



A Code of Practice as defined by Le Maitre Ltd

This code of practice relates to the use of indoor or stage pyrotechnics. It should only be used as a guide and not considered in any way as definitive. The following code is used by all Le Maitre pyrotechnicians.

1. Pyrotechnics must only be used by competent adults. If misused they can be very dangerous and cause serious injuries.
2. Always inform the venue/local licensing authority of intent to use pyrotechnics at a venue, 14 days prior to the event. Include in the proposal a list of all devices that are to be used and the name and details of the manufacturer.
3. The person responsible for the control and firing of pyrotechnics must ensure that it is safe to do so. The loading and positioning of all devices must be done with safety foremost. "No smoking" signs should be displayed during the loading procedure and up to show time.
4. Firing systems used must always be of a recognised design and manufacture, incorporating both electrical and mechanical fail-safes, ie: key switch and panel switch enable systems. The person in charge should carry the ignition key with them at all times and should only insert the key immediately prior to ignition. At no time should the key be left in the controller
5. Only use devices, hardware and controllers manufactured by a recognised and respected manufacturer. All devices used must carry a Health & Safety Executive Competent Authority Document. The manufacturer should be in a position to supply copies.
6. All pyrotechnics must be stored in a safe and locked room, displaying "No Smoking" signs, until they are required. Only the devices required should be placed in situ; no other spares or such like should be present on the stage. All pyrotechnics must be delivered to the venue in packaging as defined by the Competent Authority Document.
7. When pyrotechnics are in use, the operator must have sight of all devices. If it is unsafe to detonate any device they must not fire. The final decision must rest with the operator. Suitable fire fighting equipment should be deployed in strategic positions in situ, and cast and crew made fully aware of all devices and their position.
8. When positioning devices, account must be made if any doubt whatsoever exists about the suitability or positioning of any device, a test firing should take place with the relevant authority present so that a proper risk assessment can be made.
9. When positioning devices, always take into account all personnel, scenery and other objects in situ. Take notice and ensure that all fabrics in close proximity are non flammable.

10. All pyrotechnics are potentially dangerous and must be strictly in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions and any relevant data sheets.
11. The Organisers and Venue Event Manager must be in receipt of a Risk Assessment and Method Statement concerning all Special Effects and Pyrotechnics.
12. Pyrotechnics must only be fired from an approved key-protected control/firing box and never directly from the mains electricity supply.
13. The operator must have a direct view of the pyrotechnic device from the firing point and be competent in their operation.
14. The device must not be operated if there is any risk to anyone. In the event of a miss-fire the circuit should be switched off until after the performance.
15. Maroons must only be used in suitable bomb tanks.
16. Pyrotechnics to be contained in suitable containers for safe transportation and storage
17. The Inspecting officer may need to see all the effects demonstrated as they will be used so that the effects can be assessed and, if satisfactory, approved.
18. Pyrotechnic devices should not be sited where they could discharge into an audience, where any person would be exposed to danger, or adjacent to scenery, props or drapes.
19. It is recommended that the Firer is a member of BTEC, BPA, ASP or EIG.
20. Suitable, documented miss-fire procedures must be in place and the venue must be notified of this procedure.