



# County of Fairfax, Virginia

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

**DATE:** January 31, 2011

**TO:** Fireworks Wholesalers

**FROM:** Fairfax County Office of the Fire Marshal

**SUBJECT:** Wholesale Fireworks – General Requirements

This letter serves as a reminder to prospective fireworks wholesalers about the requirements for selling permissible fireworks to any retailer located in Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna, Virginia. This letter does not address retail sale of permissible fireworks, aerial fireworks displays outdoors, or proximate audience pyrotechnic displays indoors.

## Permit Required

In accordance with Section 3308.2.3 of the Fire Prevention Code (as amended by Fairfax County), any person, firm, or corporation desiring to sell or supply permissible fireworks to any fireworks retailer must first obtain a Fire Prevention Code Permit (FPCP) from the County Fire Marshal. This permit shall be valid only for the period June 1 to July 15 of a single year. The permit fee is \$600.

## Wholesaler

Section 3302.1 of the Fire Prevention Code (as amended by Fairfax County) defines "Wholesaler" as any person, firm or corporation offering fireworks for sale or selling fireworks to a retailer. Such term also includes a manufacturer of fireworks, a representative of any such manufacturer, a distributor, a jobber and a middleman of any description dealing in fireworks, any of whom shall sell or offer to sell fireworks to a retailer within the County.

## Insurance Required

An FPCP shall be issued only after the permit applicant files with the Fire Marshal a certificate of insurance which shows that the applicant has liability insurance in the amount of at least \$5,000,000 combined single limit for bodily injury and property damage. This insurance policy shall become available for the payment of any damage arising from the acts or omissions of the applicant, his agents or his employees in connection with the activities authorized by the permit. The applicant shall ensure that the insurance policy is in effect at the time of the commencement of the activities authorized by the permit, and remains continuously in effect until such activities are completed.

## Records

Section 3308.11.3 of the Fire Prevention Code (as amended by Fairfax County) requires that each wholesaler shall maintain full and complete records of all purchases and sales of fireworks. The County Fire Marshal or his designated agent is authorized to examine the books and records of any wholesaler as they relate to the purchases and sales of fireworks within the County.



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Approval of Permissible Fireworks

The approved permissible fireworks list contains a complete inventory of permissible fireworks approved by the Fairfax County Fire Marshal for sales in the County. This list may be retrieved from our website.

**WARNING:** No wholesaler shall sell or deliver in Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna any fireworks other than those so approved by the Fire Marshal. Thank you for your cooperation in this process.

**Important Note:** A wholesale fireworks permit does not apply to retail sales of approved permissible fireworks. Any person, firm or corporation desiring to sell, offer for sale, or expose for sale any amount of approved permissible fireworks in a retail setting such as an approved fireworks stand or mercantile occupancy located within Fairfax County and the towns of Clifton, Herndon, and Vienna must first obtain a Fire Prevention Code Permit (FPCP) from the Fire Marshal. See more detailed information about the retail sale of approved permissible fireworks in the code compliance guideline *Retail Sales of Permissible Fireworks* on our website.

Any questions regarding this permit requirement, the permit application process, or the approval process for permissible fireworks; please feel free to contact us at **703-246-4849**.

Thank you for your attention to these important fire prevention and life safety issues.

Sincerely,

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Deputy Chief Dereck A. Baker  
Office of the Fire Marshal  
Fairfax County Fire & Rescue Department

