalers of fireworks shall keep the following records with respect to fireworks sold at wholesale or retail for a period of three years after the date of their sale:

(1) In the case of a wholesale sale, the name and address of the purchaser; the destination to which the fireworks will be transported; if applicable, the number of the purchaser's wholesale license; the date of the purchase; when the fireworks are to be shipped directly out of this state by a wholesaler to a purchaser, the manner in which the fireworks were shipped to the purchaser; and such other information as the fire marshal may require;

(2) In the case of a retail sale, the name and address of the purchaser; the destination to which the fireworks will be transported; if applicable, the number of the purchaser's exhibitor's license and the number and political subdivision designation of the purchaser's permit for a fireworks exhibition; the date of purchase; when the fireworks are shipped directly out of this state by a wholesaler to a purchaser, the manner in which the fireworks were shipped to the purchaser; and such other information as the fire marshal may require.

(C) The seller shall require each purchaser described in division (B) of this section to complete a purchaser's form, which shall be prescribed by the fire marshal and furnished by the seller. On this form the purchaser shall include the information described in division (B) of this section and the purchaser's signature. Each purchaser's form shall contain a statement printed in bold letters indicating that knowingly making a false statement on the form is falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Each seller shall keep each purchaser's form for a period of three years after the date of the purchase, and such forms shall be open to inspection by the fire marshal or the fire marshal's designated authority.

(D) A licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall keep its wholesale sale and retail sale records in separate books. These records and the inventory records shall be open to inspection by the fire marshal or the fire marshal's designated authority.

#### 3743.21 Inspections.

(A) The fire marshal may inspect the premises, and the inventory, wholesale sale, and retail sale records, of a licensed wholesaler of fireworks during the wholesaler's period of licensure to determine whether the wholesaler is in compliance with Chapter 3743. of the Revised Code and the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code.

(B) If the fire marshal determines during an inspection conducted pursuant to division (A) of this section that a wholesaler is not in compliance with Chapter 3743. of the Revised Code or the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 of the Revised Code, the fire marshal may take one or more of the following actions, whichever the fire marshal considers appropriate under the circumstances:

(1) Order, in writing, the wholesaler to eliminate, correct, or otherwise remedy the nonconformities within a specified period of time;

(2) Order, in writing, the wholesaler to immediately cease its operations, if a fire or explosion hazard exists that reasonably can be regarded as posing an imminent danger of death or serious physical harm to persons. The order shall be effective until the nonconformities are eliminated, corrected, or otherwise remedied or for a period of seventy-two hours from the time of issuance, whichever first occurs. During the seventy-two hour period, the fire marshal may obtain from the court of common pleas of Franklin county or of the county in which the premises of the wholesaler are located an injunction restraining the wholesaler from continuing its operations after the seventy-two hour period expires until the nonconformities are eliminated, corrected, or otherwise remedied.

(3) Revoke, or deny renewal of, the license of the wholesaler in accordance with Chapter 119. of the Revised Code;

(4) Take action as authorized by section 3743.68 of the Revised Code.

(C) This section does not affect the authority conferred by Chapters 3781. and 3791. of the Revised Code to conduct inspections to determine conformity with those chapters or the rules adopted pursuant to them.

(D) If the license of a wholesaler of fireworks is revoked or renewal is denied pursuant to division (B)(3) of this section or section 3743.70 of the Revised Code, the wholesaler shall cease its operations immediately. The wholesaler may not reapply for licensure as a wholesaler of fireworks until two years expire from the date of revocation.

The fire marshal shall remove from the list of licensed wholesalers the name of a wholesaler whose license has been revoked, and shall notify the law enforcement authorities for the political subdivision in which the wholesaler's premises are located, of the revocation or denial of renewal.

3743.25 Safety requirements for fireworks showroom structures.

(A)(1) Except as described in division (A)(2) of this section, all retail sales of 1.4 G fireworks by a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler shall only occur from an approved retail sales showroom on a licensed premises or from a representative sample showroom as described in this section on a licensed premises. For the purposes of this section, a retail sale includes the transfer of the possession of the 1.4 G fireworks from the licensed manufacturer or wholesaler to the purchaser of the fireworks.

(2) Sales of 1.4 G fireworks to a licensed exhibitor for a properly permitted exhibition shall occur in accordance with the provisions of the Revised Code and rules adopted by the state fire marshal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code. Such rules shall specify, at a minimum, that the licensed exhibitor holds a license under section 3743.51 of the Revised Code, that the exhibitor possesses a valid exhibition permit issued in accordance with section 3743.54 of the Revised Code, and that the fireworks shipped are to be used at the specifically permitted exhibition.

(B) All wholesale sales of fireworks by a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler shall only occur from a licensed premises to persons who intend to resell the fireworks purchased at wholesale. A wholesale sale by a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler may occur as follows:

- (1) The direct sale and shipment of fireworks to a person outside of this state;
- (2) From an approved retail sales showroom as described in this section;
- (3) From a representative sample showroom as described in this section;
- (4) By delivery of wholesale fireworks to a purchaser at a licensed premises outside of a structure or building on that premises. All other portions of the wholesale sales transaction may occur at any location on a licensed premises.

(5) Any other method as described in rules adopted by the state fire marshal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

(C) A licensed manufacturer or wholesaler shall only sell 1.4 G fireworks from a representative sample showroom or a retail sales showroom. Each licensed premises shall only contain one sales structure.

A representative sample showroom shall consist of a structure constructed and maintained in accordance with the nonresidential building code adopted under Chapter 3781. of the Revised Code and the fire code adopted under section 3737.82 of the Revised Code for a use and occupancy group that permits mercantile sales. A representative sample showroom shall not contain any pyrotechnics, pyrotechnic materials, fireworks, explosives, explosive materials, or any similar hazardous materials or substances. A representative sample showroom shall be used only for the public viewing of fireworks product representations, including paper materials, packaging materials, catalogs, photographs, or other similar product depictions. The delivery of product to a purchaser of fireworks at a licensed premises that has a representative sample structure shall not occur inside any structure on a licensed premises. Such product delivery shall occur on the licensed premises in a manner prescribed by rules adopted by the state fire marshal pursuant to Chapter 119. of the Revised Code.

If a manufacturer or wholesaler elects to conduct sales from a retail sales showroom, the showroom structures, to which the public may have any access and in which employees are required to work, on all licensed premises, shall comply with the following safety requirements:

- (1) A fireworks showroom that is constructed or upon which expansion is undertaken on and after June 30, 1997, shall be equipped with interlinked fire detection, fire suppression, smoke exhaust, and smoke evacuation systems that are approved by the superintendent of labor in the department of commerce.

- (2) A fireworks showroom that first begins to operate on or after June 30, 1997, and to which the public has access for retail purposes shall not exceed five thousand square feet in floor area.

(3) A newly constructed or an existing fireworks showroom structure that exists on September 23, 2008, but that, on or after September 23, 2008, is altered or added to in a manner requiring the submission of plans, drawings, specifications, or data pursuant to section 3791.04 of the Revised Code, shall comply with a graphic floor plan layout that is approved by the state fire marshal and superintendent showing width of aisles, parallel arrangement of aisles to exits, number of exits per wall, maximum occupancy load, evacuation plan for occupants, height of storage or display of merchandise, and other information as may be required by the state fire marshal and superintendent.

(4) A fireworks showroom structure that exists on June 30, 1997, shall be in compliance on or after June 30, 1997, with floor plans showing occupancy load limits and internal circulation and egress patterns that are approved by the state fire marshal and superintendent, and that are submitted under seal as required by section 3791.04 of the Revised Code.

(D) The safety requirements established in division (C) of this section are not subject to any variance, waiver, or exclusion pursuant to this chapter or any applicable building code.

#### 3743.40 Applying for shipping permit by nonresident.

(A) Any person who resides in another state and who intends to ship fireworks into this state shall submit to the fire marshal an application for a shipping permit. As used in this section, "fireworks" includes only 1.3 G and 1.4 G fireworks. The application shall be submitted prior to shipping fireworks into this state, shall be on a form prescribed by the fire marshal, shall contain the information required by division (B) of this section and all information requested by the fire marshal, and shall be accompanied by the fee and the documentation described in division (C) of this section.

The fire marshal shall prescribe a form for applications for shipping permits and make a copy of the form available, upon request, to persons who seek such a permit.

(B) In an application for a shipping permit, the applicant shall specify the types of fireworks to be shipped into this state.

(C) An application for a shipping permit shall be accompanied by a fee of two thousand seven hundred fifty dollars.

An application for a shipping permit shall be accompanied by a certified copy or other copy acceptable to the fire marshal of the applicant's license or permit issued in the applicant's state of residence and authorizing the applicant to engage in the manufacture, wholesale sale, or transportation of fireworks in that state, if that state issues such a license or permit, and by a statement by the applicant that the applicant understands and will abide by rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.58 of the Revised Code for transporting fireworks.

(D) Except as otherwise provided in this division, and subject to section 3743.70 of the Revised Code, the fire marshal shall issue a shipping permit to an applicant only if the fire marshal determines that the applicant is a resident of another state and is the holder of a license or permit issued by that state authorizing it to engage in the manufacture, wholesale sale, or transportation of fireworks in that state, and the fire marshal is satisfied that the application and documentation are complete and in conformity with this section and that the applicant will transport fireworks into this state in accordance with rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.58 of the Revised Code. The fire marshal shall issue a shipping permit to an applicant if the applicant meets all of the requirements of this section for the issuance of a shipping permit except that the applicant does not hold a license or permit issued by the state of residence authorizing the applicant to engage in the manufacture, wholesale sale, or transportation of fireworks in that state because that state does not issue such a license or permit.

(E) Each permit issued pursuant to this section shall contain a distinct number assigned to the particular permit holder, and contain the information described in division (B) of this section.

The fire marshal shall maintain a list of all persons issued shipping permits. In this list next to each person's name, the fire marshal shall insert the date upon which the permit was issued and the information described in division (B) of this section.

(F) A shipping permit is valid for one year from the date of issuance by the fire marshal and only if the permit holder ships the fireworks directly into this state to the holder of a license issued under section 3743.03 or 3743.16 of the Revised Code or a license holder under section 3743.51 of the Revised Code who possesses a valid exhibition permit issued in accordance with section 3743.54 of the Revised Code and the fireworks shipped are to be used at the specifically permitted exhibition. The permit authorizes the permit holder to ship fireworks, as described in rules adopted by the fire marshal under Chapter 119. of the Revised Code, directly to the holder of a license issued under section 3743.03 or 3743.16 of the Revised Code, and to possess the fireworks in this state while the permit holder is in the course of shipping them directly into this state.

The holder of a shipping permit shall have the permit in the holder's possession in this state at all times while in the course of shipping the fireworks directly into this state. A shipping permit is not transferable or assignable.

3743.44 Selling to nonresidents.

(A) Any person who resides in another state and who intends to obtain possession in this state of fireworks purchased in this state shall obtain possession of the fireworks only from a licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler and only possess the fireworks in this state while in the course of directly transporting them out of this state. No licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler shall sell 1.3 G fireworks to a person who resides in another state unless that person has been issued a license or permit in the state of the person's residence that authorizes the person to engage in the manufacture, wholesale sale, or retail sale of 1.3 G fireworks or that authorizes the person to conduct 1.3 G fireworks exhibitions in that state and that person presents a certified copy of the license. No licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler shall sell fireworks to a person who resides in another state unless that person has been issued a license or permit in the state of the person's residence that authorizes the person to engage in the manufacture, wholesale sale, or retail sale of fireworks in that state or that authorizes the person to conduct fireworks exhibitions in that state and that person presents a certified copy of the license, or, if that person does not possess a license or permit of that nature, only if the person presents a current valid motor vehicle operator's license issued to the person in the person's state of residence, or, if that person does not possess a motor vehicle operator's license issued in that state, an identification card issued to the person by a governmental agency in the person's state of residence indicating that the person is a resident of that state. If a person who is required to present a motor vehicle operator's license or other identification card intends to transport the fireworks purchased directly out of this state by a motor vehicle and the person will not also be the operator of that motor vehicle while so transporting the fireworks, the operator of the motor vehicle also shall present the operator's motor vehicle operator's license.

(B) A licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler selling fireworks under this section shall require the purchaser to complete a purchaser's form. The fire marshal shall prescribe the form, and the licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler shall furnish the form. On this form the purchaser shall include the purchaser's name and address; the date of the purchase; a statement that the purchaser acknowledges that the purchaser is responsible for any illegal use of the fireworks, including any damages caused by improper use; the number of the purchaser's license or permit authorizing the purchaser to manufacture, sell at wholesale, or sell at retail fireworks or to conduct fireworks exhibitions, or the number of the purchaser's motor vehicle operator's license or other identification card, as applicable; such other information as the fire marshal may require; and the purchaser's signature. Each purchaser's form shall contain a statement printed in bold letters indicating that knowingly making a false statement on the form is falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and is a misdemeanor of the first degree. Each licensed manufacturer and licensed wholesaler shall keep each purchaser's form for a period of three years after the date of the purchase, and such forms shall be open to inspection by the fire marshal or the fire marshal's designated authority.

(C) Each purchaser of fireworks under this section shall transport the fireworks so purchased directly out of this state within forty-eight hours after the time of their purchase.

This section regulates wholesale sales and retail sales of fireworks in this state only insofar as purchasers of fireworks are residents of other states and will be obtaining possession in this state of purchased fireworks. This section does not prohibit licensed manufacturers or wholesalers from selling fireworks, in accordance with section 3743.04 or sections 3743.17 and 3743.25 of the Revised Code, to a resident of another state and from shipping the purchased fireworks directly out of this state to the purchaser.

3743.45 Purchase of 1.4G fireworks from licensed manufacturer or wholesaler.

(A) Any person who resides in this state and who intends to obtain possession in this state of 1.4 G fireworks purchased in this state shall obtain possession of the 1.4 G fireworks only from a licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler.

A licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler selling 1.4 G fireworks under this division shall require the purchaser to complete a purchaser's form, which shall be prescribed by the state fire marshal and furnished by the licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler. On this form the purchaser shall include the purchaser's name and address; the date of the purchase; a statement that the purchaser acknowledges that the purchaser is responsible for any illegal use of the fireworks, including any damages caused by improper use; such other information as the fire marshal may require; and the purchaser's signature. Each purchaser's form shall contain a statement printed in bold letters indicating that knowingly making a false statement on the form is falsification under section 2921.13 of the Revised Code and is a misdemeanor of the first degree.

Each licensed manufacturer and licensed wholesaler shall keep each purchaser's form for a period of three years after the date of the purchase, and such forms shall be open to inspection by the fire marshal or the fire marshal's designated authority.

Each purchaser of 1.4 G fireworks under this division shall transport the fireworks so purchased directly out of this state within forty-eight hours after the time of their purchase.

This division does not apply to a person who resides in this state and who is also a licensed manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, or licensed exhibitor of fireworks in this state.

(B) No licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler shall sell 1.3 G fireworks to a person who resides in this state unless that person is a licensed manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, or licensed exhibitor of fireworks in this state.

#### 3743.541 Fireworks incidents.

(A) The appropriate certified fire safety inspector, fire chief, or fire prevention officer or appropriate state or local law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over a fireworks incident site shall immediately notify the state fire marshal, the state fire marshal's designee, or a member of the state fire marshal's staff regarding the occurrence of the fireworks incident and the location of the fireworks incident site.

(B) At any time after a fireworks incident occurs, unless the fire marshal otherwise delegates the fire marshal's authority to the appropriate state or local law enforcement authority with jurisdiction over the fireworks incident site, the fire marshal, the fire marshal's designee, or a member of the fire marshal's staff shall supervise and coordinate the investigation of the fireworks incident and supervise any dismantling, repositioning, or other disturbance of fireworks, associated equipment or other materials, or other items within the fireworks incident site or of any evidence related to the fireworks incident.

(C) A state or local law enforcement officer, certified fire safety inspector, fire chief, or fire prevention officer, or any person authorized and supervised by a state or local law enforcement officer, certified fire safety inspector, fire chief, or fire prevention officer, prior to the arrival of the fire marshal, the fire marshal's designee, or a member of the fire marshal's staff at a fireworks incident site, may dismantle, reposition, or move any fireworks, any associated equipment or other materials, or any other items found within the site or any evidence related to the fireworks incident only as necessary to prevent an imminent fire, imminent explosion, or similar threat of additional injury or death to any member of the public at the site.

#### 3743.57 Fire marshal's fireworks training and education fund.

(A) All fees collected by the fire marshal for licenses or permits issued pursuant to this chapter shall be deposited into the state fire marshal's fund, and interest earned on the amounts in the fund shall be credited by the treasurer of state to the fund.

(B) The fire marshal shall in the fire marshal's discretion use amounts in the state fire marshal's fund for fireworks training and education purposes, including, but not limited to, the creation of educational and training programs, attendance by the fire marshal and the fire marshal's employees at conferences and seminars, the payment of travel and meal expenses associated with such attendance, participation by the fire marshal and the fire marshal's employees in committee meetings and other meetings related to pyrotechnic codes, and the payment of travel and meal expenses associated with such participation. The use of the fund shall comply with rules of the department of commerce, policies and procedures established by the director of budget and management, and all other applicable laws.

#### 3743.58 Shipping or transporting fireworks.

The fire marshal shall adopt rules governing the transportation of fireworks on the highways of this state. These rules shall be substantially equivalent to regulations of the United States department of transportation governing the transportation of fireworks, and to the fireworks transportation provisions of the most recent versions of chapters 1123, 1124, and 1126 of the most recent national fire protection association standards. Fireworks shall be transported on the highways of this state only in accordance with such rules. Such rules shall not require that shipments of fireworks required by this Chapter to be made directly out of state be made solely by common carriers licensed by the federal government. No requirements of this Chapter that fireworks be shipped or transported directly out of this state require that these shipments be made personally by the seller or solely by common carriers licensed by the federal government.

#### 3743.59 Variances.

(A) Upon application by an affected party, the fire marshal may grant variances from the requirements of this chapter or from the requirements of rules adopted pursuant to this chapter if the fire marshal determines that a literal enforcement of the requirement will result in practical difficulty in complying with the requirements of this chapter or the rules adopted pursuant to this chapter and that the variance will not be contrary to the public health, safety, or welfare. A variance shall not be granted to a person who is initially licensed as a manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks after June 14, 1988.

(B) The fire marshal may authorize a variance from the prohibitions in this chapter against the possession and use of pyrotechnic compounds to a person who submits proof that the person is certified and in good standing with the Ohio state board of education, provided that the pyrotechnic compounds are used for educational purposes only, or are used only at an authorized educational function approved by the governing board that exercises authority over the educational function.

(C) The fire marshal may authorize a variance from the prohibitions in this chapter against the possession and use of pyrotechnic compounds to a person who possesses and uses the pyrotechnic compounds for personal and noncommercial purposes as a hobby. The fire marshal may rescind a variance authorized under this division at any time, exclusively at the fire marshal's discretion.

#### 3743.61 Wholesaler restrictions.

(A) No person, except a licensed manufacturer of fireworks engaging in the wholesale sale of fireworks as authorized by division (C)(2) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code, shall operate as a wholesaler of fireworks in this state unless it is a licensed wholesaler of fireworks, or shall operate as a wholesaler of fireworks at any location in this state unless it has been issued a license as a wholesaler of fireworks for the particular location.

(B) No person shall operate as a wholesaler of fireworks at a particular location in this state after its license as a wholesaler of fireworks for the particular location has expired, been denied renewal, or been revoked, unless a new license has been obtained.

(C) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks, during the effective period of its licensure, shall perform any construction, or make any structural change or renovation, on the premises on which the fireworks are sold without first obtaining a written authorization from the fire marshal pursuant to division (B) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

(D) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall possess fireworks for sale at wholesale or retail, or sell fireworks at wholesale or retail, in a manner not authorized by division (C) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

(E) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall knowingly fail to comply with the rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.18 or the requirements of section 3743.19 of the Revised Code.

(F) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall fail to maintain complete inventory, wholesale sale, and retail records as required by section 3743.20 of the Revised Code, or to permit inspection of these records or the premises of the wholesaler pursuant to section 3743.21 of the Revised Code.

(G) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall fail to comply with an order of the fire marshal issued pursuant to division (B)(1) of section 3743.21 of the Revised Code, within the specified period of time.

(H) No licensed wholesaler of fireworks shall fail to comply with an order of the fire marshal issued pursuant to division (B)(2) of section 3743.21 of the Revised Code until the nonconformities are eliminated, corrected, or otherwise remedied or the seventy-two hour period specified in that division has expired, whichever first occurs.

(I) No person shall smoke or shall carry a pipe, cigarette, or cigar, or a match, lighter, other flame-producing item, or open flame on, or shall carry a concealed source of ignition into, the premises of a wholesaler of fireworks, except as smoking is authorized in specified lunchrooms or restrooms by a wholesaler pursuant to division (D) of section 3743.19 of the Revised Code.

(J) No person shall have possession or control of, or be under the influence of, any intoxicating liquor, beer, or controlled substance, while on the premises of a wholesaler of fireworks.

#### 3743.63 Purchaser restrictions.

(A) No person who resides in another state and purchases fireworks in this state shall obtain possession of the fireworks in this state unless the person complies with section 3743.44 of the Revised Code, provided that knowingly making a false statement on the fireworks purchaser form is not a violation of this section but is a violation of section 2921.13 of the Revised Code.

(B) No person who resides in another state and who purchases fireworks in this state shall obtain possession of fireworks in this state other than from a licensed manufacturer or wholesaler, or fail, when transporting the fireworks, to transport them directly out of this state within seventy-two hours after the time of their purchase. No such person shall give or sell to any other person in this state fireworks that the person has acquired in this state.

(C) No person who resides in this state and purchases fireworks in this state shall obtain possession of the fireworks in this state unless the person complies with section 3743.45 of the Revised Code, provided that knowingly making a false statement on the fireworks purchaser form is not a violation of this section but is a violation of section 2921.13 of the Revised Code.

(D) No person who resides in this state and who purchases fireworks in this state under section 3743.45 of the Revised Code shall obtain possession of fireworks in this state other than from a licensed manufacturer or licensed wholesaler, or fail, when transporting the fireworks, to transport them directly out of this state within forty-eight hours after the time of their purchase. No such person shall give or sell to any other person in this state fireworks that the person has acquired in this state.

#### 3743.65 Possession, sale and use restrictions.

(A) No person shall possess fireworks in this state or shall possess for sale or sell fireworks in this state, except a licensed manufacturer of fireworks as authorized by sections 3743.02 to 3743.08 of the Revised Code, a licensed wholesaler of fireworks as authorized by sections 3743.15 to 3743.21 of the Revised Code, a shipping permit holder as authorized by section 3743.40 of the Revised Code, an out-of-state resident as authorized by section 3743.44 of the Revised Code, a resident of this state as authorized by section 3743.45 of the Revised Code, or a licensed exhibitor of fireworks as authorized by sections 3743.50 to 3743.55 of the Revised Code, and except as provided in section 3743.80 of the Revised Code.

(B) Except as provided in section 3743.80 of the Revised Code and except for licensed exhibitors of fireworks authorized to conduct a fireworks exhibition pursuant to sections 3743.50 to 3743.55 of the Revised Code, no person shall discharge, ignite, or explode any fireworks in this state.

(C) No person shall use in a theater or public hall, what is technically known as fireworks showers, or a mixture containing potassium chlorate and sulphur.

(D) No person shall sell fireworks of any kind to a person under eighteen years of age. No person under eighteen years of age shall enter a fireworks sales showroom unless that person is accompanied by a parent, legal guardian, or other responsible adult. No person under eighteen years of age shall touch or possess fireworks on a licensed premises without the consent of the licensee. A licensee may eject any person from a licensed premises that is in any way disruptive to the safe operation of the premises.

(E) No person, other than a licensed manufacturer, licensed wholesaler, licensed exhibitor, or shipping permit holder, shall possess 1.3 G fireworks in this state.

(F) Except as otherwise provided in division (J) of section 3743.06 and division (K) of section 3743.19 of the Revised Code, no person shall knowingly disable a fire suppression system as defined in section 3781.108 of the Revised Code on the premises of a fireworks plant of a licensed manufacturer of fireworks or on the premises of the business operations of a licensed wholesaler of fireworks.

#### 3743.66 Limiting shipping or transporting.

(A) No person shall transport fireworks in this state except in accordance with rules adopted by the fire marshal pursuant to section 3743.58 of the Revised Code.

(B) As used in this division, "fireworks" includes only 1.3 G and 1.4 G fireworks. No person shall ship fireworks into this state by mail, parcel post, or common carrier unless the person possesses a valid shipping permit issued under section 3743.40 of the Revised Code, and the fireworks are shipped directly to the holder of a license issued under section 3743.03, 3743.16, or 3743.51 of the Revised Code.

No person shall ship fireworks within this state by mail, parcel post, or common carrier unless the fireworks are shipped directly to the holder of a license issued under section 3743.03, 3743.16, or 3743.51 of the Revised Code.

#### 3743.68 Violators.

(A) The fire marshal, an assistant fire marshal, or a certified fire safety inspector may arrest, or may cause the arrest of, any person whom the fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or certified fire safety inspector finds in the act of violating, or who the fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or certified fire safety inspector has reasonable cause to believe has violated, sections 3743.60 to 3743.66 of the Revised Code. Any arrest shall be made in accordance with statutory and constitutional provisions governing arrests by law enforcement officers.

(B) If the fire marshal, an assistant fire marshal, or certified fire safety inspector has probable cause to believe that fireworks are being manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, or used in violation of this chapter, the fire marshal, assistant fire marshal, or certified fire safety inspector may seize the fireworks. Any seizure of fireworks shall be made in accordance with statutory and constitutional provisions governing searches and seizures by law enforcement officers. The fire marshal's or certified fire safety inspector's office shall impound at the site or safely keep seized fireworks pending the time they are no longer needed as evidence. A sample of the seized fireworks is sufficient for evidentiary purposes. The remainder of the seized fireworks may be disposed of pursuant to an order from a court of competent jurisdiction after notice and a hearing.

Fireworks manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, or used in violation of this chapter shall be forfeited by the violator. The fire marshal's or certified fire safety inspector's office shall dispose of seized fireworks pursuant to the procedures specified in sections 2981.11 to 2981.13 of the Revised Code for the disposal of forfeited property by law enforcement agencies, and the fire marshal or that office is not liable for claims for the loss of or damages to the seized fireworks.

(C) This section does not affect the authority of a peace officer, as defined in section 2935.01 of the Revised Code, to make arrests for violations of this chapter or to seize fireworks manufactured, sold, possessed, transported, or used in violation of this chapter.

(D) Any fines imposed for a violation of this chapter relating to the sale, purchase, possession, or discharge of fireworks shall be distributed in the following manner if a municipal corporation, county, or township either filed or enforced the complaint regarding the violation. One-half of the amount of the fine shall be distributed to the municipal corporation, county, or township which filed the complaint regarding the violation and one-half of the amount of the fine shall be distributed to the municipal corporation, county, or township which enforced the complaint. If the same municipal corporation, county, or township both filed the complaint regarding the violation and enforced the complaint, the entire amount of the fine shall be distributed to that municipal corporation, county, or township.

#### 3743.70 No license issued to felon.

The fire marshal shall not issue an initial or a renewal of a license, permit, or registration under this chapter on or after June 30, 1997, if the applicant for the license or permit, or any individual holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the applicant for the license or permit, has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States. The fire marshal shall revoke or deny renewal of a license or permit first issued under this chapter on or after June 30, 1997, if the holder of the license or permit, or any individual holding, owning, or controlling a five per cent or greater beneficial or equity interest in the holder of the license or permit, is convicted of or pleads guilty to a felony under the laws of this state, another state, or the United States.

The state fire marshal may adopt rules under Chapter 119 of the Revised Code specifying the method to be used by the applicants subject to this section to provide the fingerprint or similar identifying information, fees to be assessed by the fire marshal to conduct such background checks, and the procedures to be used by the state fire marshal to verify compliance with this section. Such rules may include provisions establishing rules for conducting background checks and prohibiting licensure, permitting or registration under this chapter for persons convicted of a felony or similar offense in another country, the frequency that license renewal applicants must update background check information filed by the applicant with previous license applications, provisions describing alternative forms of background check information that may be accepted by the fire marshal to verify compliance with this section, and provisions that permit the state fire marshal to waive the applicability of this section if the applicant produces verified documentation that demonstrates that this state, another state, the United States, or another country has determined that applicant is appropriate for licensure, permitting, or registration under this chapter.

#### 3743.75 Moratorium on licenses.

(A) During the period beginning on June 29, 2001, and ending on December 15, 2015, the state fire marshal shall not do any of the following:



(1) Issue a license as a manufacturer of fireworks under sections 3743.02 and 3743.03 of the Revised Code to a person for a particular fireworks plant unless that person possessed such a license for that fireworks plant immediately prior to June 29, 2001;

(2) Issue a license as a wholesaler of fireworks under sections 3743.15 and 3743.16 of the Revised Code to a person for a particular location unless that person possessed such a license for that location immediately prior to June 29, 2001;

(3) Except as provided in division (B) of this section, approve the geographic transfer of a license as a manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks issued under this chapter to any location other than a location for which a license was issued under this chapter immediately prior to June 29, 2001.

(B) Division (A)(3) of this section does not apply to a transfer that the state fire marshal approves under division (F) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

(C) Notwithstanding section 3743.59 of the Revised Code, the prohibited activities established in divisions (A)(1) and (2) of this section, geographic transfers approved pursuant to division (F) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code, and storage locations allowed pursuant to division (I) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code or division (G) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code are not subject to any variance, waiver, or exclusion.

(D) As used in division (A) of this section:

(1) "Person" includes any person or entity, in whatever form or name, that acquires possession of a manufacturer or wholesaler of fireworks license issued pursuant to this chapter by transfer of possession of a license, whether that transfer occurs by purchase, assignment, inheritance, bequest, stock transfer, or any other type of transfer, on the condition that the transfer is in accordance with division (D) of section 3743.04 of the Revised Code or division (D) of section 3743.17 of the Revised Code and is approved by the fire marshal.

(2) "Particular location" includes a licensed premises and, regardless of when approved, any storage location approved in accordance with section 3743.04 or 3743.17 of the Revised Code.

(3) "Such a license" includes a wholesaler of fireworks license that was issued in place of a manufacturer of fireworks license that existed prior to June 29, 2001, and was requested to be canceled by the license holder pursuant to division (D) of section 3743.03 of the Revised Code.

#### 3743.80 Exemptions.

This chapter does not prohibit or apply to the following:

(A) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use in emergency situations, of pyrotechnic signaling devices and distress signals for marine, aviation, or highway use;

(B) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of fusees, torpedoes, or other signals necessary for the safe operation of railroads;

(C) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of blank cartridges in connection with theaters or shows, or in connection with athletics as signals or for ceremonial purposes;

(D) The manufacture for, the transportation, storage, possession, or use by, or sale to the armed forces of the United States and the militia of this state of pyrotechnic devices;

(E) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of toy pistols, toy canes, toy guns, or other devices in which paper or plastic caps containing twenty-five hundredths grains or less of explosive material are used, provided that they are constructed so that a hand cannot come into contact with a cap when it is in place for explosion, or apply to the manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of those caps;

(F) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of novelties and trick noisemakers, auto burglar alarms, or model rockets and model rocket motors designed, sold, and used for the purpose of propelling recoverable aero models;

(G) The manufacture, sale, possession, transportation, storage, or use of wire sparklers.

(H) The conduct of radio-controlled special effect exhibitions that use an explosive black powder charge of not more than one-quarter pound per charge, and that are not connected in any manner to propellant charges, provided that the exhibition complies with all of following:

(1) No explosive aerial display is conducted in the exhibition;

(2) The exhibition is separated from spectators by not less than two hundred feet;

(3) The person conducting the exhibition complies with regulations of the bureau of alcohol, tobacco, and firearms of the United States department of the treasury and the United States department of transportation with respect to the storage and transport of the explosive black powder used in the exhibition.

3743.99 Penalty.

(A) Whoever violates division (A) or (B) of section 3743.60 or division (H) of section 3743.64 of the Revised Code is guilty of a felony of the third degree.

(B) Whoever violates division (C) or (D) of section 3743.60, division (A), (B), (C), or (D) of section 3743.61, or division (A) or (B) of section 3743.64 of the Revised Code is guilty of a felony of the fourth degree.

(C) Whoever violates division (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), or (J) of section 3743.60, division (E), (F), (G), (H), (I), or (J) of section 3743.61, section 3743.63, division (D), (E), (F), or (G) of section 3743.64, division (A), (B), (C), (D), or (E) of section 3743.65, or section 3743.66 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. If the offender previously has been convicted of or pleaded guilty to a violation of division (I) of section 3743.60 or 3743.61 of the Revised Code, a violation of either of these divisions is a felony of the fifth degree.

(D) Whoever violates division (C) of section 3743.64 of the Revised Code is guilty of a misdemeanor of the first degree. In addition to any other penalties that may be imposed on a licensed exhibitor of fireworks under this division and unless the third sentence of this division applies, the person's license as an exhibitor of fireworks or as an assistant exhibitor of fireworks shall be suspended, and the person is ineligible to apply for either type of license, for a period of five years. If the violation of division (C) of section 3743.64 of the Revised Code results in serious physical harm to persons or serious physical harm to property, the person's license as an exhibitor of fireworks or as an assistant exhibitor of fireworks shall be revoked, and that person is ineligible to apply for a license as or to be licensed as an exhibitor of fireworks or as an assistant exhibitor of fireworks in this state.

(E) Whoever violates division (F) of section 3743.65 of the Revised Code is guilty of a felony of the fifth degree.