

This guide is intended to show employees what their employers should be doing if they sell fireworks to the public.

There is strict guidance on storing and selling fireworks and members should be aware of the requirements to enable them to protect themselves in the work place.

Employers who wish to sell fireworks need to do a risk assessment. This means thinking about what could go wrong and then what action you need to take to try to ensure that it doesn't. Usdaw reps should ask to see the risk assessment.



Retailers must either be registered or licensed to store fireworks and must have a 'license to sell' if they are going to sell fireworks outside the 'normal' selling periods.

The periods where selling fireworks without a sales licence is permitted are:

- Guy Fawkes, from 15th October and ending on 10th November;
- New Year, from 26th December and ending on the 31st December;
- Chinese New Year, the first day and the three days immediately preceding it and;
- On the day of Diwali and the three days immediately preceding it.

Employers must ensure that all fireworks in the shop sales area are kept in a suitable display or storage cabinet and must also;

- ensure all escape routes and fire exits are clear and fire exit doors unlocked.
- ensure that fire detection and alarm system (if they have one) is tested and working properly.
- ensure that everyone understands that the first priority is to ensure that staff and customers leave the shop as quickly and safely as possible.
- carefully consider and manage the amount of stock in the shop sales area.
- position transport containers well away from any neighbouring houses.



**Employers must not;**

- store or display fireworks anywhere near an escape route or fire exit.
- store an excessive amount either in the shop or in the stockroom.
- store more than you are allowed to store under your licence or registration.

It is illegal to sell adult fireworks or sparklers to anyone under 18 and for anyone under 18 to possess adult fireworks in a public place. Other types of firework (caps, cracker snaps, novelty matches, party poppers, serpents and throw downs) must not be sold to under-16 year olds.

*Usdaw members should follow their employer's instructions on age-restricted sales of fireworks and ask for proof of age for anyone they think is under 18 years old. Remember it is you who will be prosecuted if you are caught selling to under age persons.*

A large notice reminding customers about the law with regard to underage sales and possession must be displayed.

More information on firework safety can be found at;

<http://www.bis.gov.uk/assets/biscore/consumer-issues/docs/f/10-1043-fireworks-retailers-guide>