

## **FIREWORKS ALERT**

It's that time of year again, carnivals, graduations, and yes, fireworks. As everyone should be aware consumer fireworks, DOT class 1.4, the old class C, are prohibited from retail sale and use in New Jersey. This is done through the Uniform Fire Code and Department of Labor regulations. The prohibition of using consumer fireworks also applies to displays conducted by professional pyrotechnic operators.

From time to time, the Division receives inquiries about novelty items that are being sold to the public and if they are covered by the Uniform Fire Code and/or the Department of Labor. This bulletin will address two of these recent inquiries. The first one concerns smoke bombs or smoke balls (**reference smoke bombs picture below**), these items are covered by both agencies and are considered to be consumer fireworks; therefore, they cannot be sold or used in New Jersey. Although the rear label (**reference label picture below**) states there is no explosive material in the product, they are still a fireworks item under our definitions due to the fact that contain a flammable compound as indicated by the warnings on the rear and front labels (**reference flammable compound picture below**). If a store is found to be selling this type of item, violations under chapter 31 of the Uniform Fire Code should be issued.

The second item in question is a device known as a "Party Popper" or confetti cannon. (**reference party popper picture below**). The unit is usually a paper or cardboard tube that is filled with some type of confetti. The tube size can range anywhere from several inches to several feet in length. The contents of the tube are propelled out in one of two ways. The first is by a small inert gas charge, usually nitrogen, which propels the confetti out of the tube once the gas cartridge is punctured by following the operating directions on the tube. The second method is to employ the use of a spring-loaded mechanism to propel the confetti, usually by turning the two parts of the unit in opposite directions. These devices are not considered to be consumer fireworks, as they do not contain any explosive or flammable components to actuate the device. The label shown (**reference "not a firework" picture below**) is the proper one for these devices. The only issue with these items is whether or not the confetti is made of a flame-retardant material. We have seen instances of units with and without flame-retardant contents. Fire Officials and Inspectors should be aware that there are confetti devices that do employ an explosive, be it a very small charge, to propel the confetti and these would be prohibited from sales or use.

If you have any questions, contact the Bureau of Fire Code Enforcement at 609-633-6132.



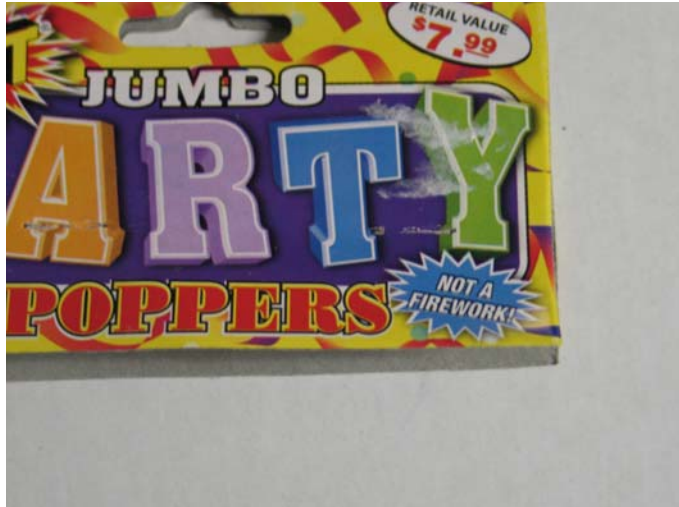
LABEL



FLAMMABLE COMPOUND



PARTY POPPER OR CONFETTI CANNON



**“NOT A FIREWORK”**