



BFA Associate Member Scheme Rules and Regulations for Retailers

Preamble: The British Fireworks Association (BFA) is committed to promoting the safe and responsible sale and use of fireworks in the UK. The BFA Associate Member Scheme for Retailers is designed to educate, support, and empower retailers to operate within the legal framework, uphold best practices in firework sales and storage, and ultimately contribute to public safety.

1. Scheme Objectives:

- To provide retailers with comprehensive knowledge of current UK firework regulations.
- To promote and encourage best practices in relation to firework sales, display, and customer service.
- To advocate for and facilitate safe and compliant storage of fireworks at retail premises.
- To offer a clear pathway for retailers to demonstrate their commitment to safety and compliance.

2. Membership Criteria:

To be eligible for membership in the BFA Associate Member Scheme, applicants must meet the following criteria:

- **Legally Registered Business:** The applicant must be a legally registered retail business operating within the United Kingdom.
- **No Previous Firework-Related Convictions:** Neither the applicant business nor any of its directors, partners, or named individuals responsible for firework sales or storage, shall have any previous convictions, formal cautions, or enforcement notices related to firework offences, including but not limited to:
 - Unlawful sale or supply of fireworks.
 - Breach of firework storage regulations.
 - Sale of prohibited or illegal fireworks.
 - Underage sales of fireworks.
- **Commitment to Compliance:** Applicants must demonstrate a willingness and commitment to adhere to all relevant UK firework legislation and these scheme rules.
- **Application Form Completion:** All sections of the official BFA Associate Member Scheme application form must be completed accurately and truthfully.
- **Payment of Fees:** Payment of the prescribed annual membership fee must be made in full upon application and annually thereafter for renewal.

3. Member Responsibilities and Best Practices:

Upon acceptance into the BFA Associate Member Scheme, members are expected to:

- Present a positive approach to the safe, considerate and responsible use of fireworks, including (but not limited to) what is presented in the media, including social media.
- Actively communicate with their local politicians to promote the positive aspects of consumer firework use, and to correct any misinformation being distributed.

- Adhere to UK Firework Regulations: Members must strictly comply with all current UK legislation pertaining to the sale, storage, and display of fireworks, including but not limited to the Fireworks Regulations 2004, Explosives Regulations 2014, and any subsequent amendments or related legislation.
- Implement Safe Storage Practices: Members must ensure that all fireworks are stored in a safe, secure, and compliant manner, in accordance with the Explosives Regulations 2014 and any guidance provided by the BFA or relevant authorities. This includes appropriate segregation, fire safety measures, and security.
- Verify Age of Purchasers: Members must implement robust age verification procedures to ensure that fireworks are only sold to individuals who are of the legal age to purchase fireworks, in accordance with the law.
- Provide Customer Information: Members should be able to provide accurate and relevant safety information to customers regarding the safe handling, use, and disposal of fireworks.
- Maintain Records: Members should maintain appropriate records of firework purchases, sales (including refused sales), and training for inspection if required.
- Participate in Training: Members are encouraged to participate in BFA-offered training, webinars, and informational sessions to stay updated on regulations and best practices.
- Promptly Report Incidents: Members should promptly report any firework-related incidents or significant regulatory breaches to the relevant authorities and, where appropriate, to the BFA.
- Display Membership: Members are encouraged to prominently display their BFA Associate Member certificate to demonstrate their commitment to safe practices.

4. Scheme Benefits for Retailers:

- Access to Regulatory Updates: Regular updates and clear explanations of changes in UK firework legislation.
- Best Practice Guidance: Comprehensive guides and resources on safe storage, display, sales techniques, and customer service.
- Training Opportunities: Access to exclusive webinars, workshops, and training materials focused on firework safety and compliance.
- Networking: Opportunities to connect with other responsible retailers and industry experts.
- BFA Support: Direct access to BFA expertise for advice and clarification on firework regulations and issues.
- Credibility: The BFA Associate Member badge signifies a retailer's commitment to safety and compliance, enhancing consumer trust.
- Marketing Support: Access to BFA branding and promotional materials to highlight membership.

5. Membership Duration and Renewal:

- Membership is valid for a period of one year from the 1st of August.
- Members will be notified in advance of their renewal date and must submit their renewal application and fee by the specified deadline to maintain continuous membership.
- The BFA reserves the right to request updated information or conduct checks as part of the renewal process.

6. Suspension and Termination of Membership:

The BFA reserves the right to suspend or terminate membership in the following circumstances:

- Breach of Rules: Failure to comply with any of the rules outlined in this document.

- Breach of Law: Any conviction, formal caution, or enforcement notice related to firework offences against the member business or its responsible individuals.
- Misrepresentation: Providing false or misleading information on the application form or during the course of membership.
- Bringing the BFA into Disrepute: Actions or conduct that are deemed to bring the BFA or the wider firework industry into disrepute.
- Non-Payment of Fees: Failure to pay membership fees by the due date.

In the event of a potential suspension or termination, the member will be notified in writing and given an opportunity to respond before a final decision is made.

7. Scheme Administration:

- **The BFA will be responsible for the administration of the Associate Member Scheme.**
- **The BFA's decision on all matters relating to membership eligibility, suspension, and termination shall be final.**

Yours sincerely



Lawrence Black
Secretary BFA



Steve Raper
Chairman BFA



Fraser Stevenson
Vice Chairman BFA