

Official Information Act Request

Requester's details

Date: 6 December 2021

Name: [REDACTED]

Email: [REDACTED]

Reference number: ENQ-42998-C2Q5Q2

Dear Dr [REDACTED]

Thank you for your request received on 19 November 2021. You have asked for the testing protocols used to certify percussive fireworks and expressed concern about the level of noise caused by some of them.

The [Hazardous Substances \(Fireworks\) Regulations 2001](#) (the regulations) require fireworks imported into or manufactured in New Zealand to be tested and certified by a fireworks certifier. Anyone who applies to become a fireworks certifier must (among other things) explain their testing processes, to ensure retail fireworks meet statutory requirements, and this includes test firing procedures. They also need to describe the equipment they intend to use. This includes demonstrating that their sound measuring devices comply with Regulation 11(1)(k) of the regulations. They need to show the Environmental Protection Authority (EPA) that their sound measuring device has been annually and independently calibrated and verified.

Regulation 11(1)(k) of the regulations limits the noise produced by fireworks to no more than 90db. This is measured at a horizontal distance of 15 metres from, and at a height of one metre above, the location of the firework tested. It is not the EPA's role to set this limit, only to regulate and ensure compliance with it. Further information about retail fireworks may be found on the Explosives page on our website: [Explosives | EPA](#).

I hope this information is helpful. You have the right to seek an investigation and review by the Ombudsman of this decision. You can contact the Ombudsman on 0800 802 602, or by email at info@ombudsman.parliament.nz. If you have any further queries, please do not hesitate to contact us via ministerials@epa.govt.nz

We may publish your request and our response on our website, www.epa.govt.nz. We make OIA responses available so others can read more about the work we do and the questions we are asked. Any information that might identify you will be removed to protect your privacy.

Yours sincerely



Gayle Holmes

General Manager, Compliance, Monitoring and Enforcement