

**CODE OF CONDUCT FOR FIREWORKS DISPLAYS**  
**ON THE RIVER THAMES**

1. It is the responsibility of the Fireworks Company wishing to hold the display to seek permission from the Port of London Authority. Each application will be considered on its own merits. The granting of permission will be at the discretion of the Chief Harbour Master.
2. The Fireworks Company concerned must notify the either; the City, Metropolitan, Kent and/or Essex Police Service and either; London, Kent and/or Essex Fire Service and the Local Authority that the event is taking place and confirm that they have no objections together with those bodies identified by the Port of London Authority to whom this information should also be passed.
3. At least four weeks notice must be given to the Port of London Authority to enable it to issue a Notice to Mariners.
4. The Fireworks Company shall be registered as a member of either the CBI Explosives Industries Group or the British Pyrotechnics Association.
5. The Port of London Authority will require written confirmation that the Fireworks Company has adequate insurance cover for the display.
6. All fireworks displays are to be completed by 22:00, except in the area between Cherry Garden Pier and London Bridge (the Upper Pool). In recognition of the Ceremony of the Keys which takes place every evening at the Tower of London, no firework display will take place in this area between 21:35 and 22:05 but displays will be allowed from 22:05 to 22:30 between these two locations only. It will only be in the most exceptional circumstances that permission will be given for a display to be held at a later time.
7. The fireworks vessel must at all times be positioned so that there is no danger to the general public or craft moored in the area.
8. All firework displays must establish at least a 70m Safety/Exclusion Zone around the firing area.
9. The fireworks vessel will not be positioned within 300 meters up or down river from the Thames Cable Car in Bugsbys Reach.
10. Weather conditions on the day must be suitable for the event to take place. If adverse weather is expected or forecast, the Fireworks Company concerned must contact the Port of London Authority for permission to proceed.  
When fireworks displays are programmed to take place in the Upper Pool, adjacent to St. Katherine's Yacht Haven and the weather be such that there is a risk of fallout on to the boats in the Marina, the event may have to be cancelled at short notice.
11. Every care shall be taken to ensure that no burning debris is allowed to fall into the river or surrounding area, although a static lighted sign aboard the vessel is permissible providing any sparks land on the vessel or immediately alongside.

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12. The Fireworks Company shall be responsible for all actions, proceedings, claims and demands whatsoever arising directly or indirectly from or in connection with the display and permission for the display will only be given by the Port of London Authority, on the understanding that the Fireworks Company will indemnify the Port of London Authority against any such actions proceedings claims and demands brought against the Port of London Authority.
13. The fireworks vessel should be prepared in safe and secure premises and once fireworks are in position they should be under the supervision of an experienced and competent person.
14. Contact must be established between the fireworks vessel and any attending vessel and the Harbour Master's launch before the river closure takes place.  
The river must be closed for the event and all manned vessels, except emergency services must be cleared from the area.  
A duty Harbour Master will be present and firing must not commence until confirmation has been given by him that the area is secure.
15. The Fireworks Company will be responsible for all costs and expenses reasonably and properly incurred by the Port of London Authority, including the work carried out by its officers in connection with the event.
16. No aerial mortar shell of more than 8 inch calibre shall be used in a fireworks display. A maximum calibre of 6 inches is recommended.
17. All reasonable precautions shall be taken to minimise environmental impacts on the river, wildlife and designated habitats.
18. As soon as safe and reasonably practicable, all debris shall be contained and all reasonable efforts shall be made to collect any debris that has fallen into the river, with due consideration for the handling of any "duds" or "misfires". All collected debris shall be sent for appropriate treatment and / or disposal at a suitably licensed site.
19. The Fireworks Company shall give due consideration to the use of eco-friendly fireworks that are suitable for use over water.
20. If the event is likely to impact on a designated habitat site (Site of Special Scientific Interest, Special Area of Conservation, Special Protection Area or a Ramsar site), i.e. it is within 2km, the applicant must obtain permission from Natural England before applying to the PLA and provide evidence of Natural England approval.

It should also be noted that the Port of London Authority, after due consultation, reserve the right to make such change, deletions or additions to these requirements as it may think necessary from time to time.

Signed: .....

For and on behalf of: .....

Date: .....

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