



National Fireworks Association

NFA NEWS

- February 2017 -

NFA Mission Statement

The mission of the NFA is to work diligently to ensure that the Fireworks Industry is regulated in a fair and sensible manner. We promote Safety within the industry and to the Consumers that use our products. The NFA was established to serve the members no matter whether a company or an individual. The NFA promotes the Safe Use of Fireworks in all sections of the industry.

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NFA Happenings

Updates on various happenings:

1. MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Thank you to everyone that has returned your membership renewals quickly! As you realize by now, the second notices were sent out on February 2nd and due no later than March 1st, 2017. After March 1st you will be assessed a late fee penalty and none of us want to pay more, so please be sure that your payment is postmarked no later than March 1st. The late fees are as follows: if you were prorated the price will revert to full yearly payment for your payment level, \$395, \$200 or \$50.00. Late Full Voting will go to \$495.00, Associates will go to \$250.00 and Friends of Fireworks will go to \$75.00. There will be no exceptions to the rule. Additionally, those of you who had InfoTrac, (Emergency Road Service) through the NFA, the service will be discontinued as of March 1st if your membership dues are not current.

Please note, after April 1st you will no longer receive the NFA newsletter publications if your membership is no longer current.

If you are a full voting member and your membership is not current, you would be ineligible to vote in the election this year.

2. Election Notice

April 1, 2017 nominations for President and Secretary will be mailed out. You will have until the end of May to nominate the candidates of your choice that you feel would best serve in these positions. The candidate you select must be a full voting member of the NFA and accept the nomination. Only Full Voting members may participate in the voting process.


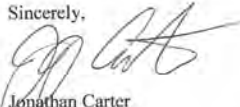
3. 2017 NFA Expo Registration Forms

April 1st, 2017 at 12:01AM Eastern Standard Time the forms will go on line and be ready for you to begin the registration process for Erie, PA! BE SURE TO BE UP AND READY TO REGISTER OR HAVE SOMEONE DO IT FOR YOU! We had filled the demo schedules by 8:00AM in 2016. It is a first come first serve reserved schedule. If you snooze you lose!

We are currently in one of my favorite times of the year. During membership renewals I receive calls from many of you and catch up on what has been going on in recent months. During the NFA Expo my nose is to the grindstone and I seldom have time to visit. It is good to hear from you!

I hope everyone's shipments have or are received on time and that your Seasons will not only be prosperous but safe. And last but not least, I hope that all of you will all be able to attend the NFA Expo this year. It is a lovely site!

Nancy Blogin
Executive Director

 U.S. Department of Transportation Federal Aviation Administration	Office of Security and Hazardous Materials Safety	800 Independence Ave. SW Washington, DC 20591
December 28, 2016		
Ms. Nancy Blogin National Council of Firework Safety 8224 Northwest Bradford Court Kansas City, Missouri 64151		
Dear Ms. Blogin:		
Thank you for your cooperative efforts with our Security and Hazardous Materials field office in St. Louis. We appreciate your assistance in providing the FAA "Fireworks Don't Fly" posters to your retail locations throughout the country.		
When companies like yours partner with the FAA on public outreach, it increases the reach of safety communication exponentially. This cooperative effort also allows the FAA to better use its resources system-wide. Again, thank you for your assistance with aviation safety.		
Sincerely,  Jonathan Carter Deputy Director Office of Hazardous Materials Safety Federal Aviation Administration		
Enclosures		

Letter from the FAA

Wild Willy's Fireworks

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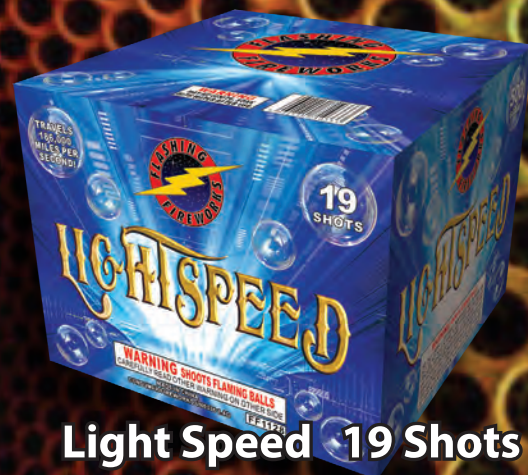
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The 115th Congress is now in session...Now what?

Mark Anderson, PGA NFA's Washington Representative

The new Congress met on January 3rd, 2017. New members of Congress and United States Senators have been seated and new committee chairmen have been appointed. Now it is time to get to work.

There are fifty-three new members of the House and seven new Senators. This means that there are sixty new opportunities to visit with staff and talk about what the NFA is all about and the issues that are important to its members. This is one of the reasons why you have a team in Washington, DC, looking out for the NFA's interests.

There are at least six Congressional committees that the NFA will monitor and develop relationships with during the next two years. In the House, the key committees are the Energy and Commerce Committee, the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, and the Homeland Security Committee. In the Senate those committees are the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee, the Environment and Public Works Committee, and the Homeland Security and Government Affairs Committee. In addition to these committees, the NFA will also maintain its core relationships with both House and Senate Leadership and their staff. Relationships are important in Congress and creating and maintaining "friends" will be one of the goals over the next two years.

Two congressional committees have oversight of the Consumer Product Safety Commission (CPSC), an organization that the NFA must carefully watch. As was demonstrated in late 2016, the CPSC has an opinion about the fireworks industry that does not necessarily jive with what NFA members believe. In 2017, the NFA will work hard to try and have the Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) withdrawn. Initial efforts will focus on the House Energy and Commerce Committee, chaired by Congressman Greg Walden (OR) and the Senate Commerce, Science, and Transportation Committee, chaired by Senator John Thune (SD). Through education it is our hope that one or both committees will reach out to the CPSC and encourage them to go back to the drawing board by withdrawing this NPRM.

The mood in Washington is that of excitement, euphoria, and skepticism. Expectations are high and will need to be managed to ensure that disappointment does not rule the day. Your Washington team will execute what the NFA Board believes is best for the membership and we look forward to working together in 2017.

Should you have any questions about what is happening in our Nation's Capital, feel free to contact me at (202) 342-8840 or via email at manderson@kelleydrye.com.

Happy New Year!

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GUSTAVUS A. LILLIENDAHL

AN ORIGINATOR OF THE AMERICAN FIREWORKS INDUSTRY

- By Bob Kellner

Gustavus Adolphus Lilliendahl was born to German immigrant parents in 1829 in New York City. His father, Christian Lilliendahl, had a store on William Street in lower Manhattan and was an importer of toys, a dealer in fireworks and a manufacturer of items made from whale bones. Evidentially, at his father's store, Gustavus must have developed his love of fireworks at a young age. According to a U.S. Gazette news article from 1836, the son of C. Lilliendahl of New York City was described as "an irritable little fellow" quite distraught when an unmarked box of fireworks, that was being delivered to him, exploded without warning after being dropped by the delivery man. This incident, no doubt, left an impression on Gustavus since years later, Lilliendahl's advertising displayed prominently that his fireworks were "Free from Spontaneous Combustion"

that his fireworks were "Free from Spontaneous Combustion"

In 1853, G.A. Lilliendahl & Company started manufacturing "Excelsior Brand" fireworks at Bergen Point in Greenville, New Jersey (now a part of Jersey City). Soon, Gustavus's brother-in-law, Jacob J Detwiller (1834-1910), a recent immigrant from Switzerland, joined him in the company. They performed many pyrotechnic exhibitions featuring hundreds of color and salute signal rockets, parachutes,

pinwheels, Bengal fires and intricate set pieces. The Lilliendahl Company also specialized in Torpedoes. Torpedoes were a very popular noise maker and considered to be a much safer alternative to the fuse-lit (and usually hand-held) firecrackers of the time. Gustavus patented Torpedo enveloping machines and Torpedo filling machines, creating and mass producing a very consistent product. Always the innovator, Lilliendahl even patented a "Fire Balloon", a precursor to today's Sky Lanterns.

On September 1, 1858, Mrs. Martha Coston, the widow of the former head of the United States Navy Pyrotechnics Laboratory, was intently watching a fireworks display. She was not alone. She was with thousands of other spectators watching the Fireworks Grand Finale of New York City's "Great International Cable Jubilee" celebrating the completion of the laying of the first telegraph cable between the United States and Europe. While there were several magnificent displays throughout the Jubilee, the display performed by The Lilliendahl Company peaked her interest with their fireworks rockets featuring headings of a color that she'd never seen before in Fireworks, Blue. Shortly after the Jubilee,

Mrs. Coston wrote to Gustavus, asking if he could create a Blue flare for her. According to "A Woman with Flare" by C. Kay Larson, a little over a week later, Mrs. Coston received a sample, compliments of Mr. Lilliendahl, thus starting a very successful pyrotechnic partnership. It seems that at the time of his death, Ms. Coston's husband had been starting to develop a night time signaling device for communicating codes between ships denoting letters and numbers. Upon his sudden death, Mrs. Coston had continued her husband's work and refined bright powerful Red pyrotechnic flares and White pyrotechnic flares. However, the Coston signaling device required a third color, and now she had it. In 1859, Martha Coston patented "Pyrotechnic Night Signals". According to "Let Her Have Brains Too", Mrs. Coston quickly got the Lilliendahl Company to mass produce the signals and together they sold over 1 Million signals to the US Navy during the Civil War. Coston's Telegraphic Night Signal's continued to be an important requirement on ships until the advent of marine radios in the 1930s.

According to "The Whale Hunters of Pultneyville" by Lillian Roemer, in 1862, Gustavus had formed a partnership with Thomas Welcome Roys, a whaleboat captain. Their plan was to hunt whales in the North Atlantic and process the oil and bone at a plant that they established on the east coast of Iceland. The Pyrotechnician and the Whaler soon patented "Improvements in Rocket Harpoons". These Whaling Rockets could launch a 7 foot long 30 pound harpoon with a 10 pound salute over 100 feet from a ship. The Rocket Harpoon was advertised to "Fasten to and kill instantly whales of every species". However, keeping powder dry in the North Atlantic seemed to be a problem and, by 1868, the partnership had dissolved.

In 1887, Jacob Detwiller and Charles Street (a salesman at Lilliendahl) incorporated "Detwiller Street & Co.", the predecessor to the Lilliendahl Company. Detwiller & Street continued to exhibit and sell the popular Excelsior Brand Fireworks until they became part of Unexcelled Manufacturing Company in 1914.

Gustavus A. Lilliendahl died December 4, 1907 in Saltillo (Coahuila) Mexico, where his sons had formed The Mazapil Copper Company and The Coahuila & Pacific Railroad.



Photos courtesy of Frederic C. Detwiller

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Musings by Jack Leonard

The Carbide Can Caper

When my dad was a kid back in the 1920s, fireworks were available in stores and on stands only once a year around the Fourth. If

a young Pennsylvania lad needed a pyro fix at any other time of the year, he could do one of two things. He could order from a national distributor like Unexcelled and have the items shipped right to his home. Or he could devise another way to create a soothing report without having to pay shipping charges from a far away company.

Most boys chose the second option and made what they called “carbide cans.” Doing so was cheap and easy, and it began with a trip to the local hardware store for a one pound can of calcium carbide which was commonly used as a fuel in miners’ lanterns and cost mere pennies. Once this was acquired, the search was on for an old gallon paint can with a friction lid that could be tightly attached. This can would then have a hole drilled into its bottom and it was ready for action. A teaspoon of carbide was dumped into the can and topped with a healthy wad of spit. The lid was then quickly placed on the can to prevent any loss of acetylene gas that was generated by the expectoration and the carbide. The firer would then place the can on its side, brace it with his foot, and apply a match to the touch-hole on the bottom. BOOM! A burst of flame, a flying lid, and a huge ball of fire. What more could a boy ask for in life?

From my earliest days, my dad spoke of making carbide cans and how he wanted me to see how they worked. The opportunity presented itself during the summer of 1959 when, upon browsing in the local military surplus store, we found cans of carbide on the shelf. Boy, it did not take long for my father to buy a can and head home to show his son how real boys made real noise.

But wait.....readers of this column know that my dad had an unbelievable fear of using any fireworks lest a policeman, disguised as a tree, might be hiding in our yard and just waiting to spy on any pyrotechnic activity. Firing up the carbide can did not worry him as he could not imagine that such an activity would be considered using fireworks. So the fun was about to begin!

Upon arriving home we discovered that there was nary an empty paint can in the garage. We were, however, able to find an old 5 gallon lard can that my grandmother used to store Christmas cookies. Dad said that this would do just fine and proceeded to drill a hole in its bottom. Then he was ready to demonstrate his prowess as pyro engineer by firing up what he referred to as “Old Betsy.” A large scoop of carbide as the can was large, a healthy glob of spit that he proudly drew from deep inside him, and a lid hastily fastened to the top. The can was on its side, a match was struck and applied to the touch hole, and then..... KA-BOOM! What a report and what a ball of flame that surged up by dad’s arm and singed his hair. Unfortunately, he had forgotten to place his foot on the can to steady it, and the explosion up righted the can and directed the flame right at my father who yelled “Wow!” and ran to get the garden hose for water to cool off his arm. I stood there saying nothing until he said, “OK. You can laugh now.” And we both stood there holding our sides and roaring.



A year or two after my father’s death in 1983, I learned that lighting a mixture of carbide and water was indeed considered using fireworks under Maryland law as was using the small cast iron cannons so popular in other areas. I’m glad my dad never knew that his carbide can was illegal. If he had, I’d have never been able to witness one of the funnier episodes of my young life.

ARLINGTON CEMETERY

SUBMITTED BY MARV KOHLER

Jeopardy Question:

On Jeopardy the other night, the final question was:

"How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns".

All three contestants missed it!

This is really an awesome sight to watch if you've never had the chance. Very fascinating.

Tomb of the Unknown Soldier

1. How many steps does the guard take during his walk across the tomb of the Unknowns and why? 21 steps.

It alludes to the twenty-one gun salute which is the highest honor given any military or foreign dignitary.

2. How long does he hesitate after his about face to begin his return walk and why?

21 seconds, for the same reason as answer number 1.

3. Why are his gloves wet?

His gloves are moistened to prevent his losing his grip on the rifle.

4. Does he carry his rifle on the same shoulder all the time and, if not, why not?

He carries the rifle on the shoulder away from the tomb. After his march across the path, he executes an about face and moves the rifle to the outside shoulder.

5. How often are the guards changed?

Guards are changed every thirty minutes, twenty-four hours a day, 365 days a year.

6. What are the physical traits of the guard limited to?

For a person to apply for guard duty at the tomb, he must be between 5' 10' and 6' 2' tall and his waist size cannot exceed 30.

They must commit 2 years of life to guard the tomb, live in a barracks under the tomb, and cannot drink any alcohol on or off duty for the rest of their lives. They cannot swear in public for the rest of their lives and cannot disgrace the uniform or the tomb in any way.

After two years, the guard is given a wreath pin that is worn on their lapel signifying they served as guard of the tomb. There are only 400 presently worn. The guard must obey these rules for the rest of their lives or give up the wreath pin.

The shoes are specially made with very thick soles to keep the heat and cold from their feet. There are metal heel plates that extend to the top of the shoe in order to make the loud click as they come to a halt.

There are no wrinkles, folds or lint on the uniform. Guards dress for duty in front of a full-length mirror. The first six months of duty a guard cannot talk to anyone nor watch TV.

All off duty time is spent studying the 175 notable people laid to rest in Arlington National Cemetery. A guard must memorize who they are and

where they are interred. Among the notables are:

President Taft,

Joe Lewis {the boxer},

Medal of Honor winner Audie L. Murphy, the most decorated soldier of WWII and of Hollywood fame.

Every guard spends five hours a day getting his uniforms ready for guard duty..

ETERNAL REST GRANT THEM O LORD AND LET PERPETUAL LIGHT SHINE UPON THEM.

In 2003 as Hurricane Isabelle was approaching Washington, DC, our US Senate/House took 2 days off with anticipation of the storm. On the ABC evening news, it was reported that because of the dangers from the hurricane, the military members assigned the duty of guarding the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier were given permission to suspend the assignment. They respectfully declined the offer, "No way, Sir!" Soaked to the skin, marching in the pelting rain of a tropical storm, they said that guarding the Tomb was not just an assignment, it was the highest honor that can be afforded to a service person. The tomb has been patrolled continuously, 24/7, since 1930. God Bless and keep them.

We can be very proud of our young men and women in the service no matter where they serve.

God Bless America!

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What's New in 2016!

- Waldameer Park/Water World Kid's Zone
- Lake Erie Ale Trail (11 breweries!)
- Erie Playhouse 100th Season
- Courtyard Erie Bayfront Hotel
- Downtown Perry Square Renovation
- Aqua Cycles at Presque Isle
- Indoor Trampoline/Adventure Park
- Hagen History Center



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DOT Regulatory Corner

New Shipping Paper Requirements

by Tom Dunaway Tom Dunaway & Associates, Inc.



PHMSA has deleted the packing group from the 172.101 table and now requires it be eliminated from shipping papers for fireworks and other explosives.

Attached is a letter I sent to PHMSA requesting interpretation on their stance on the new requirement followed by their letter of response.

MY LETTER REQUESTING INTERPRETATION:

Office of Hazardous Materials Standards
PHMSA

Attn: PHH-10

U.S. DOT, East Building

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE

Washington, DC 20590-0001

Subject: Request for Interpretation.

I am requesting an interpretation on the following question

The final rule issued in HM Docket 218 H dated June 2, 2016 eliminated all references to class 1 materials in the table 172.101. Also section 172.202(a)(4) exempts class 1 materials from the requirement of entering the PG group on shipping papers.

Sections 173.62(a) requires all packages for class 1 to be tested at the PG II level.

Most companies that ship explosives have for years had pre-printed shipping papers that have the PG column filled in. We understand that in accordance with the provisions of 172.202(a)(4) that the PG II is not required on shipping papers but the question that arises is if a shipper places PG II on the shipping paper is it now a violation, even though 173.62(a) does require those packages to be tested at the PG II level.

Thank you for your replay

Tom Dunaway

President

Tom Dunaway and Associates, Inc.

PHMSA RESPONSE:



U.S. Department
of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous
Materials Safety
Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue, SE
Washington, DC 20590

JAN 04 2016

Mr. Tom Dunaway
President
Tom Dunaway and Associates, Inc.
502 Big Creek Drive
Delta, AL 46258

Reference No. 16-0182

Dear Mr. Dunaway:

This letter is in response to your November 3, 2016, email requesting clarification of the Hazardous Materials Regulations (HMR; 49 CFR Parts 171-180) applicable to the use of pre-printed shipping papers and recent changes to the Hazardous Materials Table (HMT). Specifically, you reference a final rule published by the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) on June 2, 2016, titled *Hazardous Materials: Miscellaneous Amendments (RRR)* [HM-218H; 81 FR 35483]. In this final rule, PHMSA revised certain HMT entries, including the removal of the packing group (PG) II designation for certain explosives. As discussed in the preamble of this rulemaking, this amendment was intended to alleviate confusion and frustration of shipments, as well as align with international regulations.

You indicate in your email that you currently ship explosives using pre-printed shipping papers that list the PG II designation in the basic description although it was removed in the HM-218H Final Rule. Specifically, you ask if you may continue to use these pre-printed shipping papers.

The answer is yes. In accordance with § 172.101(i)(1)(ii), when a change is made to the HMT, a shipper may continue to use pre-printed shipping papers until the supply is depleted or for a one-year period, subsequent to the effective date of a regulatory change to the HMT. As the effective date of the HM-218H Final Rule was July 5, 2016, the pre-printed shipping papers may be used until they are depleted or through July 5, 2017, whichever comes first. However, after July 5, 2017, a shipping paper may no longer display the PG II designation for those HMT entries changed in HM-218H.

Please note that absence of a PG designation in the HMT, and subsequently the shipping paper, does not affect United Nations (UN) packaging requirements. In your scenario, packaging for an explosive must still meet PG II specification requirements, unless otherwise noted, in accordance with § 173.60(a). Furthermore, while no longer listed on the shipping paper, the PG standard to which the package was tested will be communicated on the UN package.

I hope this information is helpful. Please contact us if we can be of further assistance.

Sincerely,

Dirk Der Kinderen
Chief, Standards Development Branch
Standards and Rulemaking Division

In Short shipping papers that still have the PGII for any class 1 item is OK until July 5, 2017 but after that date it will be a violation to have PGII associated with any class 1 item. What companies should do is eliminate the PGII from its shipping paper now so you will be in compliance when it becomes mandatory on July 5, 2017.

Be very careful as this does not eliminate the requirement for all fireworks to be packed in a PG II tested UN spec package. 173.60 is the section that dictates that all class 1 materials be packed in a package that has been tested as a UN Specification of PG II. You just can't have PG II on your shipping paper anymore.

Remember to sign up now for the NFA HM training that will be conducted at the next EXPO. We must know how many regulations to order.



National Fireworks Association

c/o Nancy Blogin

8224 NE Bradford CT Kansas City MO 64151

2017 ADVERTISING RATES IN THE NFA NEWSLETTER

1/4 PAGE - \$75

1/4 PAGE Back Cover- \$125

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These rates **DO NOT APPLY** to the Annual NFA EXPO Guide.

Articles for the next issue are needed by **March 11, 2017.**

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