

T1 and T2 – The differences explained

The new CE directive places Pyrotechnic Articles into categories. For most of the products used on the stage and in film or TV these are either T1, T1 Outdoor or T2. These three categories relate to the supposed level of hazard presented by the product due to its type and size if used correctly. Note; the term 'stage use' in the regulations includes film and television productions or similar usage.

Category T1: These are Pyrotechnic Articles for stage use which present a low hazard and which are intended for both indoor and outdoor use by amateurs. Because of the effect type or size, some T1 articles are further designated as T1 Outdoor Use Only and this should be stated on the labelling and associated paperwork. This outdoor restriction only applies to amateur users and does not apply to those with specialist knowledge – see below.

Category T2: These Pyrotechnic Articles are for stage use but intended for use only by a Person or Persons with Specialist Knowledge (PSK). In addition a PSK should have the knowledge to make use of T1 products in a different manner to that prescribed for amateur use. Provided that they have taken due consideration of the hazards and risks that any deviation or change of use might have, a PSK or T2 user, can handle and/or use T1 or T1 'for Outdoor Use Only' articles in a different manner to that given on the label or within the instructions for use. For example, a T1 Outdoor Use Only product can be used indoors by a T2 user.

The responsibility for ensuring anyone buying T2 products has Specialist Knowledge rests with the person supplying them. However, as there is no formal government approved training course in the UK, to demonstrate that you are a PSK to the satisfaction of the supplier, ideally you should have all or some of the following:-

Undertaken a recognised form of training in a theatrical, film or TV professional role. This training should include training in relation to the theatrical pyrotechnic articles to be supplied. Ideally this training will include the nature and correct use of a wide selection of articles. It should also include the risks and pertinent legal points associated with the use, transport and storage of such articles.

- Or.. A history of using various T1 and T2 articles in an industry based setting. This should generally, in the first instance, be backed up by proof of a valid Public Liability Insurance covering use of T2 articles. (This of course may be in the name of the individual in question or the employer of that person).
- Or.. Have or work for a company for which a significant part of their trade or business is the supply of category T2 theatrical pyrotechnic articles in accordance with the regulations. This means that any pyrotechnic Distributors can buy and supply T2 products.

The governments Business Industry & Skills department guidance states the following:

"The concept of training recognised in the business, industry or profession does not mean that BIS will be recognising particular training. It is for the supplier to make a judgement as to whether the training in question is sufficient and provided by a person or body with a sufficient reputation in that sector."



Don Mansfield (01/06/16)