



# Department of Public Safety and Corrections

## Public Safety Services

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TO: All Louisiana Explosive Licensed Companies

FROM: Lt. Chris Viator, Louisiana State Police

This past Legislative Session, House Bill 1305 was passed and became law on August 15, 2008. The purpose of the letter is to inform you of changes in the Law R.S.40:1472 and Regulation Title 55, Chapter 15:

- There is a new class of Explosive License. The new class is the Handler class. A "Handler" is a person who touches, moves or otherwise handles explosives but does not detonate or otherwise effect the explosion of explosives or explosive materials. A Blaster or User who uses explosives as an ultimate consumer shall not use the license issued to a Handler. This new class will have the greatest effect on Manufacturers. Employees who work on a process line must now have at least a Handlers license.
- The Explosive Control Unit will now offer a multi-year Explosive License for a one, two or three year license. The website will have the new Explosive License Application and new fees.
- In addition to the new Explosive License class, there are additional new requirements for obtaining your Explosive License. When you apply for renewal or a new license, you will now have to send a copy of your training certificates. You will also have to send with your application two complete, legible, and classifiable FBI applicant fingerprint cards taken by a person employed by a law enforcement agency who is appropriately trained in recording fingerprints. This can be accomplished at most Sheriff's offices or local Police departments, as many perform this service for concealed handgun permits, Day Care Givers, etc. If your Explosive License is approved you will only have to send the fingerprint cards in once. If you are denied, you will have to submit all required attachments again.
- Another change is regarding the age of the applicant of a Louisiana Explosive License. You must now be at least twenty one (21) years of age.
- In the past, the applicant's employer had fourteen (14) days to notify the Explosive Control Unit of a licensed employee who has been terminated. You now must immediately notify the Explosives Control Unit. The company will retain the individual's original paper license and photo license. The company must then return to the Explosive Control Unit, within three days, the photo license and original paper license. The company must keep a copy of the terminated individual's paper license.
- There are several changes in the training regulations. As before, Blasters, Users, Manufacturer and Dealer-Distributors shall have a minimum of sixteen (16) hours of combination classroom and hands-on training. The training must meet the listed course topics. The New Handler Class must have a minimum of eight (8) hours of the listed course topic training.

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- All Blaster, User, Manufacturer, Dealer-Distributor and Handlers shall attend a minimum of eight (8) hours of annual refresher training. All training (initial and refresher) shall be documented on a form or certificate to include location, subject, date of instruction and include the Instructor's signature. Training records are required to be maintained at the Licensee's local office.
- Course Instructors must meet the criteria based on knowledge, experience and training in the field of explosives being taught. Course Instructors shall possess a current Louisiana Explosives License in one of the following classes: Blaster, User, Manufacturer, and or Dealer-Distributor. In addition, Instructors shall also possess a Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives License (User or User Limited) relating to the field of instruction.
- The Explosives Control Unit shall approve all courses of instruction as well as all Instructors of Explosive required training.
- Companies are now required to annually drug screen all Explosive Licensed employees. The testing must meet the same (DOT) standards as before. All new applicants must have a recent drug-screening test.
- There are some changes concerning Magazine Construction. You must now have an emergency contact telephone number painted on the front of your magazine. A knowledgeable company representative must answer that number. In addition, you will also have to permanently affix your assigned magazine license number. Instructions on doing this will be posted on the website.
- In addition to the previously required information on Explosive magazines locations, (maps), the exact GPS coordinates must now be given on the application, and when the magazine is moved.
- Effective January 1, 2009 through January 1, 2010, all Explosive Licensees must have a copy of their paper Explosive License with them when performing Explosive duties. Once a photo Explosive License has been issued, the requirement for a copy of the paper license to be on your person will no longer exist. The licensee will then have to have their photo explosives license with them when performing explosives duties.
- As stated earlier, these changes became effective August 15, 2008. The Explosive Control Unit will begin enforcement of these new laws and regulations on January 1, 2009. Until that time, the licensing process will proceed as prior to the new changes.
- Explosive Licensee whose licenses expire December 1, 2008 through December 31, 2008 will be granted an extension on their 2008 license. ALL December 2008 license will be valid until January 31, 2009. Those licensees whose licenses expire in December 2008 can renew under the previous one-year license and fee until December 31, 2008 or they must apply for a new or renewal license starting January 1, 2009.

All of these changes will be posted soon on our website. If there are any questions, please contact me at (225) 925-6113, Extension 239.