

EXPLOSIVES HAZARDS

Fact Sheet No 8: Security of Explosives

In general, most explosives are attractive to terrorists and criminals. Consequently the acquisition and keeping of explosives is subject to strict regulatory control by the Health and Safety Executive and the Police.

With the exception of certain types of explosives (primarily fireworks), anyone who wishes to acquire and or keep explosives is required to have a Control of Explosives Regulations 1991 Explosives Certificate.

The key requirements to prevent the loss of explosives that require an Explosives Certificate are:

Building Security:

Explosives must only be stored in licensed buildings, or locations, that meet the required standards for physical security and intruder detection.

Explosives in the course of manufacture or processing on a site must not be left insecure and unsupervised. During short breaks when process buildings may be left unattended (meal breaks, etc), the building must be secured.

Records:

Records must be maintained for each building or location where explosives are manufactured, stored, stored, destroyed, tested, etc., which identifies the explosive, the quantity of explosive, and the date of receipt or transfer and where the explosives came from or went to.

Reporting of Losses:

Any loss of explosives must be reported immediately.

Access to Explosives:

Only authorised (security vetted) persons are allowed to have access to explosives. Unauthorised persons who are in a position to have access to explosives must be supervised at all times.

Transfers of Explosives:

The transfer of explosives to an off site location, must only to persons holding appropriate statutory authorisations to acquire or keep explosives.

Compliance with these requirements is essential to the prevention of loss of explosives.