



Maritime and Coastguard Agency

MARINE GUIDANCE NOTE

## MGN 419 (M+F)

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# DISPOSAL OF OUT OF DATE PYROTECHNICS (MARINE FLARES)

**Notice to all Fishermen, Leisure Craft, Shipping Service Providers, Marinas, Harbourmasters, Life Saving Equipment Servicing Stations, Chandlers and Suppliers**

*This notice supersedes MGN 287 (M+F)*

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### Summary

HM Coastguard only accepts out of date marine pyrotechnics from recreational boat users and no longer accepts them from independent fishing vessels.

### Notes:

- a) **It is an offence to fire distress-signal pyrotechnics on land, in harbour or at sea for either testing purposes, practice or as fireworks (whether the pyrotechnics are out of date or not).**
- b) **It is an offence to dump pyrotechnics at sea**
- c) **Out of date pyrotechnics should be landed ashore as soon as possible after the date of expiry for safe disposal.**
- d) **Do not place out of date pyrotechnics in the general rubbish, or abandon them at Coastguard, RNLI or Police stations.**

Further information on the revised system for the disposal of out of date marine pyrotechnics and contact details for disposal sites can be found on either the MCA website or Directgov on the following links:

<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue/mcga-hmcgsar-sarsystem/pyrotechnics.htm>

or Directgov

[http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Boatingandtravellingbywater/Usingpleasurecraftsafely/DG\\_185790](http://www.direct.gov.uk/en/TravelAndTransport/Boatingandtravellingbywater/Usingpleasurecraftsafely/DG_185790)

## More Information

Search and Rescue Branch  
Maritime and Coastguard Agency  
Bay 2/07  
Spring Place  
105 Commercial Road  
Southampton  
SO15 1EG

Tel : +44 (0) 23 8032 9486  
Fax : +44 (0) 23 8032 9488  
e-mail: SAR.Response@mcga.gov.uk

General Inquiries: [infoline@mcga.gov.uk](mailto:infoline@mcga.gov.uk)

MCA Website Address: [www.mcga.gov.uk](http://www.mcga.gov.uk)

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