

► This RA has been substantially re-written; for clarity no change marks are presented – please read RA in its entirety ◀

RA 3269 – Use of Pyrotechnics, Firearms and Lasers to Support Aerodrome Operations

Rationale

Air Traffic Control (ATC) and Airfield Wildlife Control Unit (AWCU) personnel may, in the course of their duties, be required to operate pyrotechnics, firearms and lasers to support Aerodrome operations. Inappropriate use of pyrotechnics, firearms or lasers could cause distraction for pilots and Controllers and inadvertently increase Risk to Life. The appropriate, safe and controlled use of pyrotechnics, firearms and lasers, by suitably trained personnel, will support the provision of a Safe Operating Environment.

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Regulation 3269(1)

Use of Pyrotechnics, Firearms and Lasers to support Aerodrome Operations

3269(1) Only Suitably Qualified and Experienced Persons (SQEP) **shall** use pyrotechnics, firearms and lasers.

Acceptable Means of Compliance 3269(1)

Use of Pyrotechnics, Firearms and Lasers to support Aerodrome Operations

1. Commanders **should** ensure that all ATC staff¹ (and AWCU staff, if established) are qualified, in date and competent prior to the use of any pyrotechnic device, firearm or laser.
2. Commanders **should** ensure, and record, that all ATC staff¹ meet the mandatory criteria for the use of pyrotechnics and firearms as follows:
 - a. **Formally Trained.** Trained by a qualified and competent instructor² in accordance with (iaw) the appropriate Service training publication.
 - b. **Formally Tested.** Passed Weapon Handling Test, conducted by a qualified and competent instructor, within the qualifying period and periodically thereafter iaw single Service (sS) requirements. Where applicable, live firing or observation of live firing **should** be completed within the required qualifying period.
3. AWCU staff **should** be trained, tested and periodically assessed by an appropriate authority iaw contract requirements.
4. Commanders **should** ensure that AWCU staff hold the appropriate licences for the weapons and ammunition to be used.
5. Commanders **should** ensure that the use of lasers for wildlife control purposes, by ATC staff¹ (and AWCU staff, if established), is approved by the Unit Laser Safety Officer and carried out iaw the applicable Defence Ordnance, Munitions & Explosives Safety Regulator (DOSR) regulatory publications.

Guidance Material 3269(1)

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6. Information on the training requirements and use of pyrotechnics and firearms, including operating information and training policy, may be obtained from sS Headquarters, unit armoury staff and Small Arms training establishments.

¹ This includes both military and civilian staff.

² For example, a Skill at Arms Instructor or Weapons Instructor.

**Guidance
Material
3269(1)**

7. Regulations for, and information on, the safe operation of weapons, including lasers, is available from DOSR, JSP440 and the Military Laser Safety Team.