

Notes:

(a) Limits in MSER regulation 10(2)(b):-

10 kilograms of black powder

and

5 kilograms comprising **one** of the following options

- (i) Shooters powder (black powder or smokeless powder) **or**
- (ii) Any explosive or combination of explosives in Schedule 1 to the Control of Explosives Regulations, 1991 **or**
- (iii) A combination of the explosives in options (i) and (ii) above

and

15 kilograms of percussion caps or small arms ammunition or a mixture of them

(b) Précis of storage in the Approved Code of Practice to MSER 2005

(for the complete storage information see paragraphs 411-420 of the Approved Code of Practice)

- Powder must be in containers with no more than 550 grams per container.
- The containers must not be metal. Plastic/polythene or paper/cloth are suitable. Care is required to ensure where plastic is used that it does not induce static electricity.
- The containers must be kept in a box constructed of plywood with a minimum thickness of 18 mm, or a material of equal or greater fire and physical resistance to attack.
- The box must be constructed to provide 30% additional height between the top of the container and the inside of the lid.
- If the box is to hold more than one container of powder, the interior must be divided by 6mm wooden partitions securely fixed to the walls of the box.
- It is a good idea to fit an intumescent strip around the lid.
- The box must not be stored in any box, drawer, locker or cupboard made of metal.
- Locating the box for storage –
 - The box should not be stored on or under any means of access or escape
 - The box should not be kept in the same room as flammable liquids or in any areas where there is a risk of fire
- Security of the box –
 - The box must be kept in either a secured room or other suitably secured place
 - Where not kept under the above provisions the box should meet certain minimum requirements
 - Have securely fixed robust hinges
 - A secure hasp using a security grade padlock
 - Have suitable arrangements to frustrate attempts to remove the box (e.g securing by its handles or similarly attached ring to a strong point using good quality chain or fixing device

(c) Prohibited person - The Control of Explosives Regulations 1991 Regulation 2 –

(1) You are prohibited from acquiring, possessing or exercising control over explosives **for life** if you have been:

- Convicted of any offence under the Explosive Substances Act, 1883
- Sentenced to:
 - imprisonment or custody for life;
 - imprisonment, detention in a young offenders institute, youth custody or corrective training for a term exceeding 30 months;
 - preventive detention;
 - detention during Her Majesty's pleasure or for life, or under section 205(2) or (3) Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act 1975 or
 - a term exceeding 30 months passed under Section 53, Children and Young Persons Act 1933 (young offenders convicted of grave crimes) or Section 205 Criminal Procedure (Scotland) Act, 1975 (detention of children convicted on indictment)

(2) You are prohibited from acquiring, possessing or exercising control over explosives **for 10 years from the date of conviction (5 years if under 17 at the time of conviction)** if you have been sentenced to:

- Imprisonment for a term exceeding 6 months, but not exceeding 30 months
- Youth custody or detention in a young offenders institute or corrective training exceeding 6 months, but not exceeding 30 months.

(3) You are prohibited from acquiring, possessing or exercising control over explosives **for 7 years from the date of conviction (3 ½ years if under 17 at the time of conviction)** if you have been sentenced to:

- Imprisonment for a term not exceeding 6 months
- Youth custody or detention in a young offenders institute for a term not exceeding 6 months

You may apply to the Crown Court in England and Wales or the Sheriff in Scotland for an order to be made that you are no longer a prohibited person

If you are required to have a recipient competent authority transfer document (RCA document) by the Placing on the Market and Supervision of the Transfer of Explosives Regulations 1993 you will also need to renew that document as it expires on the same date as your present explosive certificate. Following changes at HSE, your application should now be made to - The Explosives Inspectorate, Health & Safety Executive, 1.2 Redgrave Court, Merton Road, Bootle, Merseyside, L20 7HS. You can contact them by - Telephone: 0151 951 3775 Fax: 0151 951 3891 or e-mail: explosives.licensing@hse.gsi.gov.uk

Explosives

STORAGE OF SHOOTERS' POWDERS



Figure 1



Explosives

STORAGE OF SHOOTERS' POWDER

The following guidance is extracted from Regulation 5 the Health and Safety Executive publication Approved Code of Practice and guidance (ACOP)

- 411** Shooter's powder includes both black powder and smokeless powder.
- 412** The powder must be kept in containers with no more than 550grams of powder per container. The container's must be constructed in such a way that, in the event of a fire they do not provide additional containment that will increase the explosive force of any deflagration. Normally plastic/polythene or paper/cloth containers will be suitable for this purpose. Metal containers with a screw cap, or a push-in lid (ie similar to a paint tin lid) must not be used.
- 413** Although shooter's powders are generally not very sensitive to ignition by electrostatic discharge, home loaders or others who decant the contents of plastic containers must take care to reduce the risk of build up of static electricity. Advice on appropriate precautions may be sought from the manufacturer.
- 414** The containers of powder must be kept in a box constructed of plywood with a minimum thickness of 18 mm – or material with an equal or greater fire and physical resistance. (Health and Safety Laboratory tests found that 18 mm plywood offered 15 minutes' fire resistance; 24 mm plywood offered 30 minutes' fire resistance).
- 415** Metal boxes, including ammunition boxes, are not suitable and must not be used. This is because, firstly while metal is fire resistant it also transmits heat very well and secondly, because the metal container adds additional containment that significantly increases the explosive power of the powder. It should be noted that the requirements in this paragraph replace guidance permitting the keeping of black powder in a lacquered or tinned iron or steel trunk or box contained in *A guide to the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991*.
- 416** Where the box holds more than one container, each individual container must be separated by a 6 mm wooden partition that is securely fixed to the outer walls of the box. Each compartment must allow 30% additional height between the top of the container and the inside of the lid.
- 417** It is a good idea to put an intumescent strip around the edges or the lid to give a good seal.
- 418** Figure 1 shows a box that would meet the requirements set out in the previous paragraphs.
- 419** The box should be constructed so that there is no exposed metal on the inside. Internal nuts must be covered by a glued wooden liner not less than 6 mm. The box must not be kept in any form of metal box, drawer or cupboard.
- 420** The box must not be located:
- under or near any means of access or escape, for example under stairs;
 - in the same room as flammable liquids; or
 - in areas where there are risks of fire.