

FCA CERTIFICATION

Fireworks Certification Agency Service

Before attempting to transport any explosives within or into the U.S., with certain exceptions, they must be submitted to a Department of Transportation (DOT) approved explosives testing laboratory to be tested and assigned a recommended shipping description and hazard class/division. The laboratory then submits a report to the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) where the explosive is approved and issued a DOT classification approval number (EX number). This process can take up to 120 days or more to obtain a classification for the firework.

New – Effective August 15, 2013, PHMSA established an alternative to the approval process for Division

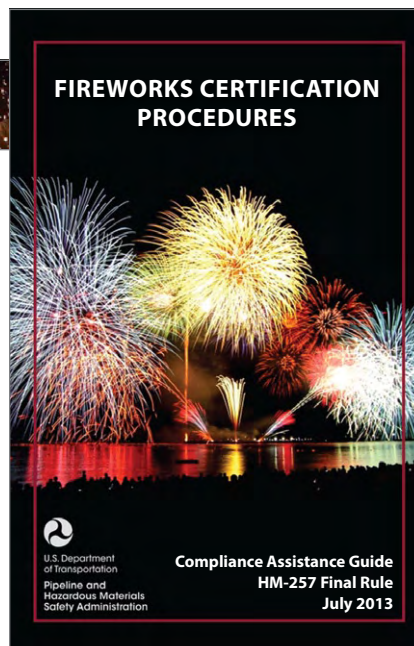
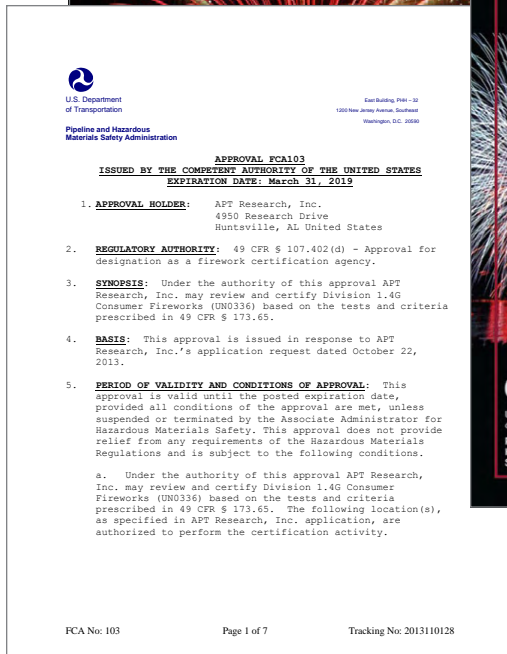
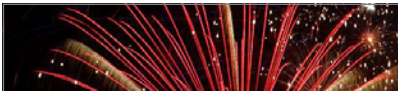
1.4G consumer fireworks. Now, firework manufacturers may submit applications directly to a DOT-approved Fireworks Certification Agency (FCA) in accordance with 49 CFR § 173.65 instead of applying to PHMSA. The fireworks still must conform to the requirements in the APA Standard 87-1, and pass a thermal stability test. The FCA will review and certify that the fireworks conform to the requirements of the APA Standard 87-1.

To provide additional guidance to the new alternative, PHMSA published a brochure “The Fireworks Certification Procedures Guide to HM-257 Final Rule Revision to Fireworks Regulations” July 2013.

Information Needed for a Request

- Name, address, telephone and fax numbers of the manufacturer and U.S. Agent, if applicable
- A detailed description and diagram of the fireworks
- A complete list of the chemical compositions, formulations, and quantities used in the fireworks
- The results of the thermal stability test
- A signed certification declaring that the fireworks for which certification is being requested conforms to the APA Standard 87-1, that the descriptions and technical information contained in the application are complete and accurate, and no duplicate applications have been submitted to PHMSA

APT was the FIRST explosives testing laboratory to be designated as an FCA by the DOT.

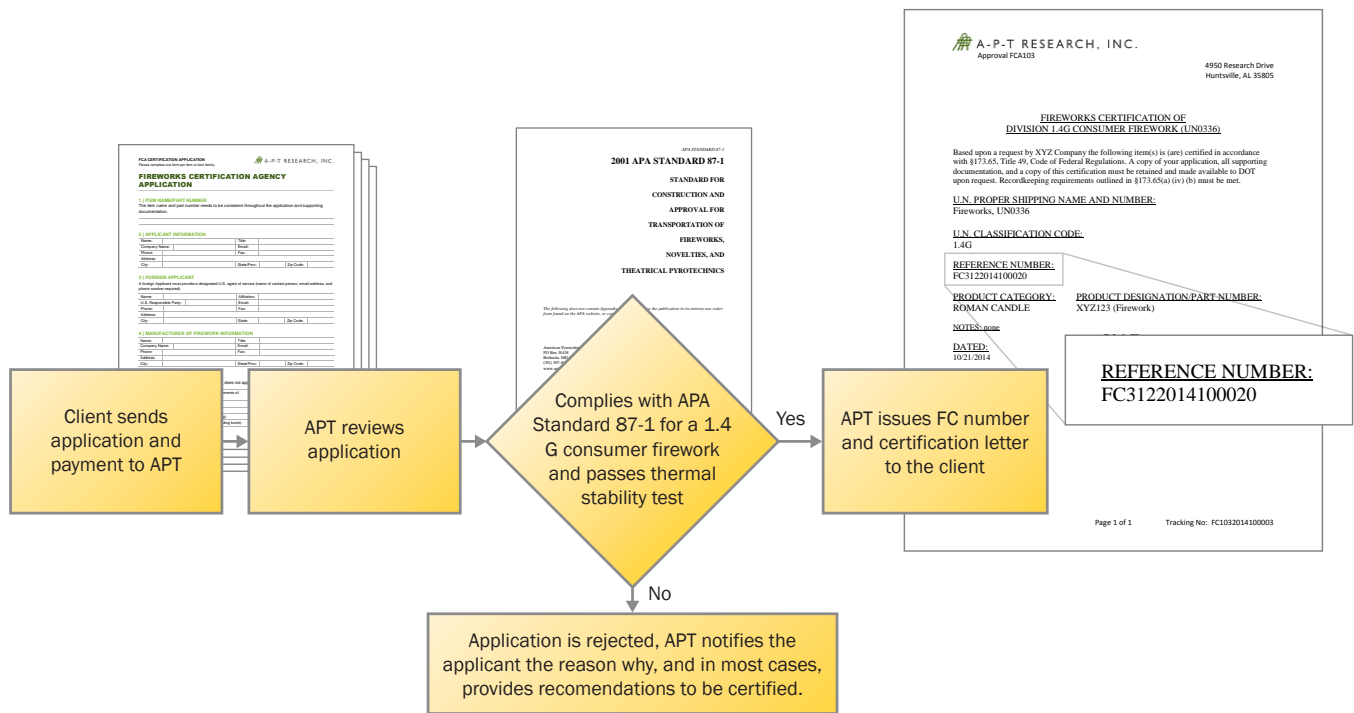


The FCA Process

The FCA submits its certification report electronically to PHMSA with a number that is unique to the fireworks being certified, indicating that the fireworks are certified in compliance with the APA 87-1 Standard for transportation. After PHMSA acknowledges receipt of the certification report, the FCA may send the certification to the manufacturer. The unique identifier will look very much like an EX number, but will begin with "FC" instead of "EX." Other than that, there are no differences for a carrier transporting Division 1.4G consumer fireworks.



In most cases, APT can provide an FC number to the applicant within 24 - 48 hours of receipt of the application.



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