

INTRODUCTION TO BPA FIREWORK FIRERS TRAINING SCHEME

Tom Smith – Davas Ltd

Training - introduction

- Professionals
- BPA is the body that represents professional Display Companies in the UK

History

- Industry Training
- BTEC courses
- FW Regs and FW Act
 - Enabling acts – but training not taken up
- EIG Training
- BPA Training

BPA Training

- Started in 2002
- Initially limited to BPA members
- NO grandfather rights
- Extended to PROFESSIONAL firers from other (non-BPA) companies in 2005
- Training done by BPA members to common syllabus/exam

BPA Training

- Training Course AND exam
- At present 2 levels
 - L1 – Firer
 - L2 – Senior display firer on site
- (awareness level for enforcers)
- L3 – Trainers training

Criteria

- Professional firers
- 3 displays prior to L1
(but may be retrospective)
- Further 12 displays before L2
(NOT retrospective)

It is NOT for

- Firers of solely Category 3 fireworks
- Freelance firers who are not associated with a professional company
- Stage or theatrical technicians

Outcomes

- Certificate
- Firers ID Card
 - Critical mass issues
 - Website (www.pyro.org.uk)

Ongoing

- Valid for 5 years
- Retraining
- New BPA training book
 - Based on Kosanke's handbook
 - Book available to all (for a fee) but Exam limited to BPA criteria
 - Supported by Powerpoint presentations, video etc

Administration

- Davas set the exam
- BPA Management group produce and vet questions
- Davas mark the exam
- Exam sent to named invigilator and password protected
- Invigilators and exam report (and candidates queries)
- External verifiers – members of BPA Management Committee or others appointed for the job

Administration

- Venue etc notified 4 weeks in advance
 - Publicised on BPA website if "open" course
- Candidates notified 2 weeks in advance

- Exams marked within 14 days of return

Syllabus – L1

- Firework types
- Firework effects
- Fireworks in transport
- Rigging techniques
- Site design
- Firing methods
- Fallout considerations
- Disposal

Syllabus – L2

- Advanced L1 topics
- Shellcalc[®]
- Risk assessment
- Legal aspects
- Transport, Classification etc
- Contingency planning

IT IS NOT

- A fully prescribed way of doing things – the administering company has flexibility to suit their methods
- A replacement for driver training requirements
- A replacement for DGSA
- A “Cat 4 Licence”

Pyrotechnics Directive

- Requires “Persons with Specialised Knowledge”

Statistics

- 1513 people on BPA register
 - Estimated UK total numbers eligible c. 2500
- 1294 L1 passes
- 624 L2 passes

As of 18/9/07

Exam structure

- 1 Hour
- Multiple choice
- Exam Pass – c. 70%
- Failure rate – c. 20%

- The exam is a check that they have attended and learnt from the training!

Log Books

British Pyrotechnists Association - Firework Firers Logbook

Display Venue	Date/Time
Display Company	Display Duration
Description of Display (site layout on reverse)	
Fireworks Used (eg max shell calibre, water fireworks etc)	
Special Features (eg live music, barge etc)	
Other Crew	
Lessons to learn	
Signed (for Display Company)	Date

