



OFFICE OF THE FIRE MARSHAL City of Galveston Fire Department

2517 Ball Street, Ste. 203

Galveston, Texas 77550

Phone (409) 797-3870

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EXPLOSIVES REGULATIONS

I. BONDS REQUIRED –

- A. A surety bond or public liability insurance policy for \$1,000,000 (one million dollars) will be required for all permits issued involving explosives.
- B. **THE CITY OF GALVESTON SHALL BE NAMED AS AN ADDITIONAL INSURED under the liability insurance policy.**
- C. Bonds and Insurance policies shall be approved by the City of Galveston Risk Manager.

II. PROHIBITIONS – (The Fire Marshal may limit the quantity of explosives by weight, volume, class, containers, packages, magazines, etc. to be delivered at one time to an approved explosive terminal.)

- A. To use, transport, store or handle explosives between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
- B. To transport explosives over the causeway between the hours of 6:00 AM to 9:00 AM and 4:00 PM to 6:00 PM.
- C. To use explosives without first obtaining a specific use permit from the City of Galveston.
- D. Loading or unloading explosives in excess of 300,000 lbs. total weight.

III. OPERATING A TERMINAL – To **OPERATE** a terminal for the handling, loading or unloading of explosives or blasting agents.

- A. **PERMIT REQUIRED (\$150.00)** (Required documents listed below)
 - Provide copy of Certificate of Insurance or Surety Bond for Vessel and Permittee (see “Bonds Required”).
 - Provide copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
 - Provide copies of:
 1. ‘Bill of Laden’
 2. ‘Hazardous Cargo Manifest’
 3. ‘Hazardous Goods declaration’
 4. ‘USCG Permit to Handle Hazardous Materials’
- B. Terminals **shall be in compliance with Table 3304.5.2(2)**, as stated in the 2000 International Fire Code, with regard to distances away from any buildings, highways, or public transportation. This shall include piers and wharves (with or without structures) where crews are handling cargo other than explosives.
- C. A 24-hour notice is required for operation of an explosive terminal.
- D. There shall be adequate access to the terminal for emergency vehicles.
- E. There shall be no combustible storage (lumber, pallets, flammable liquids, etc.) located on the same dock or terminal with explosives.
- F. “NO SMOKING” signs shall be placed every 75 feet along the terminal.
- G. Adequate security shall be maintained to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the terminal.

- H. A crew of four (4) off-duty firefighters shall be hired as a 'fire watch'. It shall be the responsibility of the terminal operator to pay \$25.00 per hour for each firefighter with a four (4) hour minimum. Changes and/or cancellations made within 24 hours of proposed shipment shall result in all fees and 'fire watch' wages to be paid in full.
- I. The driver shall remain with the vehicle at all times. When delivering explosives, the driver and vehicle may **NOT** leave the loading terminal until the cargo is secured on the deck of the vessel, bed of a railcar, or in an approved magazine. When taking delivery of explosives, the driver shall not leave the terminal until directed by the Fire Marshal.
- J. The loading and unloading of explosives shall be handled in the manner herein described as "last on" and "first off".
- K. Packaging or storage of explosives prior to shipment or upon delivery while on Galveston Island will not be permitted. (Exception: re-packaging and storage may be permitted as a result of an inspection or the original packaging is not in compliance with regulatory standards.

IV. **TRANSPORT** – To **TRANSPORT** explosives or blasting agents:

- A. **ANNUAL PERMIT REQUIRED (\$150.00)** (Required documents listed below)
 - Provide current copy of DOT Certificate of Registration.
 - Provide current copy of Certificate of Insurance or Surety Bond. (See "Bonds Required")
- B. **A 24-hours notice shall be required for the transportation of explosives.**
- C. All explosives or blasting agents shall be transported in approved magazines or packaging.
- D. All storage magazines and/or containers shall be padlocked to prevent theft of explosives or blasting agents.
- E. The driver shall remain with the vehicle at all times. When delivering explosives, the driver and vehicle may **NOT** leave the loading terminal until the cargo is secured on the deck of the vessel, bed of a railcar, or in an approved magazine. When taking delivery of explosives, the driver shall not leave the terminal until directed by the Fire Marshal.
- F. **An escort by a Fire Marshal shall be required** for delivery to Galveston, or for receiving explosives or blasting agents, when such is transported along designated streets or highways.
- G. The cost of the Fire Marshal escort shall be the responsibility of the carrier. A fee of \$25.00 per hour (with a four (4) hour minimum) will be assessed and is payable in cash upon receipt or delivery of the cargo.
- H. **Vehicles shall be inspected by the Fire Marshal** on the mainland side of the causeway at a site designated by the Fire Marshal for delivery to Galveston or prior to taking delivery of any explosives for shipment off the island. The Fire Marshal shall check for code violations listed below, but not limited to:
 1. 10-pound ABC portable fire extinguisher
 2. Electric wires insulated and securely fastened.
 3. Motor, chassis, and body shall be reasonably clean of excessive oil and grease.
 4. Fuel tank(s) securely fastened.
 5. Brakes, lights, horns, windshield wipers, and steering mechanisms functioning properly.
 6. Tires properly inflated and free of defects.
 7. Spark producing tools, etc. shall be adequately secured.
 8. Appropriate DOT signage.
 9. Appropriate 'Bill of Laden' and 'MSDS' for the explosive cargo.
 10. Driver must possess a current CDL and must have completed a HazMat course within the last 24 months.
- I. **The Fire Marshal may limit the quantity of explosives** by weight, volume, class, containers, packages, magazines, etc. to be delivered at one time to an approved explosive terminal.

V. **USE OF EXPLOSIVES** – To **USE** explosives or blasting agents

- A. **PERMIT REQUIRED (\$150.00)** (Required documents listed below)
 - 1. Provide copy of state and federal technician's license.
 - 2. Provide copy of Certificate of Insurance or Surety Bond (see "Bonds Required")
 - 3. Provide copies of the Material Safety Data Sheets (MSDS).
- B. Person who are at least 21 years of age and who possess the appropriate state and federal licenses shall perform the handling and firing of explosives.
- C. No smoking or open flames will be permitted in the vicinity of the explosives.
- D. A safe perimeter shall be established and approved by the Fire Marshal. The perimeter shall be sized according to the amount of explosives and anticipated debris field.
- E. Adequate security to prevent unauthorized persons from entering the explosive site shall be provided at all times.
- F. Empty boxes, paper, and fiber packing materials used to store explosives shall be destroyed in an approved manner.
- G. All surplus explosives shall be safeguarded during firings.
- H. Storage of explosives shall not be permitted on Galveston Island except while explosives are being used.
- I. Signs warning against the use of mobile radios shall be placed within 350 feet of the blasting operations.
- J. A series of loud warning signals shall be sounded prior to firing.
- K. All blasting operations shall be suspended during the approach of threatening weather.
- L. All use of explosives shall cease one-half hour prior to darkness.

VI. EXCEPTIONS – Others may be determined by the Fire Marshal

- A. Bland industrial power load cartridges.
- B. Special industrial devices which in the aggregates contain less than 50 lbs. of explosive material and rated 1.3 or 1.4.
- C. Explosives used in conjunction with the Bureau of Mines.
- D. Explosives used in conjunction with military operations. This does not include those materials handled or transported by non-military concerns.

VII. FOR INQUIRIES OR QUESTIONS

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