

NFPA[®]

1124

**Code for the Manufacture,
Transportation, and Storage
of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic
Articles**

2017



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ISBN: 978-145591423-4 (Print)
ISBN: 978-145591424-1 (PDF)

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NFPA®1124

Code for the

Manufacture, Transportation, and Storage of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles

2017 Edition

This edition of NFPA 1124, *Code for the Manufacture, Transportation, and Storage of Fireworks and Pyrotechnic Articles*, was prepared by the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics. It was issued by the Standards Council on May 13, 2016, with an effective date of June 2, 2016, and supersedes all previous editions.

This edition of NFPA 1124 was approved as an American National Standard on June 2, 2016.

Origin and Development of NFPA 1124

NFPA 44A was originally developed by the Technical Committee on Explosives of the NFPA Correlating Committee on Chemicals and Explosives. It was adopted as a Tentative Code at the 1972 NFPA Annual Meeting. It was further revised and officially adopted at the 1973 NFPA Annual Meeting. A revised edition was adopted in 1974.

In 1980, the Technical Committee on Explosives and the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics voted to transfer responsibility for NFPA 44A to the Committee on Pyrotechnics. The Correlating Committee on Chemicals and Explosives concurred and petitioned the NFPA Standards Council to effect the change. The Standards Council approved the change in June 1981.

The 1984 edition of NFPA 1124 was the result of a complete review of the 1974 edition of NFPA 44A by the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics, including the redesignation of the document as NFPA 1124 for consistency with the designations for other documents relating to pyrotechnics.

The 1988 edition of NFPA 1124 was the result of a thorough review of and partial revision to the 1984 edition of NFPA 1124 by the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics, including reference updating and incorporation of the latest separation distances as approved by the Institute of Makers of Explosives in May 1983. It included new provisions for salute manufacturing and storage of salute powder.

The 1995 edition of NFPA 1124 included partial amendments to the document and editorial revisions, improving its ability to be used, adopted, and enforced and making it compliant with the *NFPA Manual of Style*. The committee incorporated the latest separation distances as approved by the Institute of Makers of Explosives in June 1991. The committee also updated the definitions of fireworks to be consistent with the new terminology used in the U.S. Department of Transportation regulations that incorporated the United Nations shipping designations for fireworks (explosives).

For the 1998 edition, the requirements for fireworks laboratories were clarified by the addition of a definition and clarification of the storage and separation distances appropriate for them. The committee added an appendix that extracted language from the American Pyrotechnics Association Standard 87-1 to provide users with the approved definitions used in the Federal Regulations for fireworks, novelties, and theatrical pyrotechnics.

In 1999, the NFPA Board of Directors revised its policy in order to permit the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics to develop provisions for the retail sales and storage of consumer fireworks, subject to Standards Council oversight. At the same time, the Board reaffirmed its support of the Model Fireworks Law, which, since 1938, prohibited use of consumer fireworks.

Although NFPA's Public Education position has continued to advocate against any use of consumer fireworks, it is believed that in the interest of public safety, NFPA standards for the retail sales and storage of consumer fireworks should be available in those jurisdictions where such sales are permitted.

As a result of the Board of Directors decision, the 2003 edition incorporated new provisions dealing with the distribution and retail sales of consumer fireworks. The code then addressed the fire and life safety requirements for construction, siting and separation distances, and storage and display layout for both permanent and temporary consumer fireworks retail sales facilities. It contained a completely revised Chapter 6 on distribution facilities and a new Chapter 7 on consumer fireworks retail sales facilities. The code was also revised to reflect the NFPA *Manual of Style* for technical committee documents.

The 2006 edition featured a reorganization of Chapter 7, which brought the requirements for consumer fireworks retail sales (CFRS) facilities, stores, and tents and stands into separate, comprehensive sections. The code also added a requirement that all consumer fireworks undergo third-party testing and certification. In addition, the committee revised definitions to make them consistent with NFPA 1123, *Code for Fireworks Display*.

The 2013 edition included updated definitions that correlated with updates to extracted text and complied with the *Manual of Style for NFPA Technical Committee Documents*. As a result of a 2008 research project conducted by the Fire Protection Research Foundation, the committee incorporated several changes to both consumer fireworks storage and retail sales facility requirements (Chapters 6 and 7, respectively). The research results provided a more technically sound basis for requirements on threshold quantities of pyrotechnic composition within venues covered by the code and threshold facility sizes establishing requirements for automatic sprinkler protection. Coordinating with several other committees, the Technical Committee on Pyrotechnics established egress capacity requirements for both storage and retail sales facilities. The code also contained improved requirements for protective features — flame breaks and covered fuses — by referencing newly developed fire test standards.

The 2017 edition has removed all provisions dealing with the distribution and retail sales of consumer fireworks as a result of Standards Council Decision #14-1. These requirements were primarily located in Chapters 6 and 7; therefore, those chapters have been deleted in their entirety. Consumer fireworks storage requirements in manufacturing facilities have been relocated to Chapter 5.

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