
Disposal Of Out of Date Pyrotechnics

Notice to all **Shipowners, Masters, Officers, Fishermen, Leisure Craft, Shipping Service Providers, Marinas, Harbourmasters, Life Saving Equipment Servicing Stations, Chandlers and Suppliers**

This notice supersedes MGN 256

<p style="text-align: center;">Summary</p>

<p>This Marine Guidance Note advises on disposal of out of date marine pyrotechnics</p>

NOTES:

- a) **It is an offence to fire distress-signal pyrotechnics on land, in harbour or at sea for either testing purposes, practice or as fireworks (whether the pyrotechnics are out of date or not).**
- b) **It is also an offence to dump pyrotechnics at sea.**
- c) **Out of date pyrotechnics should be landed ashore as soon as possible after the date of expiry for safe disposal.**

This advice note provides guidance on the various options available for the disposal of out of date pyrotechnics:

1. some pyrotechnic suppliers, or their agent(s), may have a collection and disposal scheme in place and may be able to accept your out of date pyrotechnics;
2. ask a liferaft service station if they are able to take your out of date pyrotechnics as these service stations deal with the disposal of expired pyrotechnics on a regular basis;
3. ask the port, harbour or marina where your vessel is berthed if it will accept out of date pyrotechnics for disposal (a charge may be made).

HM Coastguard accepts some out of date pyrotechnics for storage at Coastguard sites prior to disposal. However, Coastguard storage facilities can only accommodate small stocks of out of date pyrotechnics and not large commercial stocks. Therefore, it is only able to store its own out of date pyrotechnics, those from the RNLI and those received directly from non-regulated pleasure vessels and small independent fishing vessels. Commercial organisations should make their own arrangements either with specialist

hazardous waste disposal companies or contact the pyrotechnic manufacturer/supplier who may provide a disposal service.

Attention is drawn to the MCA leaflet: Port Waste Management Planning – A Guide to Good Practice, for further information.

Further Information

Further information on the contents of this Notice can be obtained from:

Search and Rescue Branch
Bay 1/07
Maritime and Coastguard Agency
Spring Place
105 Commercial Road
Southampton
SO15 1EG

Telephone: +44 (0) 23 8032 9332
Fax: +44 (0) 23 8032 9332
E-Mail: Roly.McKie@mcga.gov.uk

General Enquiries: 24 Hour Info Line
infoline@mcga.gov.uk
0870 600 6505

MCA Website Address: Internet: <http://www.mcga.gov.uk>

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