
Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Amendment of duration of classification of fireworks for transportation from five to ten years

RPC rating: Validated

Description of proposal

HSE is responsible for classifying explosive materials (such as fireworks) prior to their transportation. Classifications are assigned to specify the control measures that must be implemented whilst an explosive is in transit. Following an internal review, HSE has changed its arrangements for the classification of fireworks for transport. Assignments have been increased from five to ten years, meaning that once an assessment is made, a business need only apply for reclassification every ten years.

Changes do not alter the assessment process. There is no fee or other cost to businesses that comes from reclassification.

Impacts of proposal

The assessment states that there are 15 manufacturers of explosives in the UK, not all of whom produce fireworks. Because the changes to the classification system are very minor, the regulator assumes that the time it takes businesses to review the alterations to be under a few minutes. Therefore, the regulator states that the costs of familiarisation are negligible.

Businesses would benefit from the time saved as a result of having to apply for reclassification less frequently. The regulator estimates that it would receive 60 fewer applications each year (based on halving the annual number of reclassifications it currently receives). Each application requires 2 hours to complete, according to feedback from the industry. Based on an updated, hourly wage for a manager equal to £30.51, the assessment finds total annual savings to business of £3700 per annum.

The RPC verifies the estimated equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB) of £0million.

Quality of submission

The submission provides sufficient evidence to support its estimate of the impacts of amendments.

However, the assessment would have benefited from the inclusion of more detail to support the regulator's assumption that the cost associated with familiarisation would be negligible.

The regulator could have provided detail on the industry feedback it has received through its inspectors to improve the quality of its assessment.

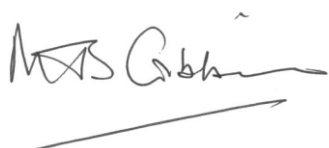
The assessment would also have been improved by providing further detail on changes to the reclassification system. Presumably, upon implementation of the change, no business would have to apply for reclassification of an existing product for a minimum of five years (as the expiry would be extended). However, this was not made clear in the assessment. The RPC remains satisfied that this would not alter the EANDCB when rounded to the nearest £0.1million.

Departmental assessment

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision
Equivalent annual net direct cost to business (EANDCB)	Zero
Business net present value	Zero

RPC assessment¹

Classification	Qualifying regulatory provision (IN)
EANDCB – RPC validated	Zero
Business impact target score	Zero



Michael Gibbons CBE, Chairman

¹ For reporting purposes, the RPC validates EANDCB and BIT figures to the nearest £100,000