



County of Fairfax, Virginia

To protect and enrich the quality of life for the people, neighborhoods and diverse communities of Fairfax County

DATE: May 15, 2008

TO: All Architects, Builders, Developers, Engineers, Contractors and Surveyors
Practicing in Fairfax County

SUBJECT: Changes to the *Code of the County of Fairfax, Virginia* Related to Fireworks

TITLE: Fireworks

On April 29, 2008, revisions to Chapter 62 (Fire Protection) of the Fairfax County Code with regard to fireworks became effective. The changes to the code provide increased protection to the general public by strengthening the Fire Marshal's role in the regulation of fireworks in Fairfax County.

Background: The Fire Prevention Division of the Fairfax County Fire and Rescue Department enforces the *Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code* and the *Code of the County of Fairfax*. With respect to consumer fireworks, the county must also comply with the regulation of the Consumer Product Safety Commission. The Commission requires that all consumer fireworks be tested and certified by an approved, independent third party testing agency to determine if the fireworks meet acceptability standards which will allow for sale and use by the general public. Fairfax County uses the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory (AFSL) nationally recognized standards with specific testing criteria that meet the acceptability standards of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Business process changes: The proposed amendment to Section 3301.1.2, "Permissible fireworks," removes reference to outdated specific test standards. In addition, the language now clarifies that a minor must be accompanied by a parent or a legal guardian to purchase fireworks.

The proposed amendment to Section 3308.12, "Approval of permissible fireworks," requiring that any person engaged in the sale of wholesale fireworks must submit a list of the fireworks to the County Fire Marshal, increases the time available for review and approval from 90 days to 120 days, and gives the Fire Marshal sole approval authority based upon nationally recognized testing standards.

Questions may be directed to the Fire Prevention Division at 703-246-4753, TTY 711.

Sincerely,

Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker
Fire Prevention Division

Proudly Protecting and
Serving Our Community

Fire and Rescue Department
Fire Prevention Division
10700 Page Avenue
Fairfax, Virginia 22030
703-246-4800
www.fairfaxcounty.gov/fire

