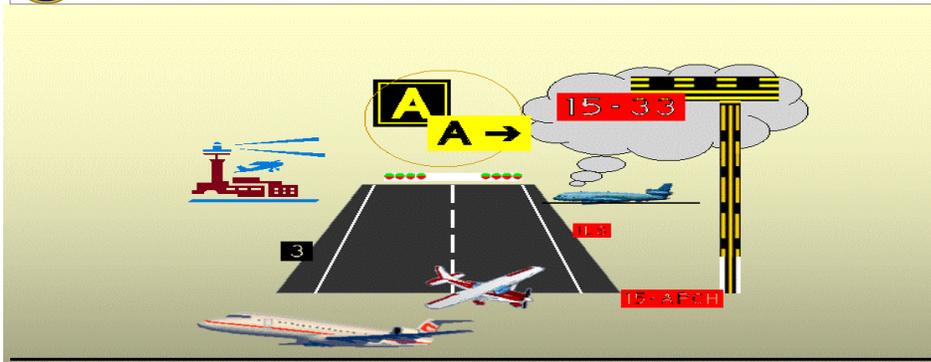




AIRPORT CERTIFICATION INFORMATION BULLETIN



Eastern Region
Federal Aviation Administration
Airports Division, AEA-620
Safety & Standards Branch
1 Aviation Plaza,
Jamaica NY 11434

AEA-07-11
04/28/2011

Bulletin: 2011-07
Subject: Pyrotechnics and Firearms Used for Wildlife Control
Issue Date: April 28, 2011
Revised Date:

Prepared by: Jayme Patrick, Airport Certification Safety Inspector
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Application: This bulletin is being sent to Part 139 Airport Certificate holders

Background: This bulletin is informational only and relates to safety concerns and regulatory requirements for pyrotechnics and firearms used for wildlife control. For all further inquiries we recommend you contact your [nearest ATF field office](#).

Pyrotechnics

The distribution, receipt, and storage of pyrotechnics used for wildlife control at airports is regulated by the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, and Firearms (ATF). The ATF recently clarified to the FAA that the distribution to and receipt of explosives by municipal airports or their explosives contractors and subcontractors are exempt from explosives licensing requirements. Reference letter to Mr. Brian Rushforth, FAA Manager Airport Safety and Operations Division, dated December 22, 2010.

Privately held airports must comply with licensing requirements in order to receive (ie, purchase) pyrotechnics.

ALL airports must comply with pyrotechnics storage requirements. The following information is provided on the ATF's website regarding storage requirements:

Licensees and permittees must store explosive pest control devices (EPCDs) in compliance with 27 CFR, Subpart K - Storage. Pest control devices containing flash powder are classified as high explosives and must be stored within Type-1 or Type-2 magazines. Licensees or permittees who desire to store high explosive pest control devices, packed in their original Department of Transportation-approved shipping

containers, in a Type-4 magazine, may submit a [request for a variance](#) from regulations to the Explosives Industry Programs Branch. (If they are removed from the containers, they must be stored as high explosives within Type-1 or Type-2 magazines.)

See the [ATF Explosive Pest Control Devices](#) website for further information, and contact the [nearest ATF field office](#) if assistance is needed.

Pyrotechnics Safety

Ensure the safety of pyrotechnics users by establishing safety protocols and training. Use of eye and ear protection is imperative, and pyrotechnics should never be fired from inside a vehicle. See [OSHA's Quick Card](#), Protect Yourself: Pest Control Pyrotechnics for further user safety information.

Also ensure safety on the Aircraft Operation Area when pyrotechnics are used. Training and operational procedures should be developed to address protection of aircraft and people and prevention of airfield (grass) fires. For Part 139 airports, these topics would be in addition to those required for the annual 8-hour wildlife hazard management training classes for airport personnel.

Firearms

The distribution, receipt, and storage of firearms is regulated by state and local municipalities. Lethal wildlife management is an important and effective method for many airports to integrate into their wildlife hazard management programs. Airports should consider purchasing firearms for lethal wildlife control programs to reduce potential safety and security issues associated with the use of employees personal firearms. Contact the office of your state Attorney General, the State Police, or other State/local law enforcement authorities for further guidance on regulations and requirements.

Some airports with lethal wildlife control programs need to have firearms and pyrotechnics available for use when operating a vehicle on the Airport Operation Area. Gun mounts and racks for use in vehicles are commercially available and may be appropriate. Airports may need to request variances, exemptions, or waivers from state and local municipalities in order to use gun mounts in vehicles restricted to the Airport Operation Area. Contact the office of your state Attorney General, the State Police, or other State/local law enforcement authorities for further guidance. As a reminder, State or Federal depredation permits are necessary for the lethal control of hazardous species. Special depredation permits must be obtained for the harassment or removal of State or Federal protected threatened and endangered species or eagles.

Links:

ATF Request for Variance procedures:

<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/how-request-variances-exemptions-and-determinations>

ATF Explosive Pest Control Devices:

<https://www.atf.gov/explosives/explosives-pest-control-device-requirements>



ATF Field Divisions:

<http://www.atf.gov/contact/atf-field-divisions/>

OSHA Quick Card, Protect Yourself: Pest Control Pyrotechnics:

<http://www.osha.gov/Publications/3313-02N-07-english-06-27-2007.html>

Attachment 1: ATF, December 22, 2010 letter to FAA