

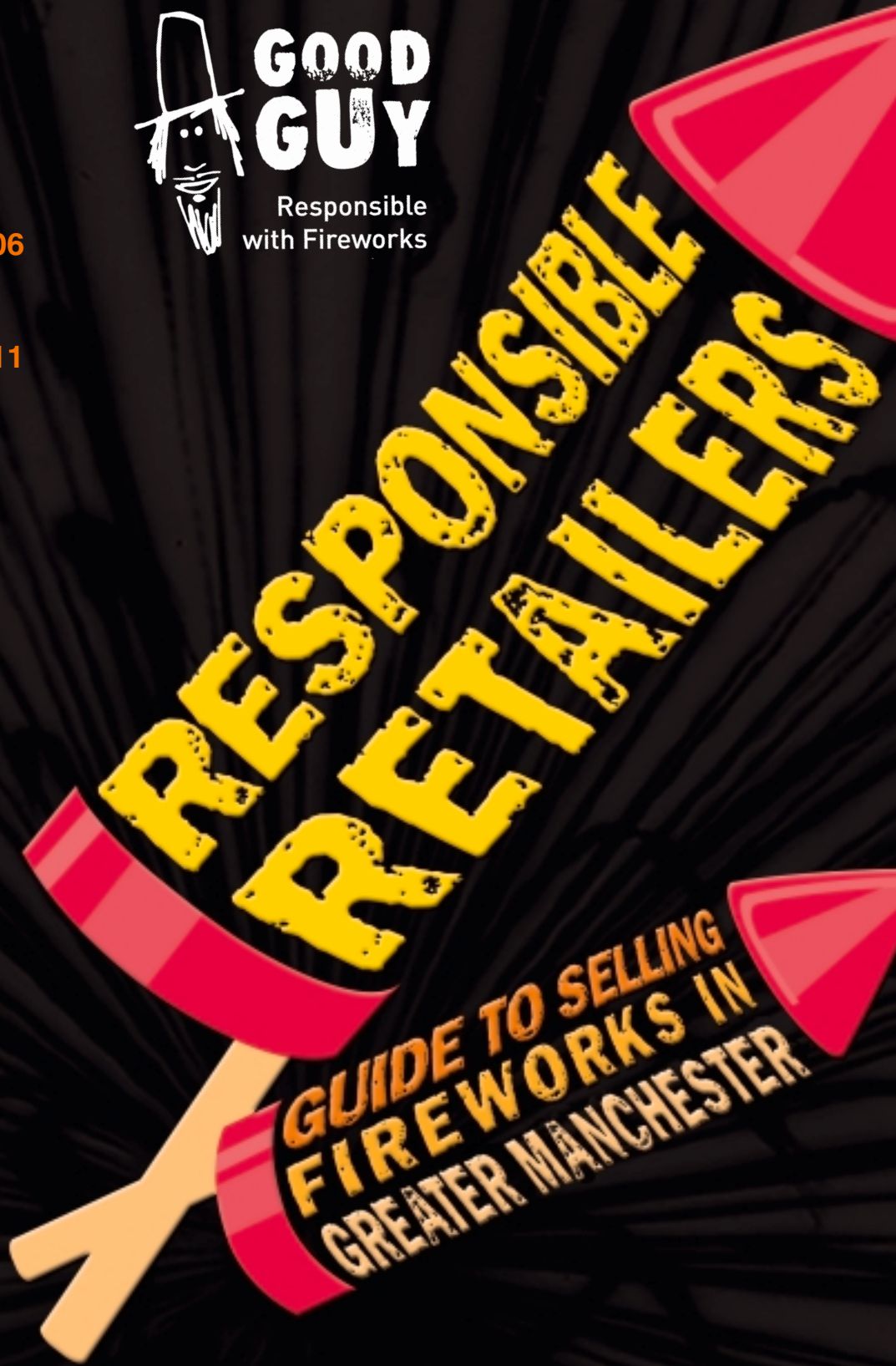
OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS

Consumer Direct 08454 040506

Crimestoppers 0800 555 111



**IN AN
EMERGENCY
CALL 999**



CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
WHAT IS THE GOOD GUY RESPONSIBLE RETAILER SCHEME	4
WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A GOOD GUY	5
A GUIDE TO SELLING FIREWORKS RESPONSIBLY	6
STORING FIREWORKS SAFELY	8
OTHER FIREWORK STORAGE SAFETY TIPS	9
WHAT TO EXPECT	10
REGISTRATION AND LICENCES	11
A GUIDE TO ILLEGAL FIREWORKS	12
USEFUL CONTACTS	13
THE FIREWORK CODE	14



INTRODUCTION

New laws regulating the sale and storage of fireworks were introduced on 1st January 2005. This booklet has been produced by Trading Standards, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue and Greater Manchester Police to assist retailers in understanding how the changes will affect them.

The booklet explains the current law and gives details of what retailers must do in order to achieve compliance and demonstrate responsibility as a 'Good Guy' when selling fireworks in Greater Manchester.

The enforcement agencies mentioned in this booklet will be rigorously checking that all retailers are observing the law so as to ensure that the antisocial behaviour associated with the misuse of fireworks is kept to a minimum.

If you follow the guidance set out in this booklet there will be no need to worry about the prospect of enforcement action being taken against you.'

The Legal Selling Dates

Bonfire Night Sales - 15th October to 10th November

Christmas and New Year Sales - 26th December to 31st December

Other Celebrations - Three days preceding and the day of Diwali

Three days preceding and the first day of Chinese New Year

**This Booklet offers some helpful advice:
For more information use the contact details on the inside back page.**

WHAT IS THE GOOD GUY RESPONSIBLE RETAILER SCHEME?

The Good Guy Responsible Retailer scheme is aimed at Firework retailers.

It is run by your local Trading Standards Authority, Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire, and Rescue Service to reduce the anti-social use and abuse of fireworks. In recent years there has been growing concern voiced by the local community on the nuisance caused by fireworks being set off by irresponsible people at all times of the day, evening and night. There is also concern about the time at which this irresponsible behaviour starts to occur, which is becoming earlier every year.

The Good Guy scheme is designed to encourage retailers to be responsible and help reduce the nuisance and anti-social behaviour in Greater Manchester. Changes in the law have resulted in restrictions being placed upon the time periods during which fireworks can be sold.

It is recognised that local businesses do not want to be placed at a disadvantage to their competitors, therefore all firework retailers throughout Greater Manchester will be asked to support and participate in the Good Guy scheme. Each retailer responding to the invitation will receive a personal visit from Trading Standards and/or a local Police Officer to provide advice on, and highlight the benefits of joining the scheme.

This booklet provides you with the information that you will require to sign up and participate in the scheme.

WHAT ARE THE BENEFITS OF BEING A GOOD GUY?

There are many benefits associated with being a Good Guy responsible retailer, some of which are as follows:

- New regulations came into force in January 2005, governing the storage of all fireworks. The regulations have introduced new power to all Local Licensing Authorities to refuse or revoke registration to store fireworks on the grounds that the premises are not suitable or the applicant is not a fit person. Participation in the Good Guy scheme will demonstrate that you have a positive regard for public safety and will favourably assist you when renewing your application next year.
- Signing up and participating in the scheme will enable you and your premises to benefit from some free advertising in the local press.
- The local community will be encouraged and advised through an advertising campaign to only purchase fireworks from responsible retailers who are participating in the scheme and trading responsibly.



Guy Fact:

Half of all firework accidents happen to children under 16

A GUIDE TO SELLING FIREWORKS RESPONSIBLY

The following summary is intended as a guide to the law on selling fireworks. For full details contact your local Trading Standards Office, whose contact number can be found on page 13.

To sell fireworks legally you must:

- Register with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and keep your registration document on the premises and available for immediate inspection at any time by Local Authority Trading Standards, Fire or Police Officers
- Sell within the new legal selling periods only (see page 3), or apply for a supply licence
- Display goods for sale within the legal selling period only, or apply for a supply licence
- Sell to over 18's only. Remember to ask for proof of age and ask for an approved form of proof of age identification e.g. Validate. For further information on your local scheme contact your local Trading Standards Service
- Do NOT sell illegal fireworks. See page 12 for a guide to illegal fireworks
- All fireworks must comply with BS7114
- Display the notice included in this pack or produce your own notice for display. It must be at least 400mm* 300mm (all letters must be over 16mm high) that states:-
It is illegal to sell fireworks to anyone under the age of 18
It is illegal for anyone under the age 18 to possess adult fireworks in a public place
- Store fireworks safely and adhere to all storage regulations. See page 7 for more details
- If requested, supply Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service, Local Authority Trading Standards or Greater Manchester Police with the name of your firework supplier

A GUIDE TO SELLING FIREWORKS RESPONSIBLY

- Advise all your customers that it is now illegal to set off fireworks between 11pm and 7am except till midnight on bonfire night, 1am on Chinese New Year, Diwali and New year
- Retail boxes must NOT be split
- All packets of sparklers must contain the following warning "Not to be given to children under 5 years of age"
- Never let customers handle fireworks while they are choosing
- All fireworks not suitable for use by the general public must bear the following warning " This device must not be sold to, or used by a member of the general public"
- Categories 1, 2 and 3 are the only fireworks that can lawfully be sold to the general public, providing they comply with the Fireworks (Safety) Regulations 1997. Fireworks meeting the requirements of these regulations will be marked as suitable for indoor, garden or display use
- Provide customers with advice on the safe use of fireworks by giving out leaflets advertising the

firework code. (Leaflets are available from firework manufacturers, The Department of Trade and Industry and your local Trading Standards Service).

- In circumstances where you sell more than 50kg of Net Explosive Content in fireworks to one person, you must record details of the sale, which will include:
 - The name and address of the purchaser
 - The date of purchase
 - The total amount of explosive contained within the fireworks sold.

It can be difficult to determine the Net Explosive Content of fireworks as it is not stated on individual fireworks but the information can be found on the firework transport cartons. However, as a general guide, a sale of £200 or more in a single transaction should be recorded with the above information and be made available for inspection at any time.

Failure to comply with the requirement or legislation indicated above will result in prosecution. You could be fined up to £5000 or receive a prison sentence of up to six months or both.

STORING FIREWORKS SAFELY

In store safety is a key part of being a responsible retailer. Check the following advice section to ensure that you are following advice section to ensure that you are following all the regulations.

- You must register to store fireworks with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service
- A registered store may hold up to 250kg Net Explosive Content of fireworks, which is equivalent to 1000kg. gross weight
- Any storage in excess of 250kg Net Explosive Content will require a storage licence
- What does 'Net Explosive Content' mean?-It is the total weight of explosive contained within the firework- NOT the weight of the actual firework or fireworks
- Anybody applying for a licence or registration must be a fit person. Where enforcement action on safety or supply grounds has been previously taken against an applicant the application may be refused.
- Only store up to category 3, hazard type 4 fireworks
- You must carry out a fire risk assessment, checking that premises and storage methods used are appropriate. Where five or more people are employed the findings must be recorded.
- The amount of fireworks that may be kept within the sales area of a shop relates directly to the size of the sales area:

Small shop
Sales area < 20m²
12.5kg

Medium shop
Sales area <20 but < 100m²
30kg

Large shop
Sales area >500m²
75kg

- Metal dustbins must not be used to store fireworks.
- If your shop contains or adjoins domestic premises you must not store more than 75kg Net Explosives Content and you may need to take additional measure to protect residents.



OTHER FIREWORK STORAGE SAFETY TIPS

The following sections outlines the things that you need to do to make sure that you keep your premises and staff safe, whilst you have explosives on your premises.

- Ensure adequate security provision is made to prevent unauthorised access to the fireworks.
- Fireworks should be kept clear of sources of ignition e.g. matches and cigarettes lighters and separated from other highly flammable materials.
- Don't store fireworks in passageways, or under stairs.
- Keep entrances and exits clear at all times to enable access in case of emergency.
- Keep a water-type fire extinguisher handy at all times.
- Disconnect any electrical fittings within a storage cabinet.
- Don't store fireworks on open shelves, counters or in the shop window.
- Ensure that you and all your staff know what to do if there is a fire. If you or somebody else suspects a fire, get everybody out of the shop and phone the fire service immediately.
- As soon as a Fire Officer arrives tell them that fireworks are involved and explain how and where the fireworks are stored.
- Label all containers "Fireworks - Highly Flammable" and always keep these containers closed or sealed.
- Display "No Smoking" notices, and do NOT allow smoking near fireworks being sold, stored or displayed.
- Failure to comply with the requirements set out above will result in prosecution. You could be fined up to £5000 or receive a prison sentence of up to six months, or both.

WHAT TO EXPECT

This year Greater Manchester Police, Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service and your local Trading Standards Authority will be rigorously enforcing the sale, storage and safety of fireworks across the region in order to help keep communities safe this firework season.

As a retailer you should expect the following:

- Close monitoring of all retail outlets.
- Inspections of any goods on sale.
- Inspections of storage facilities.
- Inspections of stored goods.
- Undercover underage sales checks.
- Undercover surveillance of suspicious retail outlets.
- Verification of legal restrictions.
- Investigation and prosecution of offenders.
- Complaints from the local community will be followed up by visits to local firework retailers in the area, to ensure that they are adhering to the Good Guy agreement.
- Swift action.
- A full and thorough investigation.
- Suspension notices served on unsafe fireworks.
- Detainment and/or seizure of goods.
- Request the production of any records.
- Seizure of any records to be used in evidence against you and/or your staff.
- Prosecution with fines of up to £5000 or a six-month prison sentence, or both.



Guy Fact:

It is now illegal to use fireworks between the hours of 11pm and 7am.

REGISTRATION AND LICENCES

The changes in the law relating to registration and licensing affects retailers nationally.

- You must register with Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service to sell fireworks on the following dates:

Bonfire Night Celebrations
15th October to 10th November

New Year Celebrations
6th December to 31st December

Diwali
19th October to 1st November

Chinese New Year Celebrations
26th January to 29th January

If you want to sell fireworks dates outside those stated above, in addition to the storage licence you MUST also hold a supply licence. You can apply for a supply licence from Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service but there is substantial cost involved. For more information about this please contact telephone number 01706 900155

The Fire and Rescue Authority will take enforcement action against unregistered and/or unlicensed storage. The Authority has the power to revoke both a registration and a licence at any time.

Guy Fact:



Throwing a firework in a street or public place is a criminal offence; you can be fined up to £5000 or sent to prison.

A GUIDE TO ILLEGAL FIREWORKS

Legislation has defined the following fireworks as illegal and you now cannot sell:

- Aerial shells, aerial maroons, shell-in-mortar and maroons in mortar
- Airbombs
- Bangers, including 'batteries' containing angers, such as Chinese Crackers
- Mini-rockets
- Fireworks with erratic flight e.g. ground spinners, jumping crackers and squibs
- Some category 2 and 3 fireworks (as classified by BS7114) that exceed the legal size limit

The following must not be sold to the general public:

- Category 3 fireworks that exceed noise levels (over 120 decibels)
- All category 4 fireworks (these are intended for professional use only)

If you have concerns that you have been supplied with any of the above, it is illegal to sell them and you should contact your local Trading Standards Service, who will assist you in disposing of them safely.

Failure to comply with the requirements of the above legislation will result in prosecution. You could be fined up to £5000 or receive a prison sentence of up to six months - or both.

Guy Fact:



Anyone found in possession of a category 4 firework can be arrested.

(PARTNER AGENCIES



If you have any questions or queries on the Good Guy Responsible Retailer scheme in your area:



Greater Manchester Fire Service
Tel: 0161 608 6040



Greater Manchester Police
Tel: 0161 872 5050

Rochdale Trading Standards Service
Tel: 01706 924165

Stockport Environmental Health and Trading Standards
Stopford House, Piccadilly, Stockport, SK1 3XE
Contact: 0161 474 4251

Tameside Trading Standards Service
Room 3.88 Council Offices, Wellington Road
Ashton Under Lyne, Tameside, OL16 6DL
Contact: 0161342 3482

Trafford Public Protection Service Trading Standards
Trafford Town Hall, Talbot Road, Stretford, M32 0YT
Contact: 0161 912 1377

Bolton Environmental Health and Trading Standards
West House, Bolton, BL3 2AR
Contact: 01204 336 586

Manchester City Council Trading Standards Service
1 Hammerstone Road, Gorton, Manchester, M18 8EQ
Contact: 0161 234 1587

Oldham Trading Standards Service and Licensing Section
North House, 130 Rochdale Road, Oldham, OL1 2JA
Contact: 0161 770 3470

Guy Fact:

Anyone under 18 found in possession of a firework can be arrested.

13

In an Emergency call 999

(THE FIREWORK CODE

- Buy fireworks that meet BS 7114 from a recommended retailer
- Always light sparklers one at a time and wear gloves to hold them
- Keep fireworks in a closed box
- Never give sparklers to a child under five
- Follow the specific instructions on each firework
- Keep pets indoors
- Light fireworks at arms length using a taper, never a naked flame
- Don't drink alcohol if lighting fireworks
- Stand well back
- Always supervise children around fireworks
- Never go back to a firework once it's lit
- Never put fireworks in your pocket
- Never throw fireworks



If you have any information on who is committing crime, call Crimestoppers. They offer a completely anonymous service. You will not be asked for your name. Calls are not recorded or traced. If your information leads to an arrest a small reward may be payable. The telephone number is freephone and will not appear on your bill (except for some mobile networks).

14