

NATURAL RESOURCES CANADA

Program: Explosives

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The Explosives Act is an Act respecting the manufacture, testing, acquisition, possession, sale, storage, transportation, importation, exportation and the use of fireworks. The Act gives authority to the Governor in Council to make regulations generally for carrying the purposes or provisions of this Act into effect, such as prescribing any thing that is to be included or not to be included in the definition “explosive”, exempting any explosive from the application of this Act or the regulations or any provision of this Act or the regulations, and regulating the importation, exportation and shipments in transit of explosives.

Natural Resources Canada’s (NRCAN) Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD) controls the type and quantity of explosives that may be imported into Canada, exported from Canada, and transported in transit through Canada.

Other than, the exemptions listed below, all imports, exports and in transit movements of explosives require an Explosives Import/Export/in Transit Permit issued by NRCAN Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD)

Samples going to the Canadian Explosives Research Laboratory (CanmetCERL) for testing are exempt.

Types of permits

Two types of permits are available through ERD:

- Annual Import, Export, In-Transit Permit
 - The Annual Permit is valid for unlimited shipments during a 12-month period. For importations imports, the quantity in any one consignment is restricted by the storage requirements as prescribed in the Explosives Regulations, by licensed storage capacity, or as allowed by the permit. An Annual Permit can be amended at no cost after it has been issued.
- Single Use Import, Export, In-Transit Permit
 - The Single Use Permit is valid for a single import, export, or shipment in-transit during a 12-month period. The quantity is as allowed by the permit. Once a Single Use Permit has been issued, no amendments are allowed.

Personal exemptions

Certain types and quantities of explosives (see table below) can be imported, exported or transported in transit without a permit if the following conditions are met:

- the explosive is imported, exported, or transported in transit for personal use and not for commercial purposes;
- the explosive enters or leaves Canada with the person importing or exporting it—or, if transported in transit, it remains with the person transporting it at all times;
- in the case of small arms cartridges, the cartridges do not include a tracer, incendiary or similar military component or device; and
- the quantity of the explosive being imported, exported and transported in transit is not more than the quantity set out in the table.

The table below (from the [Explosives Regulations, 2013](#)) shows the types and quantities of explosives that can be imported, exported or transported in transit without a permit if the above conditions are met.

Explosives Type	Quantity
Model rocket motors that each have a maximum total impulse of 80 newton-seconds (NFPA alpha designations A to E, as indicated on the motor or its packaging)	6
Avalanche airbag systems	3
Small arms cartridges	5,000
Percussion caps (primers) for small arms cartridges	5,000

Empty primed small arms cartridge cases	5,000
Black powder and hazard category PE 1 black powder substitutes	8 kg in containers of 500 g or less
Smokeless powder and hazard category PE 3 black powder substitutes	8 kg in containers of 4 kg or less

Notes:

- Blank cartridges are small arms cartridges
- Inert / dummy articles and substances (empty of all explosives) are not regulated under the Explosives Act
- Individuals 18 years of age and over may claim the above exemptions.
- The word “and” in the Quantity column of the above table, is used to denote that an importer, exporter, or person shipping in transit may import, export, ship in transit any or all of the explosives in the table in a single shipment. The word “and” does not feature in the Explosives Regulations but is added here for clarification purposes
- Fireworks (such as pistol caps, firecrackers, pyrotechnics smoke signals, etc.) require a permit; see section on Importation, Exportation, and Transportation in Transit of Fireworks
- “Commercial purposes” means goods imported into Canada for sale or any commercial, industrial, occupational, institutional or other like use

Automotive Explosives Exemptions

- Automotive explosives—such as pyrotechnic seat belt pre-tensioners and modules containing pyrotechnic inflators (i.e. airbags)—that the competent authority of the country of origin has classified as Class 9 under the UN Model Regulations on the Transport of Dangerous Goods are exempt from requiring an Import, Export or In-Transit permit, whether in their original packaging or not.
- Automotive explosives that are classified as Class 1 require an import, export, or in transit permit.
- The importer, exporter, or freight forwarder should contact the manufacturer in order to ascertain the classification of the automotive explosives.

Other Exempted Explosives

- Explosives diluted to less than 1% by weight, including diluted explosives used as reagents (for example, 1H-tetrazole), training kits for sniffer dogs and kits to test the functioning of machines that detect trace levels of explosives.
- Christmas crackers containing less than 2 mg of an explosive substance.
- Life-saving devices (for example, signals, flares and parachute release devices) that are being carried in an aircraft, train, vessel or vehicle as equipment that is necessary for its safe operation or for the safety of its occupants.

Note:

Pyrotechnic distress signals and life-saving devices are for the use in the same aircraft, vessel, train or vehicles (already part of its safety equipment). If they are imported, exported, or transported in transit for future installation / use in other aircraft, vessel, train or vehicle they need a permit.

Harmonized System (HS) Codes

List of HS codes applicable to goods that may be regulated by Natural Resources Canada (Explosives Program):

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/prog/sw-gu/regcom-marreg/nrc-rnc-eng.html>

Data Element Rationales

The following data element rationales provide additional information of the specific data element requirements required under the Single Window Initiative.

Permit Type	Used to differentiate different business rules to be applied for three different permit types (Annual, Single Use and Single Use Tour, Event or International Competition); This is a coded identifier to determine the type of the PGA document (LPCO) being attached to this IID.
Permit Number	This is currently shown on paper permits that must be presented at the border. This field is necessary to identify the Import Permit being used to bring the explosives products into Canada. Any explosives products being imported must be listed on the Explosives Import Permit.
Permit Holder Name	This is currently shown on paper permits that must be presented at the border. This field helps ensure that the correct permit is provided by validating this field with the permit holder name in the system.
Authorized Product Identifier	The Authorized Product Identifier assigned by NRCAN to the product may be provided here to simplify the reporting process. If this field is not provided, SG119.NAD must be populated with the "Person who obtained product authorization" and SG117.IMD must contain the "Authorized Product Name". The Authorized Product Identifier provided in this field must be on the list of authorized products listed on the import permit referenced by this commodity line.
Authorized Product Name	This is currently shown on paper permits that must be presented at the border.
Commodity Type	A product, in an IID with Explosives Import Permit at Declaration level, if not regulated by the Explosives Program can be identified by providing the following code: "Not regulated by Explosives Program". If this field is omitted, all products in an IID with Explosives Import Permit specified at Declaration level will be assumed to be regulated by Explosives program.
Person Who Obtained Product Authorization	This is currently shown on paper permits that must be presented at the border. This field is conditional and only needs to be provided if a Product ID is not being used to identify the product. Without a Product ID, this field (along with Product Name) is necessary to identify a product in the IID to match with the products permitted on the Import Permit. The "Person who obtained product authorization" and Product Name are not required if the Product Id is provided. This data element is not an additional data element but provides an alternate spot in the IID to provide the same data value as described in #3.
UNDG	This is currently shown on paper permits that must be presented at the border.
Commodity Count	This is currently shown on Single Use paper permits that must be presented at the border.
Quantity Unit Count / Unit of Measure	This is currently shown on Single Use paper permits that must be presented at the border.
Country of Origin	This field is Optional and not Mandatory.

Electronic Commerce Client Requirements Document (ECCRD)

The following table provides the specific rules and conditions associated to each of the data elements for NRCAN declarations. The data elements are: Mandatory (M), Conditional (C) or Optional (O).

Data element name	PGA element definition	Data element status	Data element rules and conditions
Document Type (Permit)	Permit Type	C	<p>The coded identifier of the Explosives importation permit being used for this importation must be provided. Permits provided here must be applicable to all commodities on this declaration except for those commodity line(s) which specify Commodity Type "Not regulated by Explosives Program". Refer to data element "Commodity Type" for details. If not applicable to all commodities, please provide the permit at the commodity line level. No more than one Explosives Permit can be provided at the Declaration Level.</p> <p>One of the following applicable permit types must be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Explosives Permit (Code 3001) • Single Use Explosives Permit (Code 3002) • Single Use Explosives Permit - Tour, Event or International Competition (Code 3003) <p>Note: No commodity can have an Explosives Permit at both the Declaration and Commodity Line Level.</p>
Document Reference Number	Permit Number	C	If a declaration-level permit is being used, the permit number of the Explosives importation permit being used for this declaration must be provided in this field.
Permit Applicant	Permit Holder Name	C	If a declaration-level permit is being used, the name of the person who obtained the Explosives importation permit must be provided in this field.
Commodity Identifier (Product ID)	Authorized Product Identifier	M	<p>The Authorized Product Identifier assigned by NRCAN to the product must be provided here.</p> <p>The Authorized Product Identifier provided in this field must be on the list of authorized products listed on the import permit referenced by this commodity line.</p>
Intended Use	Commodity Type	C	<p>A product, in an IID with Explosives Import Permit at Declaration level, if not regulated by the Explosives Program can be identified by providing the following code:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Not regulated by Explosives Program <p>If this field is omitted, all products in an IID with Explosives Import Permit specified at Declaration level will be assumed to be regulated by Explosives program.</p>

Commodity Identifier (UNDG)	UNDG	M	<p>The United Nations Dangerous Good Code corresponding to this commodity line being imported must be provided here for all explosive products.</p> <p>If the commodity has the UNDG number assigned as Not Class on an import permit then enter -1.</p>
Commodity Size (Weight)	Commodity Count	C	<p>The amount of this commodity line may be provided in this field. This amount must be measured in one of the following units:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Net Explosives Quantity (NEQ) in kilograms and defined in the ER-2013 Explosives regulations located at http://www.gazette.gc.ca/rp-pr/p2/2013/2013-12-18/html/sor-dors211-eng.php • Gross kilograms <p>Depending on the unit of measure chosen, the following measured attribute qualifier (for element MEA.6313) and UOM qualifier (for element MEA.6411) must be used.</p> <p>Refer to Appendix B for Measured Attribute Qualifiers and OUM qualifier.</p> <p>If this field is not applicable to provide the quantity, SG117.CNT must be used to provide the count (see row below).</p>
Commodity Unit Count	Quantity Unit Count / Unit of Measure	C	<p>The number of individual articles of this commodity line may be provided in this field, using the following unit of measure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Number of Articles (NAR) such as # of cartridges, percussion caps, igniters, detonators, pieces <p>If this field is not applicable to provide the quantity, SG117.MEA must be used to provide the amount (see row above).</p>
Commodity Country of Origin	Country of Origin	O	<p>The country in which the goods have been grown, produced or manufactured, according to the criteria laid down for the application of the Customs tariff or quantitative restrictions or any measure related to trade.</p> <p>A country code as per section G24 can be provided for the country of origin for this commodity if different than the one listed in the associated SG104.LOC segment.</p>

Document Type (Permit)	Permit Type	C	<p>The coded identifier of the Explosives importation permit being used for this importation must be provided. Permits provided here must be applicable to the commodity line associated with this permit. One of the following applicable permit types must be provided:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Explosives Permit (Code 3001) • Single Use Explosives Permit (Code 3002) • Single Use Explosives Permit - Tour, Event or International Competition (Code 3003) <p>No more than one Explosives Permit can be provided at the Commodity Line Level. Further, no commodity can have an Explosives Permit at both the Declaration and Commodity Line Level.</p>
Document Reference Number	Permit Number	C	If a commodity line level permit is being used, the permit number of the Explosives importation permit being used must be provided in this field.
Permit Applicant	Permit Holder Name	C	If a commodity line level permit is being used, the name of the person who obtained the Explosives importation permit must be provided in this field.

Additional resources

[Regulated Commodities](#)

[Reference Code Tables](#)

Legislation:

Additional information is available under [Explosives Act](#) and [Explosives Regulations, 2013](#).

Customs Memoranda:

Import, Export and in Transit Requirements of the Explosives Act and Regulations Memorandum D19-6-1

<https://www.cbsa-asfc.gc.ca/publications/dm-md/d19/d19-6-1-eng.html>

Appendix A: Field, Location, Format and Description details

Field	Location	Format	Description
Party Name (line 1)	C080.3036.4	an..70	Person who obtained product authorization
Party Name (line 2)	C080.3036.5	an..70	Use for an additional 70 characters if required
Party Name (line 3)	C080.3036.6	an..70	Use for an additional 70 characters if required

Appendix B: Measured Attribute Qualifiers and OUM qualifier

Measuring Method	Measured Attribute Qualifier (MEA.6313)	International Unite of Measure Qualifier (MEA.6411)
Net Explosives Quantity	AAF (net net weight)	KGM (kilogram)
Gross Kilograms	AAB (gross weight)	KGM (kilogram)

Contact Livingston

Have questions or need help with your SWI imports?

Contact your Livingston client services representative.

Write to us at: clientserviceCanada@livingstonintl.com or give us a call at **1-855-225-5544**.