



STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE DEPARTMENT OF SAFETY

Robert L. Quinn, Commissioner

Division of Fire Safety
Office of the State Fire Marshal
Paul J. Parisi, State Fire Marshal



Office: 110 Smokey Bear Blvd., Concord, NH
Mailing Address: 33 Hazen Drive, Concord, NH 03305
PHONE 603-223-4289, FAX 603-223-4294 or 603-223-4295
TDD Access: Relay NH 1-800-735-2964 ARSON HOTLINE 1-800-400-3526

October 21, 2019

To: NH Licensed Retail Firework Stores

Ref: Interpretation of Verification Process for Rocket Launcher Tubes

During this year's annual Permissible Fireworks Advisory Committee meeting several licensed retailers discussed with the committee the various processes that they are currently using to verify if a customer has the appropriate rocket launcher tube at the time of purchase to comply with NH RSA 160-C: 12-a. These retailers inquired about the suggestion made by the NH State Fire Marshal's Office at the time the legislation became effective for this verification process. What was suggested at that time was that a customer signing an "acknowledgement letter", created by the store stating that they were aware of the RSA requirement, and they had already purchased the appropriate rocket launcher tube met the intent of the RSA for consumer awareness and safety. Some retailers felt that the language stated in the RSA "*No person shall purchase a bottle rocket unless the person also purchases a rocket launcher or enables the seller to verify that he or she has a rocket launcher appropriate for use with the bottle rocket being purchased*" should be interpreted to mean that the customer must physically prove that they have the appropriate rocket launcher tube at the time of each purchase of bottle rockets requiring the use of a launcher tube. This would ensure that each customer purchasing bottle rockets requiring the launcher tube would have the appropriate tube thus meeting the requirement of the RSA.

Based on the recommendation of the Permissible Fireworks Advisory Committee, effective November 1, 2019, all licensed retail fireworks stores shall require the purchase of a rocket launcher tube with the purchase of bottle rockets, or the store may provide one at no cost, if the purchaser cannot physically show at the time of purchase that they possess the appropriate rocket launcher tube. This means the customer must have the rocket launcher tube in their possession for the store representative to see. Any type of acknowledgement letter or waivers will no longer be an accepted method of verification of possession of a launcher tube. The appropriate rocket launcher tubes are made from HDPE plastic and are specifically designed, listed, and labeled for use with bottle rockets. This updated interpretation of the intent of the statute and the phrase "verify" shall remain in effect until the 2020 annual meeting of the Permissible Fireworks Advisory Committee, at which time this verification process can be reviewed again by the committee.

Rocket Launcher Verification Letter

10/21/2019

Page 2

Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me at (603) 223-4289.

Thank you,



Christopher T. Wyman

Investigator

Cc: Rep. David Welch – Chairperson, NH Permissible Fireworks Advisory Committee