

# BBS MEMO

Ohio Board of Building Standards

April 13, 1998

6606 Tussing Road, P.O. Box 4009, Reynoldsburg, Ohio 43068-9009

## **FIREWORKS FACILITIES CONSTRUCTION DOCUMENT REVIEW/APPROVAL**

As you learned in the BBS Mandatory Building Code Update course, several new rules were adopted in response to the passage of H.B. 215 dealing with fireworks facilities. These changes are primarily made to Section 418.4 of Chapter 4 of the OBBC. Because alterations will be required to existing fireworks facilities and the time frame for compliance is short, we are recommending a method for expediting the plans review/approval process by the building departments having jurisdiction for the review and approval.

When construction documents for fireworks facilities are received for review and approval, the OBBC indicated in 4101:2-1-19(I) that a letter of Preliminary Authorization for Construction issued by the Ohio Fire Marshal's office must be received before the construction documents can be approved. To facilitate the processing of fireworks facilities' construction documents within the time frame for these facilities, building departments are authorized to issue a Conditional Plans Approval pursuant to 4101:2-1-23(C) at the request of the owner or the representative of the owner if the owner has not yet received a letter of Preliminary Authorization for Construction. This will allow a parallel review of the construction documents by certified building departments or the Bureau of Construction Compliance in the Department of Commerce while the Ohio Fire Marshal's office prepares to issue the Preliminary Authorization for Construction. The Preliminary Authorization for Construction will then be submitted to the building department before a full plans approval is issued.

If a copy of this BBSMemo (including information completed below) is submitted, it shall serve as notice that the owner is requesting a Conditional Plans Review and is also submitting the appropriate documentation to the Ohio Fire Marshal's office and will provide the letter of Preliminary Authorization for Construction prior to beginning construction of any alteration to an existing fireworks facility.

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### **REQUEST FOR A CONDITIONAL PLANS APPROVAL**

I, \_\_\_\_\_, the Owner, hereby request a Conditional Plans Approval of the attached construction documents. I understand that prior to performing the work and before receiving a full plans approval certification, a letter of Preliminary Authorization for Construction from the Ohio Fire Marshal's office shall be provided to the building official for the facility located at:

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**OHIO BASIC BUILDING CODE**  
**RULES CHANGES**  
(Resulting from Fireworks Law changes)

The following is a summary of the changes to the OBBC that were made in response to Sub. H.B. 215 pertaining to new construction, alteration of and additions to buildings used for the sale, display or storage of consumer fireworks:

- Preliminary Authorization for Construction from the Fire Marshal must be submitted with the construction documents required by §4101:2-1-19(I) to the building department with jurisdiction; final plan approval will not occur until this document has been submitted;
- All fire areas/buildings used for the sale, display or storage of consumer fireworks shall be classified as Use Group H-3 (see §307.1, OBBC);
- New definitions for explosives, display fireworks and for consumer fireworks with exclusions (see §3743.80 ORC; §307.2, OBBC);
- Display fireworks listed in Use Group H-1 (see §307.3, OBBC);
- Consumer fireworks added to Use Group H-3 (see §307.5, OBBC);
- New provisions were added to the OBBC for *consumer fireworks* facilities:
  - 5,000 ft.<sup>2</sup> fire area limitation (see §418.4.1.1 and §503.1, OBBC);
  - Fire separation between display-sales & storage fire areas (see §418.4.1.2, OBBC);
  - Smoke control system (see §418.4.1.3 and §922.0, OBBC);
  - Awnings, tents and canopies prohibited (see §418.4.1.4, OBBC);
  - Horizontal exits prohibited as exit; (see §418.4.1.5, OBBC);
- Reference added re: fire separation distance requirement in OFC (see §705.2.1, OBBC);
- Fire suppression system required for H Uses (see §904.5, OBBC);
- Automatic fire detection required for consumer fireworks facilities (see §919.4, OBBC);
- Consumer fireworks smoke interface layer criteria added (see §922.2, OBBC);
- Fire alarm supervision required for consumer fireworks facilities (see §924.2, OBBC);
- Occ. load posted in consumer fireworks facilities (see §1003.3, 4101:2-1-28[A], OBBC);
- Max. occ. load 30 ft.<sup>2</sup>/person for consumer fireworks public areas (see §1008.1, OBBC).