



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

Explosives Regulations, 2024

DISCLAIMER: This summary is provided for informational purposes only and does not constitute legal advice. While efforts have been made to ensure accuracy, this summary may not be comprehensive or reflect all amendments. The official published legislation remains the authoritative source. Readers should consult the complete, official text of the legislation and seek qualified legal advice for specific matters. The author and SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd accept no liability for any errors, omissions, or consequences arising from reliance on this summary.

1. Definitions

Key definitions include:

- "ammonium nitrate" - defined in SANS 10228 with UN number 1942, includes uniform mixtures with compatible materials containing >28% nitrogen content with ≤0.2% combustible substances, and solutions containing <40% water
- "authorised explosive" - article/substance approved by Minister of Police as explosive
- "blasting" - firing blasting explosives for breaking rock/material or other approved purposes
- "blaster" - competent person with valid blasting permit from chief inspector of explosives
- "burning grounds" - fenced area for controlled exposure of explosives to naked flame
- "certificated person" - person with competency certificate from South African Qualifications Authority, accredited service provider or approved organization
- "chief inspector of explosives" - inspector appointed under Explosives Act, 1956
- "class 1.1-1.6" - explosives classes defined in SANS 10228
- "class 5.1" - oxidizing substances defined in SANS 10228
- "competent person" - person with required knowledge, training, experience and qualifications for specific work/task
- "complex" - group of danger buildings in same danger area
- "danger area" - fenced area with guarded entrance containing explosives buildings
- "danger building or room" - licensed building/room used as explosives workplace/magazine
- "danger zone" - region inside area encompassed by safety distance applicable to danger building
- "explosive" - substance or mixture capable of explosion; pyrotechnic substance/mixture; article containing such substances; plastic explosive; ammonium nitrate mixtures with >15% nitrogen content; or other substance declared explosive by Minister of Police



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

- "explosives compatibility groups" - explosives grouped for safe storage/transportation per SANS 10228
- "explosives magazine" - licensed building for explosives storage
- "explosives manager" - person appointed under regulation 12(1)(a)
- "explosives workplace" - licensed workplace for manufacture, testing, use and storage of explosives
- "explosives workplace licence" - licence for explosives workplace under regulation 4
- "from magazines" - from one explosives storage building to another
- "guarded entrance" - entrance requiring approval for passage of persons/equipment/materials
- "loose article" - tool, furniture, cleaning material or other non-fixed item in danger building
- "loose article list" - approved list specifying allowed items in building/room
- "magazine licence" - licence for explosives storage
- "manufacture" - making/processing explosives, including division from component parts, type conversion, and various other activities
- "mobile workplace" - licensed mobile facility for explosives manufacturing, testing, use or storage
- "National Explosives Council" - council established under regulation 17
- "non-danger building or room" - building in danger area where no explosives are kept
- "non-detonatable explosive" - explosive requiring extreme conditions to initiate
- "non-explosives worker" - employee normally working outside danger area
- "non-sensitised explosive" - explosive requiring sensitization for use
- "official explosives workplace site plan" - plan per regulation 4(5)(b)
- "operating instruction" - document setting out methods/materials/equipment/tools/precautions for operations
- "permanent and full-time capacity" - employed by one employer only during all normal working hours
- "plant office" - office for direct control of danger area operations
- "plant workshop" - workshop exclusively for maintaining danger area equipment/buildings
- "private use" - legal explosives use by individuals for specific purpose not connected with others
- "process building" - danger building where work on explosives takes place
- "process magazine" - magazine within safety circle containing one day's explosives
- "professional engineer" - engineer with Engineering Council of South Africa status
- "public building" - structure beyond danger zone accessible to public
- "schedule licence" - categorized licence (Schedule I, II, III) with specific requirements
- "to magazines" - from process building to storage building
- "to public buildings" - from danger building to public buildings
- "to railways, roads, etc." - from danger building to transportation routes or company dwellings
- "unauthorized explosive" - substance with explosive properties not approved/published as authorized

2. Scope of application



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

(1) These Regulations apply to employers, self-employed persons or users operating explosives workplaces. (2) They don't apply to private small arms cartridge loading/reloading for non-commercial use. (3) The chief inspector of occupational health and safety may grant written exemptions. (4) Exemptions may be withdrawn or amended.

3. Authorised and classified explosives

(1) The chief inspector of explosives must provide list of authorized explosives to chief inspector of occupational health and safety. (2) The chief inspector of occupational health and safety may classify chemical combinations as explosives or reclassify explosives. (3) No person may manufacture/use unauthorized/unclassified explosives. (4) No person may manufacture explosives in ways not provided for without written permission.

4. Licensing of explosives workplaces

(1) Applications for new explosives workplaces must be made in writing to chief inspector of occupational health and safety. (2) Receipt of applications must be acknowledged within 30 days. (3) The chief inspector may: (a) Issue licenses with 12-month lapse if erection doesn't start (b) Attach conditions (c) Alter existing conditions after consultation (d) Refuse licenses where requirements not met (e) Transfer licenses upon application (f) Revoke licenses for non-compliance (g) Issue/amend guidelines, codes, standards

(4) License applications must include: (a) Local government authorization (b) Chief inspector of explosives' security approval (c) Explosives manager appointment letter (d) Physical address (e) Manager's competency documentation (f) Risk assessment report

(5) Applications must include draft schedule licenses and detailed drawings showing: (a) Area plan with danger zone (b) Site plan with layout (c) Safety distances (d) Materials compatibility (e) Building plans approved by professional engineer (f) Manufacturing process details (g) Storage/destruction/testing locations (h) Quantities of explosives (i) Maximum number of persons (j) Additional required information (k) Risk assessment report (l) Structural assessment report

(6) Magazine applications require written approval. (7) Burning grounds require appropriate safe distance. (8) Explosives use requires written approval.

5. Non-detonatable and non-sensitised explosives

(1) Ammonium nitrate fertilizers must prevent mechanical separation of constituents. (2) Mixtures with calcium carbonate/dolomite require incorporation in prills/granules. (3) Ammonium nitrate emulsions, gels and suspensions for blasting explosives (UN 3375) must pass UN test series 8 and be authorized. (4) Manufacturers may apply for exemption from regulations except regulation 5. (5) Exemptions subject to chief inspector's safety stipulations. (6) Safety measures must include: (a) Access control (b) Prevention of unauthorized access (c) Controls at separator stage (temperature, pH, inventory dumping, etc.) (d) Controls at storage/pumping stage (e) Controls during evaporation/heating (f)



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

Procedures for confinement prevention (g) Contaminant control (h) Prilling/granulation
contaminant control (i) Drying air control (j) Materials compatibility checking (k)
Storage/packing controls

6. Danger area

(1) Entry/exit permitted only: (a) At authorized points (b) For authorized persons/vehicles (c)
For escorted visitors

(2) Entry/exit register must be maintained.

(3) No person may: (a) Use unauthorized entry/exit points (b) Avoid searches (c) Enter with
prohibited items (ignition sources, intoxicants, substances affecting capabilities, tobacco/food
except in authorized areas, unauthorized communication devices) (d) Increase risk

(4) No unauthorized buildings in danger zone. (5) Danger areas must be fenced per South
African Police Service specifications. (6) Hazard warning signs must be maintained and
displayed.

7. Danger buildings

(1) Firefighting equipment must be readily accessible. (2) Discharge of extinguishers must be
promptly reported. (3) Danger buildings only used within prescribed temperature/humidity
limits. (4) Requirements for: (a) Foreign materials prevention (b) Spontaneously combustible
materials control (c) Loose article control

(5) Lightning protection requirements: (a) Per SANS 10313 standards (b) Testing by
competent person (c) Examination before each lightning season (at least annually) (d) Record
keeping (e) Proper earthing/bonding (f) Lightning storm procedures

(6) Buildings must display: (a) Official number (b) Schedule license copy (c) Loose article
list

(7) Maintenance requirements include: (a) Good order and cleanliness (b) Cleaning before
maintenance (c) Work permits by authorized persons (d) Unlocked doors during occupancy
(e) Door slam prevention (f) Machinery operation per specifications

8. Safeguarding of explosives workplace

(1) Workplaces must: (a) Prevent exposure to hazards (b) Be used only for authorized
purposes (c) Use approved construction materials (d) Provide escape routes, prevent confined
spaces, ensure electrical/lightning safety, avoid power line proximity (e) Ensure employee
awareness of rules (f) Implement maintenance schedules

(2) Employers must: (a) Stop operations during abnormal conditions (b) Reduce
quantities/personnel when practicable



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

9. Design, construction and manufacture

(1) Buildings/equipment must have: (a) Design compliant with health/safety standards (b) Risk assessment report from approved inspection authority (c) Manufacturer's certificate countersigned by inspection authority

10. Importation of explosives

Persons obtaining import/export permits must provide copies to chief inspector within seven days.

11. Safety distances

(1) Employers must: (a) Apply safety distances per Annexure 1 (b) Apply for safety distance determination when using less than 5kg (c) Use mounded structures for class 1.1 and 1.5 explosives exceeding 5kg

(2) Reduced distances allowed for ground-covered magazines with non-facing doors.

12. Supervision of explosives workplace

(1) Requirements for explosives manager: (a) Full-time certificated person with valid certificate (b) May perform other functions if not interfering with manager duties (c) Must address risks identified in assessments (d) Certificate appropriateness considered by chief inspector

(2) Multiple appointments possible with chief inspector's permission. (3) Full-time supervisors required to assist manager. (4) Manager's duties include: (a) Approving methods/materials/equipment (b) Ensuring personnel are informed/trained about hazards (c) Stipulating protective clothing/equipment (d) Ensuring safe processes/equipment

Supervisor's duties include: (i) Controlling operations (ii) Reporting risks (iii) Ensuring rule compliance (iv) Stopping unsafe work

13. Safe handling of explosives

(1) Employers must ensure: (a) Explosives free from risk-creating foreign material (b) Spillage prevention (c) Written cleaning procedures (d) Proper waste disposal (e) Safe conveyance of explosives (f) Proper transport containers (g) Vehicles only unattended in designated places (h) Protection from sun/rain (i) Prompt removal of manufactured explosives

(2) Decontamination required for all equipment, tools, materials. (3) Use restricted to approved workplaces. (4) Compatibility groups followed for storage/transportation. (5) No person may: (a) Leave explosives unattended (b) Bury, dump, hide or abandon explosives



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

(6) For blasting materials use, persons must have: (a) Valid registration, license, and permit
(b) Proper supervision during training (c) Notification to provincial chief director

(7) Supervision required for unauthorized persons. (8) Special conditions for non-standard explosives.

14. Emergencies

(1) Emergency plans required: (a) Must provide for immediate evacuation (b) Tested annually

15. Incidents

(1) Reporting requirements: (a) Notification to explosives manager and chief inspector (b) Monthly reporting of incidents/near-misses (c) Risk assessment review after incidents

(2) Scene preservation required after fatalities or potential fatalities. (3) Exceptions for disturbance to prevent further incidents or remove injured persons.

16. Closure of explosives workplaces

(1) Closure requirements: (a) Three months' notice when possible (b) Proper disposal of explosives (c) Proof of return of explosives (d) Decontamination certificate (e) No explosives remaining after delicensing

17. National Explosives Council

(1) Council composition: (a) Department of Employment and Labour chairperson (b) Two additional Department representatives (c) Department of Mineral Resources representative (d) Employer representatives (e) South African Police Service representative (f) Mining house representatives (g) Mining union representatives (h) South African National Defence Force representative (i) Employee representatives (j) Co-opted knowledgeable persons

(2) Chief inspector appoints members for specified periods. (3) Chief inspector may dissolve the Council. (4) Council functions: (a) Advising on legislation, codes, standards, training (b) Designating examiners (c) Advising on referred matters (d) Performing requested functions (e) Referring appeals (f) Following chief inspector's instructions

(5) Appeals against Council decisions go to chief inspector.

18. Approved inspection authorities

(1) Chief inspector may approve accredited organizations. (2) Approval may be withdrawn subject to Act's provisions.



Reviewed Date	Next Review Date	Document Owner	Responsible Person
01 Feb 2024	28 Feb 2026	SHEQ Warehouse (Pty) Ltd	Neville
This document is active, and any copy made from the electronic version shall be considered an uncontrolled copy. Individuals with uncontrolled copies are responsible for ensuring the use of the current version. Revision levels are electronically controlled.			

19. Competencies and standards of training

- (1) Chief inspector may determine, amend or withdraw minimum competency requirements.
(2) Competency and training must be accredited to South African Qualifications Authority standards.

20. Offences and penalties

- (1) Violations punishable by fines up to R8000 or imprisonment up to 12 months, with additional penalties for continuous offenses. (2) Minister may amend maximum fines by Gazette publication.

21. Repeal and savings

- (1) Explosives Regulations, 2002, are repealed. (2) Actions under previous regulations remain valid. (3) Existing National Explosives Council continues until dissolved or replaced.

22. Short title

These regulations will be known as the Explosives Regulations, 2024.