

A Guide to the Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (MSER) 2005 & associated legislation



BASC in association with ACPO Firearms & Explosives Licensing Working Group

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1. What are the regulations?

The Manufacture and Storage of Explosives Regulations (MSER) 2005 and an Approved Code of Practice/Guidance (ACoP) are the principal documents that set new requirements for the storage of explosive powders, including those used for muzzle loading guns, historical re-enactment and ammunition reloading. The purpose of the new regulations is to combine and update very old explosives legislation such as the Explosives Act 1875 to modern health and safety standards.

What is an ACoP? Approved Codes of Practices (ACoP's) are documents, which give advice on how to comply with the law; they represent good practice and have a special legal status. If a person with a duty to act on the requirements of an ACoP was prosecuted for a breach of health and safety law and it was proved that they had not followed the ACoP, a court would find them at fault unless they could show that they have complied with the law in some other way. Following the advice in an ACoP is usually enough to comply with the law.

2. What are "Shooters' Powders"?

"Shooters' Powder" is a term used within MSER 2005, which now encompasses ALL powders readily available for home loading such as black powder, other potassium nitrate based powders, black powder substitutes such as Pyrodex and nitro-cellulose based propellants, both granular and in pellets.

3. Do you need an Explosives Certificate?

Black powder irrespective of its intended use can only be purchased with an explosives certificate and an RCA document (*See section 6*)

An explosives certificate is not needed for the purchase of Nitro-cellulose based powders. However you will usually be asked to produce a valid shotgun or firearm certificate to the seller before they will release powder to you. This is not law but sensible advice to ensure powders are only acquired by bona fide users.

4. How to apply for an Explosives Certificate for black powder.

You will need to use form COER1A available from your local police licensing department. Explosive certificates are available in "Acquire Only" or "Acquire and Keep" format for explosives in connection with a persons' own firearms or shotguns or for possession of powders for re-enactment. Form COER1A is also available from the BASC website (www.basc.org.uk) within the Firearms Department pages or by emailing explosives@basc.org.uk

You will need to specify the amount of powder to be acquired at any one time and the UN classification of black powders i.e. UN 0027 & UN 0028. Usually, users will only require 3 or so kilograms but, you will not be restricted to the amount you have specified as an "Acquire and Keep" certificate will allow a maximum of 15 kg to be acquired if no other explosives are kept.

If you apply for an “*Acquire Only*” certificate (often used by historical re-enactors) you will need to show where you intend to return your explosives when you have finished using them or what measures you will take to dispose of powders as the certificate does not allow you to store. Most re-enactment groups will have a designated explosives officer who will issue powder for the day’s activities and will take back any unused powder at the end of the day.

“*Acquire and Keep*” certificates (applicable to muzzle loading shooters and those who load cartridges) allow the storage of black powder in addition to acquisition. It is advisable for you to have the correct storage measures in place prior to a visit from your local police explosives liaison officer. i.e. a suitable wooden partitioned box (*See Annex C*).

A list of your local explosives liaison officers can be found on the HSE website:

www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/elo.htm

5. How much do Explosive Certificates cost?

Explosives certificates are FREE to those who wish to acquire limited amounts of black powder for use in connection with their firearms and/or shotguns. The limited amounts are found in Section 10 below.

6. What is an RCA document?

RCA stands for "Recipient Competent Authority", and you may need this document if you have an explosives certificate. RCA documents are issued to the persons who take physical possession of the explosives (the consignee) and those who are involved in the transfer of explosives. The RCA document is the approval for all transfers of explosives that the consignee is legally entitled to acquire or keep. In most cases it will be valid for the life of your explosives certificate issued by the police.

Ensure that you produce/have sight of a valid RCA document or certified copy when selling/purchasing explosives. When moving your own explosives the RCA document or certified copy must be kept with the explosives.

Home loading of small arms ammunition

If you load or reload sporting ammunition for your own use, you do not require an RCA document in respect any of the components of that ammunition (including black powder) where you acquire and transport it to the place you will make up the ammunition. However, buyers or sellers of bulk components will need an RCA document (*See next item below*).

Sales of ammunition and bulk components i.e. shooters powders, caps & primers etc.

Registered Firearms Dealers RCA documents will be issued to the same expiry date of your dealer’s certificate and any storage licence or registration held. Those only selling (by way of trade or business) shotgun ammunition or other explosive products that do not require an explosives certificate, the RCA will continue to be open and not time limited unless the seller has a storage registration or licence. RCA documents are free and available from the HSE (contact details below).

Re-enactment and “acquire only” certificates

You do not need an RCA document if you have an “acquire only” explosives certificate for re-enactment purposes and do not take explosives off the site at which they are issued for use.

Overseas visitors

Overseas visitors acquiring explosives on a re-enactment display site or for the purpose of home-loading for sporting or other recreational purposes will not require an RCA document, but if they are involved with transfer of explosives for any other reason they will require an RCA document.

Retaining RCA documents

The Regulations require that you to keep RCA documents for a period of 3 years from the completion of the transfer.

Applying for an RCA document

RCA Documents are FREE. To apply for your RCA document, post/fax/email a copy of your explosives certificate and an indication of whether this is your first RCA application to the address below. **DO NOT SEND YOUR ORIGINAL CERTIFICATE**

The Explosives Inspectorate
Health & Safety Executive
1.2 Redgrave Court
Merton Road
Bootle
Merseyside
L20 7HS
Tel: 0151 951 3775 Fax: 0151 951 3891
Email: explosives.licensing@hse.gsi.gov.uk

7. Storage of Black Powder.

All dangerous substances are classified by a United Nations system. Explosives are categorised as Class 1. MSER allocates “Hazard Types” to all explosives categorised as UN Class 1. Hazard types range from 1 to 4, and those types are generally defined by the behaviour of the explosive when it functions during any process of manufacture and storage.

Black powder is classed as Hazard Type 1. All Hazard 1 material has a separation distance* applied when stored. Schedule 2 of MSER (pages 137-148 of the ACoP) lists separation distances to be applied to the stored explosive, dependant on the type and quantity.

** Separation distances are used to keep explosive stores away from other buildings. It is a complex system designed for safety.*

Note: Separation distance does NOT apply to hazard type 1 powder if ACoP paragraphs 410-420 are applied i.e. if they are stored in a suitable wooden, partitioned box (*See Annex C*). Powder should also be stored in their original supplied containers/packaging and with no greater than 550 grams per container (approx 1 ¼ lb). A temporary exemption does exist for 1kg (non metal) containers until manufacturers and suppliers change their packaging, see Part (b) in the miscellaneous section on Page 8.

8. Storing Nitro-cellulose based powders.

Nitro-cellulose propellants are usually hazard type 3. No separation distance applies for stores of powder less than 25kg*. A home loader does not need to comply with the ACoP paragraphs 410 - 420 i.e. does not have to store nitro-cellulose propellants in a partitioned wooden box so long as he is storing LESS than 25Kg.

** However your premises must be registered with the police for storage of nitro powder over 5 kg as per the amounts listed below in sections 10 & 11.*

9. Mixed Storage Nitro-cellulose based powders with black powder and other propellants

The regulations state - *Where explosives of different hazard types are in one store, the explosives shall be treated as belonging to the greater hazard type requiring the greatest separation distance for the total quantity of those explosives and the separation distance shall be determined in relation to that total quantity.*

i.e. the storage together of hazard type 3 nitro powders with any black powder (a hazard type 1 explosive) would cause the nitro powders to be classed also as hazard type 1 and would have to be stored in line with the ACoP i.e. by use of the wooden box storage as described in Annex C.

If you store your black powder in a wooden box in one area of your premises and your nitro powder in another storage area/room separately from the black powder, this will be sufficient to negate the requirement to combine storage of both black (HT1) and nitro-cellulose based (HT3) powders in the wooden box.

10. What explosives may be stored without registering premises?

- One or more of the following:
- a. 10kg black powder; and
 - b. No more than 5kgs of one of the following options -
 - i. shooters' powder (black or nitro - powders)
 - ii. any explosive or combination of explosives listed in Schedule 1 of COER 1991. (*See Annex A*)
 - iii. a combination of shooters powder and any one or more of the explosives listed in schedule 1 of COER 1991. (*See Annex A*)
- and also
- c. 15kg net explosive content or one or other of the following, or a combination of them -
 - i. small arms ammunition
 - ii. primers for use in small arms ammunition or percussion caps or;

Note: whichever of the options in 'c' above you may select, the total explosive contents of the items must only ever add up to 15 kg. As a rule of thumb, .8 grain is usually used as the explosive content of primers and caps. If you are in doubt about the amount in particular primers, the manufacturer's data sheets or your supplier should have the information.

For those who will require to keep more than 5 kg of nitro-powders please see the note at the end of paragraph 8 above.

11. Registration of storage

If you store greater than the stated amounts above you will need to register the place where you store your explosives.

If you are only storing small arms ammunition, the application for registration and subsequent renewals are to be made to your local authority (usually the trading standards department or fire service in a Metropolitan Authority Area). The registrations will normally be for one year at a time. This also applies to Registered Firearms Dealers (RFD's) who sell **only** small arms ammunition and primers. There is no provision in MSER for a local authority to issue a registration to run co-terminously with the RFD certificate.

If one or more of the explosives to be stored requires an explosive certificate then the application for registration and subsequent renewals are to be made to the police. These registrations may be granted to run co-terminously with the explosives certificate (e.g. for a maximum of 5 years) When an application for registration is made to store **only** smokeless powder, the application is to the police. The registration may be granted for up to 5 years, as is any subsequent renewal. The new registration costs for 2009-10 are as follows:

<u>First registration</u>	<u>Renewal of storage registration</u>
One years duration £103	One years duration £51
Two years duration £134	Two years duration £82
Three years duration £164	Three years duration £113
Four years duration £195	Four years duration £144
Five years durations £226	Five years durations £175
Transfer of registration to another address	£34
Replacement of registration document if lost	£34

Note: As of 6th April 2009 the licensing authority may now transfer a registration to another address or person if required, unless the applicant is deemed not to be a fit person. Additionally the authority has the right to; refuse to register, refuse to renew, and; to vary or revoke a registration of premises if necessary. There is a right of appeal available for those aggrieved by decisions made by the licensing authority. For advice contact your local police Explosive Liaison Officer or BASC (explosives@basc.org.uk).

IMPORTANT!

Whilst explosives certificates for black powder are free for anyone with firearm, shotgun or registered firearms dealers (RFD) certificates. Shooters, re-enactors and dealers, who register their premises in order to store larger amounts of black powder, will have to pay a fee for their explosive certificate. In this case, once your premises are registered and you apply for an explosive certificate for black powder at the same time as making an application for a firearm, shotgun or RFD certificate it will cost £24. It will cost £15 for the renewal of your explosives certificate where the renewal of your firearm, shotgun or RFD certificate is submitted at the same time.

If you have already registered your premises and also have a firearm, shotgun or RFD certificate, but these are not being applied for at the same time, then the fee payable for your explosive certificate for black powder will be £43. The renewal of your explosive certificate in this case will cost £18

You will still need an RCA document for transfers of explosives (*See Section 6*).

A flow chart for the above fees is in Annex D

12. How much explosive may be stored once registered?

No more than one of the following;

- a. 30kg of any hazard explosive; or
- b. 100kg of hazard type 3 explosives; or
- c. 100kg of a combination of hazard type 3 explosives with explosives of hazard type 4; or
- d. 250kg of hazard type 4 explosives; or
- e. 250kg of small arms ammunition and percussion caps (net explosive content including primer content) and 30 kg of shooters' powder.

NB: ONLY ONE OF THE ABOVE CATEGORIES MAY BE ENACTED AT ANY ONE TIME. You may change categories to meet your requirements providing you are holding within the amount and type of explosive mentioned in one category at any one time. There is no need to notify anybody, you are responsible for ensuring you are within any one of the above categories until you have a need to change to another. Because of the Hazard Type, the keeping of black powder is only possible in options "a" and "e" above.

Specific security guidance for registered premises can be found on Page 9 (Para's 54 – 56) of the following document: www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/information/copcirc12005.pdf

13. Temporary site storage without registration (Game Fairs and re-enactment sites)

MSER allows the temporary storage of explosives for limited periods without any need for registration.

100kg of shooters powders (black powder and nitro powder) may be stored for a period of no longer than 3 consecutive days at the place of its intended use.

Separation distances will apply where over 100 grams of Hazard Type 1 powder (black) is stored or both Hazard Type 1 & 3 (black and nitro) powders are stored together and also to Hazard Type 3 (nitro powder) on its own above 25 kilograms. ACoP paragraphs 410 -420 would normally apply i.e. a wooden partitioned box (*See annex C*)

Small arms ammunition also benefits from a storage exemption providing no more than 250kg (net explosive content) of Hazard Type 4 ammunition is stored for a period of no longer than 3 consecutive days in their place of intended use.

Note 1: Only ammunition or powders can be kept at any one time i.e. no mixed explosives, similarly to how Section 12 works above. You may change categories to meet your requirements providing you are holding within the amount and type of explosive mentioned in one category at any one time.

Note 2: Where any black powder is being kept under the above, an explosive certificate will be required for the temporary storage site. You will need to apply to the police responsible for that area. The usual period for an application is not less than 21 days prior to the event.

Note 3: Consecutive days do not include Christmas Day, Good Friday or any other bank holidays as described in the Banking and Financial Dealings Act 1971.

14. The carriage of shooters powders and other explosives by road, rail & ferry

This section applies to the carriage of dangerous goods (which includes all shooters powders, primers and ammunition) by private individuals where the goods are packaged for retail sale and are intended for their personal or domestic use or for their leisure or sporting activities;

The Regulations governing the carriage of dangerous goods do not apply to the carriage of those dangerous goods by private individuals, in the circumstances where the net mass of explosive substance in the vehicle does not exceed:

- fireworks: 50kg;
- other explosives or a combination of fireworks and other explosives: 30kg.

The individual carrying the explosives (not the driver) must make sure that the explosives are carried without any significant risk to health and safety and that they are loaded, stowed, carried and unloaded safely and to take all reasonable steps to ensure the security of the explosives. If these conditions are not complied with, the carriage regulations apply.

A "vehicle" means any vehicle owned privately for domestic/pleasure use (a non-commercial vehicle).

Guidance on good practice drafted by representatives of the Police and the shooting sports, in conjunction with HSE about the carriage (by private individuals) of black powder & small arms ammunition for use in small arms is available from the following document link:

www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/pdf/blackp.pdf

Individuals who are considering the carriage of explosives on passenger trains, service buses and other fare paying transport.

Whilst the conditions in the carriage regulations do not make any additional requirements if the individual were to take their dangerous goods by means of public transport (in vehicles used to carry passengers for hire or reward) it is important to note that Conditions of Carriage and Byelaws prohibit explosives of any type being carried on the National rail network, including both surface and underground train systems. Similar Conditions of Carriage and Byelaws which either totally prohibit or have conditions for obtaining consent also exist for the other methods of public -

transport e.g. buses, taxi's etc. Similar schemes may be encountered on passenger ferries both vehicular and foot. It is ultimately up to the captain and master of a ship to decide whether or not to carry dangerous goods; however some service providers prohibit the movement of such goods by blanket policy. The carriage regulations do not override the Conditions and Byelaws of the operating companies of public transport. Always check the terms and conditions of travel before purchasing a ticket or proceeding to board the transport.

Carriage of firearms and ammunition on Roll on and Roll off ferries.

Annex 5 of the Marine Guidance Note 340(M) guides shipping lines to what may be permitted on Roll On/Roll Off ferries. Annex 5 does not cover shooters powders (black and nitro powder), though powders may be carried under strict requirements laid down by the International Maritime Dangerous Goods (IMDG) Code. For details about how to carry black and nitro powders please contact your chosen ferry company who will advise you as to the requirements, for example; the fee, if any, the handling details and packaging requirements along with details of how to obtain and complete a dangerous goods notification note.

MGN 340 (M) - <http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mgn340.pdf>

Annex 5 – Firearms and ammunition on Ro-Ro ships

The following only applies to private firearms and ammunition for sporting use and is given as guidance to shipping lines.

It should be noted that firearms are not classified as dangerous goods only the ammunition and as such is subject to the requirements of the IMDG Code.

However, the following guidance is given:

Users are strongly recommended to pre-book advising the operator that you intend to carry ammunition in order to determine any local requirements.

All firearms should be accompanied by a current valid Firearm, Shotgun or Registered Firearms Dealer's (RFD) certificate and these should be available for inspection by either the booking in staff or port security personnel. Certificate holders should be aware of their requirements for ensuring the secure storage of arms and ammunition, for example: Any shooting equipment should not be visible when carried in vehicles.

The shipping line is advised to inform their local port security department to ensure smooth passage of the passenger and firearms/ammunition through the port area.

Ammunition

A maximum of 1000 cartridges of UN Class 1.4S per vehicle, which should be carried in the original manufacturers packaging, is permitted per vehicle without documentation. Quantities in excess of this must be declared and carried according to the full provisions of the IMDG Code. (Note the requirement to use manufacturers packaging, other packaging may not be allowed. Check with the operator if they accept alternative forms of packing)

Ship and Port Security Managers

Your attention is drawn to Transec Maritime Security Circular No. 2/02 The Carriage of Firearms and Ammunition.

15. References

Manufacture & Storage of Explosives Regulations 2005 (ISBN 0-11-072764-9)

Also available from: www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si2005/20051082.htm

Manufacture & Storage of Explosives Approved Code of Practice & Guidance (ISBN 0-7176-2816-7)

These publications are obtainable from;

The Stationery Office (TSO)

P.O. Box 29

NORWICH

NR3 1GN

Phone: 0870-600-5522

Email: book.orders@tso.co.uk

Internet: www.tso.co.uk/bookshop

HSE Books

PO Box 1999

Sudbury, Suffolk

CO10 2WA

Tel: 01787-881165

Internet: www.hsebooks.co.uk

16. Additional reading

Additional Guidance on the -

storage of shooters powders: www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/shooterspolders.pdf

Guidance for re-enactors - The Health & Safety Executive (HSE) have issued guidance called 'Acquisition and use of Explosives by Historical Societies' ISBN 0-7176-1622-3, price £3.50, (or £7 for three copies) It's available from the HSE at PO Box 1999, Sudbury, Suffolk, CO10 6FS, Tel: 01787-881165 or Fax: 01787-313995. **Please note that this document was produced prior to MSER 2005 and a new version is due to be published in due course.**

Advice about the practical use of shooters powders on ranges and additional practices for muzzle loading arms can be obtained from the Muzzle Loaders Association of Great Britain's 'Code of Practice for Muzzle Loading Arms'. This document is available by contacting the MLAGB: www.mlagb.com

For additional information about explosives such as storage, transport, security, transfers and more go to the explosives section on the HSE website at www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/

17.

MISCELLANEOUS

a) Storage container size

The HSE recommends that all shooters powders should only be stored in containers holding less than 550 grams. However for the time being, until stocks are used up and replaced, some powders may only be available in 1kg containers. It is permitted to continue to store powder in these 1kg containers until manufacturers reduce the container size, the conditions in relation to the storage of black powder continue to apply, irrespective of container size i.e. a wooden partitioned box.

b) Decanting (moving powders between containers)

Plastic containers – ‘Although shooters’ powders are generally not very sensitive to ignition by electrostatic discharge, homeloaders or others who decant the contents of plastic containers must take care to reduce the risk of build up of static electricity. Advice on appropriate precautions may be sought from the manufacturer”.

(Extract from HSE Guidance www.hse.gov.uk/explosives/shooterspawders.pdf)

Metal containers – If you have powders in their manufacturer’s original metal containers, it is advisable to decant this powder into a suitable plastic container for greater safety. The best plastic for containers to be made from is High Density Polyethylene plastic. Precautions should be taken to guard against ignition, and any spilt powder cleared away as soon as possible. Suitable paper or plastic containers should be used such as empty containers previously containing powder or by using thin walled, plastic containers. Thick walled ABS type plastics are not suitable as they can cause greater fragmentation hazard and may pose a static electricity hazard.

Metal powder flasks – Flasks specifically designed for muzzle loading firearms are usually made from copper, brass, animal horn or other non sparking material and have been used for centuries for carrying powder. The Placing on the Market and Supervision of Transfers of Explosives Regulations (POMSTER) 1993 regulations stipulate that the movement of explosives should be in the original supplied manufacturers packaging, however the HSE have accepted that certain other containers may be used to carry or hold powders in transit, such as small powder flasks designed to throw a measure of powder.

Powder flasks may be filled at home prior to being taken to their place of use, though a wooden partitioned box should be used to transport the flasks and/or powders. Good housekeeping is important and any spilt powder should be cleared away as soon as possible. Precautions should be taken to prevent the box being exposed to flame, heat or sparks whilst in transport. Explosives should not be carried with any other hazardous materials.

Current guidance and advice on acceptable containers for the carriage of shooters powders, security and transport considerations can be found in the following document:

“Carriage (by private individuals) of black powder & small arms ammunition for use in small arms, and model rocket motors - guidance on good practice drafted by representatives of the Police and the shooting sports, in conjunction with HSE”: www.hse.gov.uk/cdg/pdf/blackp.pdf

18. Small arms ammunition

a) What is “small arms ammunition”

The ammunition used in any firearm, be it rifled or a shotgun is an explosive article. Shooters and re-enactors should be aware of what is meant by “small arms ammunition” and how these items are regulated. Paper or card black powder re-enactment cartridges, or “twists” as they are sometimes called are not classified as “small arms ammunition” and will always be regarded as a package of black powder (UN0027 or UN0028), Hazard Type 1.

Both MSER and COER have the same meaning of “small arms ammunition” as – explosive articles allocated the UN number:

- UN0012, (Cartridges for weapons, inert or Cartridges, small arms)
- UN0014, (Cartridges for weapons, blank or Cartridges, small arms, blank)
- UN0055 (Cases, cartridge, empty, with primer); And which are intended exclusively for - use in small arms.

As a rule, ammunition that may normally purchased or acquired as a complete loaded ‘round’, or makes up from the components is captured within the three items above.

An explosive certificate is not required to acquire and possess any small arms ammunition. Ammunition is regulated or prohibited by virtue of the Firearms Acts. You will find the above 3 items also shown in Schedule 1 of COER (*See annex A*) along with associated items such as caps, primers and capped/primed cases. It is important to appreciate the difference between when ammunition can be classed as small arms ammunition rather than as an entry in COER Schedule 1 (*See annex A*), as this affects the amount of ammunition you can hold.

Ammunition for explosive purposes is calculated by weight and not by the number of rounds. When calculating the amount of ammunition held, it is ONLY the weight of powder and the explosive content of the primer that is used. As an accepted rule, 0.8 of a grain is allocated as the explosive content of any primer.

The difference in any holding of ammunition comes from the provisions relating to storage in MSER. If only ammunition with the above three UN numbers is held, the amounts referred to in paragraph 10c above are permitted. If any of the other UN numbers in Schedule 1 of COER (*See annex A*) are held, then they are part of the allocation limited to 5 kilograms in 10 b above.

b) Making and unmaking ammunition (Manufacture)

The reloading or dismantling of ammunition is part of the act of manufacturing an explosive. This can only normally be done under HSE licence. Care is needed to accomplish the activity safely and those undertaking this need to ensure they are fully conversant with the technical aspects involved in making small arms ammunition. This is particularly the case in the unmaking of ammunition for any reason. The process does have its risks and accidents involving the initiation of the cartridge can occur.

MSER provides for a limited 'manufacture' of small arms ammunition. Those who reload can make or unmake ammunition and those involved in re-enactment can make cartridges for use at their events. The limit on these activities is that only a total of 2 kilograms of primers and propellant can be used for this at any one time. This includes any propellant removed from cartridges. This relates to the propellant and primers being used and not any completed ammunition or cartridge that is then moved away from the process area. Any requirement to make ammunition or cartridges above 2 kilograms, or any other type of ammunition for small arms not defined as such in MSER will require the granting of a HSE licence to manufacture.

c) A word on primers

Section 35 of the Violent Crime Reduction Act 2006 makes it an offence for anybody to sell to anybody a cap type primer "designed for use in metallic cartridges for use in a firearm" (i.e. small and large rifle and pistol primers) unless they produce the appropriate (firearm or shotgun) certificate.

The Act also relates to cartridges containing these primers (capped cases) regardless of whether they are for use in a firearm or a shotgun.

Percussion type caps for muzzle loading arms and 209 type shotgun primers are exempt from this Act and may be freely purchased, however BASC does not advocate the sale of any ammunition components to non certificate holders.

19. Keeping records of explosives and reporting a loss or theft.

COER 1991 (Regulation 12) requires any person who acquires and keeps possession of more than 10 kilograms of black powder plus 5 kilograms of "shooters powder" to keep records of that explosive. The record must be made in a form that gives an accurate indication of explosives held at any time. There is no prescribed format for the record and it may be held on a computer, providing there are arrangements to prevent loss of the data. The record must be kept for 3 years from the end of the year during which the latest entry was made.

Whether or not you need to keep records, any loss of explosives must be reported to the police without delay, whether the loss or theft is in storage or transport.

Annex A

Explosive items applicable to sporting shooting and re-enactment shown in Schedule 1 COER 1991

Description	UN No.
Cartridges, small arms	0012
Cartridges, small arms	0328
Cartridges, small arms	0339
Cartridges, small arms, blank	0014
Cartridges, small arms, blank	0327
Cartridges, small arms, blank	0338
Cases, cartridges, empty, with primer	0055
Cases, cartridges, empty, with primer	0379
Primers, cap type	0044
Primers, cap type	0377
Primers, cap type	0378

NB: No certificate is required for the purchasing of these items, however maximum storage amounts apply.
(See sections 10, 11 & 16 above)

References:

COER = Control of Explosives Regulations (COER) 1991 (ISBN 0-11-014531-3)

Important note: COER was subject of amending action by implementation of MSER 2005. The documents indicated in the links below are NOT amended and should be read in conjunction with the appropriate amending paragraphs of MSER.

COER 1991 is available from The Stationery Office or via this link:
www.opsi.gov.uk/si/si1991/Uksi_19911531_en_1.htm#tcon

More information is available in the "*Guide to the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991*"
(ISBN 0-11-885670-7)

Annex B

Labelling examples for "Shooters' Powder" including Hazard Types



Generic Class 1 Explosives
Hazard Symbol



Class 1 Hazard
Division 1 Symbol
(UN Hazard Division
1 corresponds to
MSER hazard type 1)



Class 1 Hazard
Division 3 Symbol
(UN Hazard Division 3
corresponds to MSER
Hazard Type 3)

NB: The symbols above are usually featured on bulk packaging as well as on each bottle of powder. However some bottles may only show the hazard division instead of a warning label. i.e. 1.1 or 1.3

Storage guidance for Hazard Type 1 powders

(Summary from ACoP Paragraphs 410 to 420)

1. Black powder must be kept in plastic or cardboard containers (not tins) of not more than 550 grams (approx 1 ¼ lb) of powder per container.
2. The containers of black powder must be kept in a box constructed of plywood of a minimum thickness of 18mm – or other material capable of providing an equal level of fire and physical resistance. *Metal boxes, including ammunition boxes, are not suitable and must not be used.*

NB: That these requirements replace guidance allowing the keeping of black powder in a lacquered or tinned iron, steel trunk or box contained in the HSE publication “Guide to the Control of Explosives Regulations 1991”.

3. Where a box is designed to hold more than one container of black powder, each individual container must be separated by a 6mm wooden partition that is securely fixed to the outer walls of the box.
4. Each compartment must allow 30% additional height between the top of the container and the inside of the lid.
5. The box should be made so that no exposed metal is on the inside. Internal nuts must be covered by a glued wooden liner not less than 6mm. (An image of a suitable box is attached.)
6. *The box must not be kept in any form of metal box, drawer or cupboard.*
7. It is a good idea to place an intumescent* strip around the edges of the lid to provide a good seal. * Intumescent means a substance that swells up, especially when heat is applied (OED)
8. For safety reasons, the box **must not** be located:
 - Under or near any means of access or escape, e.g. under the stairs;
 - In the same room as flammable liquids such as petrol or solvents;
 - In areas where there are risks of fire.
9. Anyone storing black powder must take precautions to prevent unauthorised access to it. If you are not storing your black powder in a secure room or other suitably secure place, the box should meet certain construction requirements. These are as follows:
 - Securely fixed, robust (solid brass or other non-ferrous metal) hinges/screws and a secure hasp used with a robust padlock. If a chain or similar lid support is used, solid non-ferrous metals should be used.
 - A suitable arrangement to stop the box from being taken away, e.g. by securing its handles to a strong point.



Figure 1 - Example of a Black Powder Storage Box and 550g plastic container (© BASC)

NB: Anything attached within the box (e.g. chain) must be made of solid brass, copper or other non-sparking metal. Care is needed to ensure that any fittings are not just metals which are plated with brass or copper.

ANNEX D

FEES GUIDE FOR BLACK POWDER EXPLOSIVES CERTIFICATES LINKED TO REGISTRATIONS OF PREMISES IN CONJUNCTION WITH FIREARM, SHOTGUN AND RFD CERTIFICATES.

(Current from 6th April 2009)

