

INERT MATERIAL PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION STANDARD

1.0 Scope: *This document covers production and distribution of inert products that represent commercial explosive materials and are used for safety and security training or for marketing.*

2.0 General Provisions: No Class 1 materials may be used in the construction of any inert products.

2.1 Inert products must not have the ability to function and must be easily recognizable as such by trained individuals.

2.2 Inert products shall not contain any energetic material.

2.3 Access to inert products must be controlled to prevent them from being involved in threatening situations or mistaken for the actual product in blasting operations.

3.0 Distribution: The ordering and distribution of inert products must be handled in a manner that assures the control of these materials.

3.1 In most circumstances, outside requests for inert materials should not be taken by explosive manufacturers, but should be referred to the Institute of Makers of Explosives (IME) office in Washington, DC.

3.1.1 Requests from state and local law enforcement agencies should be referred to the FBI Bomb Data Center. IME will coordinate the acquisition of inert materials to the FBI as needed.

3.1.2 Requests from other government agencies should be accommodated by IME.

3.1.3 Requests from nongovernment entities should be accommodated by IME only if there is direct relationship to public safety.

3.1.4 All other requests should be referred to commercial suppliers of inert products.

3.2 Requests for inert products must be made on a letterhead of the official organization asking for the products.

3.2.1 The letter must have return address, name, and title of the requestor and a specific list of desired products.

3.2.2 The letter must be filed and kept in the IME or manufacturer's office.

3.3 Inert products must be transported with a letter stating:

3.3.1 that the products are nonfunctional,

3.3.2 that the products shall be secured to limit access to only those needing access, and

3.3.3 that the products will be destroyed beyond recognition or returned when no longer needed.

3.3.4 The letter shall also contain a detailed inventory of the products provided and a request for a written reply that the stated items were indeed received by the requester.

3.3.5 A copy of this letter and the requesting letter mentioned in 3.2 must be filed and kept in the IME or manufacturer's office

3.4 Intracompany distribution of inert products should occur in a similar manner as those going outside the company. Except that in 3.3.4, a request for a verbal reply may be acceptable.

4.0 Construction and Appearance: This standard provides guidelines for the construction and appearance of inert products. It does not apply to inert products that must represent or illustrate the actual product. Inert products that appear to be identical to the actual product must be retrieved by the company from outside elements such as photographic, publishing, or security companies. This retrieval process does not apply to inert products supplied to law enforcement.

4.1 **Marking:** Markings on inert products should clearly indicate the inert nature of the product yet resemble the actual product.

4.1.1 Inert products should be legibly marked with the phrase “INERT/INERTE/FAUX.”

4.1.2 The use of other terms such as “Dummy” or “Non-explosive” should only be used in addition to the phrase in 4.1.1.

4.1.3 A tracking code that relates to the request for the inert product should be placed on each inert article.

4.1.3.1 The code mentioned in 4.1.3 should be filed with the paperwork mentioned in Section 3.

4.1.4 Other markings normally found on the actual product should be applied. Normal markings may be altered to further indicate the products are inert. For example, names such as “Inertmite” and “Dummy Explosives Co.” could be used.

4.1.5 If a date-plant-shift code is marked on the inert article, “31FE02X9” or a similar nonsensical code should be used for all inert products.

4.2 Detonators:

4.2.1 Detonator shells must have at least one hole drilled in the shell. If possible, this hole should expose the missing critical components and allow quick assessment of the detonator’s inert construction. The hole is preferred on the side of the shell, but may be drilled on the bottom, very near the base. Hole(s) drilled through the detonator shell should also pass completely through the shell and any material covering the shell such as bunch blocks or other connectors.

4.2.2 The shell should be colored blue or have a blue stripe around its circumference.

4.2.3 The inert warning in 4.1.1 should be printed on the shell.

4.2.4 A tag marked in the manner described in 4.1 should be placed on the tubing, wires, miniaturized detonating cord, or fuse indicating that it is an inert product.

4.3 Detonating Cord:

4.3.1 Standard colors and patterns on coverings may be used in inert detonating cord.

4.3.2 The inside of the cord should be filled with a blue colored, nonexplosive material.

4.3.3 The cord should be marked in the manner described in 4.1.1.

4.3.3.1 If possible, the cord should have the inert marking printed along its length.

4.3.3.2 Alternatively, a tag marked in the manner described in 4.1 should be placed on the cord.

4.4 Packaged Explosive Cartridges:

- 4.4.1 Packaged explosives cartridges should be:
 - 4.4.1.1 filled with a blue mixture and have labels
 - 4.4.1.2 printed in blue ink or
 - 4.4.1.2 a blue barber pole effect printed on the outside of the package.

4.5 Bulk Explosives:

- 4.5.1 Actual ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based products may be used if they are not Class 1 materials.
 - 4.5.1.1 Non-Class 1 ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based products should be placed in small packages with the contents clearly labeled.
 - 4.5.1.2 Care should be exercised to ensure all local, state, and federal hazardous material regulations are followed while shipping, storing and displaying non-Class 1 ammonium nitrate and ammonium nitrate based products.
- 4.5.2 Bulk explosives representative of Class 1 materials should:
 - 4.5.2.1 not be Class 1 sensitive,
 - 4.5.2.2 contain blue beads, and
 - 4.5.2.3 be packaged and handled according to 4.5.1.1 and 4.5.1.2.

4.6 Miscellaneous Explosive Articles – These are products such as oil well perforators, linear shaped charges, and other specialty devices.

- 4.6.1 These articles should not be filled unless the explosive material can normally be observed.
- 4.6.2 If the article is filled, it should be done so with blue inert materials.
- 4.6.3 There should be a hole(s) drilled through the article where the explosives would normally be located if the article were the actual product.

Approved by the IME Board of Governors at the 2005 Spring Meeting 6/9/2005