

SF-23-14



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January 23, 2023

Mayor Dan Carter
City of Oshawa
50 Centre St. S
Oshawa, ON
L1H 3Z7

Delivered electronically to: clerks@oshawa.ca

Re: Oshawa Fireworks - Item: SF-23-01

Dear Mayor Carter and Members of Council,

As the leading national voice in the fireworks industry, the Canadian National Fireworks Association (CNFA) advocates for our members in our mission to promote fair access and safety in the sale and use of fireworks through public education, advocacy with regulators as well as strong and engaged member compliance.

I read with interest the decision on item SF-23-01 on fireworks in Oshawa, alongside the decision made for staff to prepare a report for early Q2. I will begin by pointing out that over 4,000 consumer fireworks are listed as approved products by the Government of Canada's Explosives Regulatory Division (ERD) and are fully legal to sell (in physical stores or online) and discharge across Canada.

For consumer or F1 (defined as being low hazard and negligible noise level) fireworks to be approved to be imported into the country, the manufacturer must comply with a list of stringent requirements listed in the ERD's Guidelines for Authorization of Consumer and Display Fireworks.

Every firework product destined for Canada is tested for decibel levels and must fall within the federal requirements prior to being approved for sale. The ERD has established safe decibel levels that are accepted under their guidelines and the industry adheres to those strict requirements.

Strong standards are in place for chemical compositions when manufacturing fireworks. The ERD has created a list of approved chemicals that manufacturers can use to build products. There is also a list of chemicals determined unsafe that are not approved. These lists are composed with the input of Health Canada.

The CNFA has published papers the use of fireworks and direction towards solutions. The industry takes these matters seriously and we work with our stakeholders to continuously improve our products, education, and awareness predicated around safety.

We believe that 99% of the public using fireworks want to use them safely and with respect and in consideration of their neighbours. Where we all need to improve is getting the message to the consumer and this is a principal focus for the CNFA.

The CNFA has established two online courses that are available to anyone working in the industry and to fireworks enthusiasts. Our **Vendor Certification and Employee Training** courses are available online and educate the retailer and their staff teams on how to properly store, sell and discharge consumer fireworks. Our goal is that anyone working in the retail industry would need to be certified before being allowed to sell fireworks. The content in our courses is comprehensive and an 80% mark on the exam is required. There is no cost to take the course.

Our second initiative is the **Be A Good Neighbour program** and was developed for the consumer to educate themselves on the federal safety requirements. It is the law to include this pamphlet with every sale and the BAGN information also includes local by-law regulations. The content is currently available in three languages.

I want to thank Council for taking the time to address fireworks in Oshawa and we ask that staff engage our industry when developing their report as part of or separate from the public consultation process. We have worked with many municipalities across the country in requiring education as an additional tool for more enforcement and welcome the opportunity to work with officials in Oshawa.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Aleem Kanji". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Aleem" and last name "Kanji" clearly distinguishable.

Aleem Kanji
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CC:

Members of Council

Tracy Adams, CAO

Derrick Clark, Fire Chief