

CHAPTER 194**ROCKET EXPERIMENTATION BY AMATEURS**

(Safety Regulation Number 24)

Authority

Unless otherwise expressly noted, all provisions of this Chapter 194 were adopted by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, pursuant to authority delegated at N.J.S.A. 21:1A-131, filed and effective prior to September 1, 1969.

CHAPTER TABLE OF CONTENTS**SUBCHAPTER 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**

- 12:194-1.1 Purpose
- 12:194-1.2 Scope
- 12:194-1.3 Exceptions

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

- 12:194-2.1 General definitions
- 12:194-2.2 Special definitions

SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS

- 12:194-3.1 Compliance
- 12:194-3.2 Age limitations
- 12:194-3.3 Excluded explosives
- 12:194-3.4 Rocket design and construction
- 12:194-3.5 Rocket engine igniters
- 12:194-3.6 Rocket launching
- 12:194-3.7 Rocket ignition
- 12:194-3.8 Rocket flights—weather factors
- 12:194-3.9 Flight area markings
- 12:194-3.10 Flight—area command
- 12:194-3.11 Flight area—personnel control
- 12:194-3.12 Municipal approval

SUBCHAPTER 4. PERMITS

- 12:194-4.1 Permit restrictions
- 12:194-4.2 Permit application
- 12:194-4.3 Permit classes

SUBCHAPTER 5. MODEL ROCKETRY

- 12:194-5.1 Design and construction
- 12:194-5.2 Limiting model factors
- 12:194-5.3 Model rocket engines—minimum standards
- 12:194-5.4 Model rocket engines—testing and certification
- 12:194-5.5 Model rocket engines—use
- 12:194-5.6 Rocket flights—obstacles
- 12:194-5.7 Flight area—size
- 12:194-5.8 Flight area—location

SUBCHAPTER 6. AMATEUR ROCKETRY

- 12:194-6.1 Exceptions
- 12:194-6.2 Restrictions
- 12:194-6.3 Compounding of propellants—quantities
- 12:194-6.4 Compounding of propellants—laboratory samples
- 12:194-6.5 Compounding of propellants—production units

- 12:194-6.6 Liquid propellants
- 12:194-6.7 Preflight test requirements
- 12:194-6.8 Static tests
- 12:194-6.9 Static test bay
- 12:194-6.10 Launching facility
- 12:194-6.11 Rocket firing procedures

SUBCHAPTER 7. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

- 12:194-7.1 Transportation
- 12:194-7.2 Storage

SUBCHAPTER 1. PURPOSE AND SCOPE**12:194-1.1 Purpose**

This Chapter is promulgated to establish minimum safety requirements and standards for the manufacture and use of explosives in model and amateur rocketry.

12:194-1.2 Scope

This Chapter is applicable to rocket experimentation by amateurs, including the mixing of rocket propellants, and the sale, storage, transportation and use of rocket propellants and preloaded, factory-made commercial model rocket engines that do not require mixing the propellant.

12:194-1.3 Exceptions

In cases of practical difficulty or unnecessary hardship, the Commissioner may grant exceptions from the requirements of this Chapter, provided that a request for such exemption has been made in writing. Exceptions can only be granted when it is clearly evident that a satisfactory and safe condition is attained, but cannot be granted in any case where conflict would be created with mandatory requirements of the law.

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS**12:194-2.1 General definitions**

The following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

2.1.1 "Approved" means approved by the Commissioner.

2.1.2 "Commissioner" means the Commissioner of Labor and Industry, or his authorized representative.

2.1.3 "Department" means the Department of Labor and Industry.

12:194-2.2 Special definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this Chapter, shall have the following meanings, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

2.2.1 "Amateur rocketry" means any of the following activities when performed by an amateur: the compounding and loading of propellants; the fabrication of rocket engines; or the design, construction and use of rockets containing substantial metal parts.

2.2.2 "Model rocketry" means the design, construction and use of model rockets containing no substantial metal parts, and which use a solid propellant rocket engine produced by a commercial manufacturer.

2.2.3 "Model rocket" means an aero model that is propelled by means of a model rocket engine, includes a recovery device for returning it safely to the ground, and which is made of paper, wood or breakable plastic and contains no substantial metal parts. The rocket shall not exceed 16 ounces in weight nor have more than three stages.

2.2.4 "Model rocket engine" means a solid propellant rocket engine or rocket propellant produced by a commercial manufacturer in which all chemical ingredients of a combustible nature are premixed and ready for use.

2.2.5 "Amateur rocket" means a rocket vehicle that is propelled by means of a propellant engine produced by other than a commercial manufacturer, or weighs more than 16 ounces, or is not made of paper, wood or breakable plastic.

2.2.6 "Amateur rocket engine" means a solid or liquid propellant rocket engine in which any chemical ingredients of a combustible nature have been mixed by other than a commercial manufacturer.

SUBCHAPTER 3. GENERAL PROVISIONS**12:194-3.1 Compliance**

All manufacture, sale, storage, transportation and use of propellants, oxidizers and rocket engines, and the launching of any type of rocket shall comply with the requirements of this Chapter.

12:194-3.2 Age limitations

Persons less than 15 years of age are not permitted to participate in the preparation or use of propellants. Persons 15 years of age or older are permitted to assist in the preparation or use of propellants when such activity is performed under the control and supervision of a person in possession of a valid permit issued hereunder and all such persons must comply with these rules and regulations.

12:194-3.3 Excluded explosives

Excluded explosives, as listed in N.J.A.C. 12:190-8.1 shall not be used.

12:194-3.4 Rocket design and construction

3.4.1 Rockets shall be designed and constructed in compliance with accepted aerodynamic principles.

3.4.2 Rockets shall be designed and constructed in such a manner as to have attached surfaces which will provide the necessary aerodynamic stabilizing and restoring forces to maintain a true and predictable flight.

12:194-3.5 Rocket engine igniters

No igniter containing pyrotechnic material shall be inserted in the rocket engine until the rocket is ready for thrust stand tests or launching.

12:194-3.6 Rocket launching

3.6.1 All rockets shall be launched from launching devices or mechanisms which shall contain the yaw and pitch axes of the models until sufficient flight velocity is achieved for the stabilizing surfaces to exert adequate aerodynamic stabilizing forces.

3.6.2 No rocket shall be launched at an angle less than 60 degrees from the horizontal.

3.6.3 No rocket shall be fired as a weapon against targets in the air or on the ground.

3.6.4. No rocket shall contain any explosive warheads.

12:194-3.7 Rocket ignition

3.7.1 Rockets shall be launched by electrical means only, and fully under the control of the permit holder.

3.7.2 Electrical firing systems shall contain safety circuits or devices to insure that launching or ignition does not occur unless planned steps are taken in sequence, in accordance with a written "standard operating procedure".

3.7.3 Electrical firing circuits or devices shall be checked for proper operation and "no voltage" before launchings take place.

3.7.4 Ignition or launching of model rockets shall take place only in the presence and under the supervision of person holding a permit.

3.7.5 No rocket shall be ignited or launched unless all persons in the vicinity of the launching area are at a safe distance and are aware that ignition and launching are imminent.

3.7.6 The firing circuit shall not be armed until the permit holder has made a careful visual check of the surrounding area and has made a sky sweep to insure the absence of aircraft which might enter the flight path of the rocket.

3.7.7 A minimum five-second count-down shall be given before the ignition or launching of any rocket.

3.7.8 In the event of a misfire, igniter failure or other abort, the permit holder shall return the firing system to a safe condition. No one shall approach the model until its condition has been pronounced safe by the permit holder.

12:194-3.8 Rocket flights—weather factors

3.8.1 Rocket shall not be flown during weather conditions that might adversely affect the flight path or the flight characteristics of the rocket, such as:

- a. High winds;
- b. Gusty winds;
- c. Other inclement conditions.

3.8.2 Rockets shall not be flown when the visibility is less than one mile.

3.8.3 Rockets shall not be flown into any cloud, nor flown after sunset.

12:194-3.9 Flight area markings

3.9.1 A flight operation area, when in use, shall be plainly marked as being the site of rocket operations by the flying of a red flag at least 12 inches square at a height no less than seven feet above the ground.

3.9.2 Flashing red lights at a height no less than seven feet above the ground at the range control point may also be used to indicate that an area is in use as a rocket flight operations area.

3.9.3 Road and walkway approaches to rocket flight operation area shall be posted with warnings signs when the area is in use.

12:194-3.10 Flight area—command

3.10.1 During operations in a flight area, the permit holder shall have supreme authority.

3.10.2 The permit holder should possess an interlock safety key, switch guard or equivalent, which shall prevent the launching of rockets.

3.10.3 All rockets presented for operation on the range shall be admitted or rejected by the permit holder on the basis of his judgment alone.

12:194-3.11 Flight area—personnel control

3.11.1 All personnel in the flight operations area shall be under the control of the permit holder.

3.11.2 The number of persons in the launch area shall be the minimum, as determined by the permit holder.

3.11.3 Spectators shall be required to remain within the bounds of a specified spectator's area, which shall be located in such a position as to insure maximum safety.

12:194-3.12 Municipal approval

A flight area should not be used until the permit holder has contacted municipal authorities regarding any restrictions.

SUBCHAPTER 4. PERMITS

12:194-4.1 Permit restrictions

4.1.1 No person shall use any model rocket engine, propellant or other explosive unless a permit shall have been issued as herein provided.

4.1.2 It is prohibited for any person to sell any rocket engine, propellant or other explosives to any person not in possession of a valid permit to use explosives.

4.1.3 No permit can be assigned or in any way transferred.

4.1.4 No person shall manufacture, sell, transport, store or use any rocket engine, propellant or other explosives except in compliance with the limitations expressed on the permit.

12:194-4.2 Permit application

4.2.1 Applications for a permit shall be made to the Commissioner on forms provided by him and shall contain such information as the Commissioner may require.

4.2.2 Any permit is revocable for cause, by the Commissioner.

4.2.3 An applicant for a permit to use model rocket engines must have knowledge of the principles of safe model rocketry, as contained in this Chapter and must be at least 21 years of age.

4.2.4 An applicant for a permit to prepare and use propellants in amateur rocketry must demonstrate his knowledge of, and qualifications in the safe preparation and use of propellants, and must be at least 21 years of age.

12:194-4.3 Permit classes

4.3.1 Two types of permits will be issued to cover the activities associated with rocket experimentation by ama-

teurs. The class of each permit, the activity each authorizes and the annual fee are as follows:

- a. *To sell*—authorizes the sale of model rocket engines\$10.00
- b. *To use*—
 - (1) Model rocketry—authorizing the purchase and use of model rocket engines1.00
 - (2) Amateur rocketry—authorizing the preparation and use of propellants.....1.00

SUBCHAPTER 5. MODEL ROCKETRY

12:194-5.1 Design and construction

5.1.1 Model rockets shall contain a means for retarding their descent to the ground in such a way that there is no danger to persons or property.

5.1.2 Model rockets shall be constructed of wood, plastic, rubber, paper or similar materials and shall contain no substantial metal parts.

12:194-5.2 Limiting model factors

No model rocket shall exceed a gross or launching weight of 16 ounces, or shall be composed of more than three stages.

12:194-5.3 Model rocket engines—minimum standards

5.3.1 A model rocket engine shall be so designed that the rocket engine casing shall not rupture under normal operating conditions.

5.3.2 If a model rocket engine is not made of paper, wood or breakable plastic, a sufficient blowout disc or other safety release shall be provided as an integral part of the engine to prevent rupture of the engine casing in the event of internal overpressure.

5.3.3 A model rocket engine shall not be capable of spontaneous ignition or combustion in air, in water, under pneumatic or hydraulic pressure, as a result of motion or jarring, when subjected to a heat of 170 degrees Fahrenheit or more or in glycerine.

12:194-5.4 Model rocket engines—testing and certification

5.4.1 All model rocket engines available for sale shall be approved by the Commissioner of Labor and Industry.

5.4.2 Approval of model rocket engines shall be guided by the standards and recommendations of the National Association of Rocketry, and recognized rocket authorities and agencies.

12:194-5.5 Model rocket engines—use

5.5.1 Model rocket engines shall not be altered in any manner to change their performance characteristics or dimensions, but nonmetallic casings may be trimmed slightly around their forward end in order to fit properly into engine mountings.

5.5.2 Model rocket engines shall not be used for any purpose except on model rockets which are specifically designed to perform properly with the type of engine being used.

5.5.3 No model rocket engine casing shall be reloaded unless so designed by the manufacturer, and then only with commercially produced propellant.

12:194-5.6 Rocket flights—obstacles

No rocket flight shall be adjacent to high voltage power lines, major highways, multi-story buildings or other obstacles which would constitute hazards to the flight of model rockets, or which might be endangered by the flight of model rockets.

12:194-5.7 Flight area—size

5.7.1 The dimensions of the area to be utilized for flight operations of model rocket engines shall conform with the following:

a. For any expected altitude up to 750 feet, the area utilized shall contain at least 5,000 square yards, be generally rectangular in form and have no side less than 50 yards long.

b. For any expected altitude above 750 feet, the area utilized shall be generally rectangular in form and the length of any side shall not be less than the expected altitude of the rocket.

5.7.2 For other than vertical flight operations of model rocket engines, the area to be utilized shall be of sufficient size to keep the rocket within the flight area until the deployment of the recovery system.

12:194-5.8 Flight area—location

5.8.1 Flight operation areas shall be located in such a place as not to endanger the life or property of individuals in the vicinity of the area.

5.8.2. No flight operations shall be located within five miles of a major airfield nor within two miles to any airfield, unless prior written permission is obtained from the airport officials.

SUBCHAPTER 6. AMATEUR ROCKETRY

12:194-6.1 Exceptions

Nothing in this Subchapter shall be construed as applying to any phase of amateur rocketry within areas under the jurisdiction of the military forces of the United States.

12:194-6.2 Restrictions

6.2.1 No liquid propellants shall be used unless a special permit has been obtained under Section 4.3.1(b) (Permit classes) of this Chapter.

6.2.2 No chlorates, picrates, iodates or fulminates shall be used for rocket experimentation.

6.2.3 The requirements under Section 6.4 (Compounding of propellants—laboratory samples) of this Chapter are applicable only for mixtures of zinc and sulphur; mixing of any other solid propellants shall comply with the requirements of Section 6.5 (Compounding of propellants—production units) of this Chapter. The handling and use of liquid propellants shall comply with the requirements of Section 6.6 (Liquid propellants) of this Chapter.

12:194-6.3 Compounding of propellants—quantities

6.3.1 A quantity of propellant having a weight of four ounces or less shall be classified as a laboratory sample.

6.3.2 A quantity of propellant having a weight of more than four ounces shall be classified as a production unit.

12:194-6.4 Compounding of propellants—laboratory samples

6.4.1 All mixing and laboratory work shall be accomplished in the open air or in a well ventilated room.

6.4.2 All equipment used in the mixing of propellants, or the handling of the propellants shall be grounded.

6.4.3 Only the minimum number of essential people shall be near propellant mixing operations.

6.4.4 When mixing chemicals the following protective equipment shall be used:

- a. Heavy rubber apron;
- b. Face shield;
- c. Protective glasses;
- d. Gloves and arm coverings;

6.4.5 All utensils used in mixing ingredients shall be made of nonmetallic or nonsparking materials.

6.4.6 No mixture shall be heated unless the heating is accomplished in accordance with the provisions of Section 6.5.7 (Compounding of propellants—production units) of this Chapter.

6.4.7 No mixture shall be ground or subjected to compression or shock.

6.4.8 The quantity of propellant to be mixed shall not exceed that which is necessary to load one rocket engine at a time.

6.4.9 Fire fighting equipment shall be available and be capable of fighting fire within the confines of the mixing area.

6.4.10 First aid supplies shall be available in the mixing area.

12:194-6.5 Compounding of propellants—production units

6.5.1 The mixing of more than four ounces of zinc and sulphur, or the mixing of any quantity of other propellant ingredients shall only be accomplished in accordance with the provisions of this Section.

6.5.2 All mixing and laboratory work shall be accomplished in a building specifically constructed for that purpose or in the open air with protective barricades provided.

6.5.3 All mixing, other than the mixing of zinc and sulfur, shall be done remotely.

6.5.4 Every building used for the mixing of propellants shall be equipped with the following:

- a. Fire fighting equipment consisting of extinguishers or automatic sprinkler system;
- b. Lights, switches and motors, if used, shall be explosion proof;
- c. First-aid kit;
- d. A heavy blanket, preferably asbestos or impregnated canvas.

6.5.5 All equipment used in the mixing or handling of propellants shall be grounded, and made of nonsparking material.

6.5.6 The quantity of propellant to be mixed shall not exceed that which is necessary to load one rocket at a time.

6.5.7 No mixture shall be heated or cooked unless the following additional precautions are taken:

- a. A means is provided for measuring the temperature of the mixture to within plus or minus one degree Centigrade;
- b. A safety margin of at least 100 degrees Centigrade is held between the mixing temperature and the flash temperature of the mixture;
- c. All persons present are behind protective barricades and the mixing is remotely controlled.

12:194-6.6 Liquid propellants

6.6.1 The transportation and storage of liquid propellants shall comply with Sections 7.1 (Transportation) and 7.2 (Storage) of this Chapter, and in addition shall be accomplished in containers made of a material which will not react with or otherwise be corroded by the liquid propellant, nor permit the escape of toxic or flammable fumes. Also, the

oxidizer and fuel of bipropellants shall not be transported in the same vehicle nor stored in the same building.

6.6.2 Tanks, feed lines, pumps, injectors and all other components of the rocket which come in contact with the liquid propellant shall be made of a material which will not be corroded by the propellant.

6.6.3 Rockets shall be designed and constructed in accordance with any special requirements of the particular propellants being used.

6.6.4 Transfer and loading of propellants shall be accomplished only in the open air, only in special areas provided for this purpose, and only by persons wearing the following protective equipment:

- a. Fireproof apron;
- b. Face mask;
- c. Gloves capable of protecting against corrosive and toxic effects of the propellant.

6.6.5 No person not essential to the loading operation shall be within 100 feet of the propellant loading area when propellants are being loaded, unless they are behind protective barricades.

6.6.6 Whenever possible, liquid propellants shall not be loaded into a rocket until it is placed on the launcher or test stand.

6.6.7 All safety precautions normally applicable to the handling of particular propellants being used shall be followed.

6.6.8 Fire fighting equipment shall be available wherever liquid propellants are stored, transferred or loaded.

12:194-6.7 Preflight test requirements

6.7.1 No newly designed rocket shall be launched unless the following tests of the rocket system are accomplished:

- a. Rocket engine shall be tested to determine its thrust, its burning time, its heat resistance and conductivity, and be hydro-statistically tested to $1\frac{1}{2}$ times the calculated chamber pressure.
- b. Fins shall be tested for aerodynamic behavior and shear strength.
- c. Diaphragms shall be tested to determine their rupture pressure, and to determine whether they will shatter or melt.
- d. Mechanisms—all mechanical devices shall be tested to determine whether they will function under the conditions to which they are to be subjected, and to determine that they are in working order immediately prior to launching.

e. Igniters shall be pretested for their ability to produce sufficient heat, and examined for breaks and short circuits.

f. Propellants shall be tested for means of ignition and burning rate, and that the ignition temperature is above 170 degrees Fahrenheit.

g. Bulkheads shall be tested to determine adequacy of shear strength and heat resistance.

h. Launching racks shall be tested for stability, whip and accuracy of angle of elevation.

i. All batteries, switches, electrical circuits and other electronic devices shall be tested initially to insure that they will perform their assigned functions, and then examined carefully prior to actual use to insure that they are in operative condition.

6.7.2 If any part of the rocket system is changed, the appropriate tests as provided in Section 6.6.1 (Liquid propellants) of this Chapter shall be made on the part that has been changed.

12:194-6.8 Static tests

6.8.1 Static tests shall only be made on test stands which are securely anchored to the ground and of such construction that they can withstand twice the expected thrust developed by the rocket engine.

6.8.2 The test stand shall be emplaced in the ground, or a barricade built around it to a height above the nozzle exit of the largest rocket to be tested.

6.8.3. Static tests shall be made in an area remote from buildings, highways and railroads.

12:194-6.9 Static test bay

6.9.1 Sufficient barricades shall be constructed around the test stand to prevent any fragments of an explosion of the rocket engine from escaping outside the safe, clear surrounding area; and including sufficient overhead covering to contain any rocket engine which may work loose from the test stand.

6.9.2 The test firing pit shall be well ventilated and have an open side in the direction that the gases are expelled, and a baffle shall be constructed at a reasonable distance from the open side so as to stop any solid object that might fly in that direction.

6.9.3 Static tests shall be observed and controlled from an observation bunker having a wall facing the test stand equivalent in strength to at least two feet of sand, and provided with an overhead cover of substantial thickness and a means of rapid exit of personnel.

6.9.4 Observations from the bunker shall be made by means of periscopes or through bullet-proof glass.

6.9.5 No person not located in the bunker or other protective emplacement shall be within 500 feet of the test stand during a firing.

12:194-6.10 Launching facility

6.10.1 No launching facility of any nature shall be used unless the facility has been approved by the Commissioner.

6.10.2 An amateur rocket may not be operated unless at least 24 hours, but not more than 48 hours, prior notice is given to the nearest Federal Aviation Agency air traffic control facility. This notice shall include:

1. Name and address of the person in charge of the operation;
2. The number of rockets to be operated;
3. The maximum altitude to which the rocket will be operated;
4. The geographical location of the operation;
5. Date, time and duration of operation; and
6. Other pertinent information requested by air traffic control.

6.10.3 Every facility shall include the following:

- a. Launching pit;
- b. Control bunker;
- c. Propellant loading area;
- d. Bunker for observers;
- e. Shelters for spectators.

6.10.4 Fire fighting equipment shall be available and be capable of fighting fire wherever it may occur within the confines of the launching facility.

6.10.5 First-aid supplies shall be available and persons shall be present who are trained to use them.

6.10.6 A complete operating procedure and safety rules shall be posted at the launching facility.

12:194-6.11 Rocket firing procedures

6.11.1 Rockets shall be ignited by electrical means only, controlled from the firing bunker.

6.11.2 The firing circuit shall provide a means of preventing firing unless a safety plug or key is properly inserted and this plug or key shall be in the possession of the last person to leave the rocket before firing.

6.11.3 A means shall be provided for checking that all persons present are in safe positions before the rocket is fired.

6.11.4 All persons participating in the firing shall be thoroughly familiar with the posted operating procedure.

6.11.5 In the event of a misfire, that is, a condition in which the propellant fails to ignite or burns partially so that a rocket engine still containing propellant remains in the launcher or test stand, the following steps shall be taken in sequence:

- a. After a one-minute waiting period during which no one shall leave the protected areas, the firing may be attempted again.
- b. If the rocket still fails to fire, a check of the electrical firing circuit shall be made from within the firing bunker, as far as is possible.
- c. If a defect is found which can be corrected from within the bunker, then it may be corrected and the firing attempted again. If not, then an additional 15 minute waiting period shall begin during which no persons shall leave the protected areas.
- d. After the 15 minute waiting period, if the rocket still has not fired, then one person, wearing a helmet, face shield, heavy apron and gloves, shall proceed to disarm the rocket, using extreme caution and following specified procedures.

6.11.6 In addition to the above, any additional special precautions which might apply to a particular rocket shall be taken.

SUBCHAPTER 7. TRANSPORTATION AND STORAGE

12:194-7.1 Transportation

7.1.1 The transportation of any propellant, other than model rocket engines, shall conform with Chapter 191 (The Transportation of Explosives) of this Title, governing the transportation of explosives; except that a propellant having a weight of ten pounds or less shall conform to the requirements governing the transportation of laboratory samples.

7.1.2 Model rocket engines, in quantities of 250 or less shall be classified as laboratory samples and packed in well secured metal, glass or plastic containers or cardboard inside packages. No label is required.

7.1.3 No ignition device shall be transported in the same container with a rocket engine.

12:194-7.2 Storage

7.2.1 Any propellant or model rocket engines having a weight of more than ten pounds shall be stored in a magazine for which a permit has been issued by the Commissioner.

7.2.2 Any propellant or model rocket engine having a weight of ten pounds or less shall be stored in a container lined with nonsparking material and the container shall be marked "Explosives" except when special storage is required by the permit, or when an exception is granted by the Commissioner.