

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 siting 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 failsafes, ie: key switch and panel switch enable systems. The person in charge should carry the ignition key with him/her 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, he/she 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. 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.