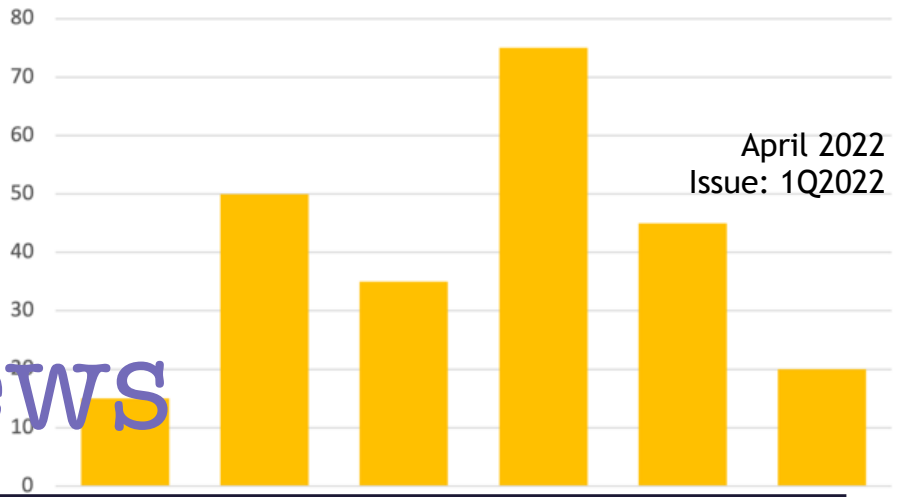




AFSL News



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AFSL’s China Team: A Commitment to Excellence

By William Zhou

AFSL’s China office was established in 2005 to meet the rapidly growing testing demands of the fireworks industry. The number of Chinese shippers joining the AFSL QIP was growing, the fireworks trading hub had shifted from Hong Kong to the mainland, in locations like Liuyang, and AFSL was seeing a need to provide more oversight of the testing program to ensure we were meeting our obligations to the AFSL membership, so we opened the China office.

The AFSL China Team members (Emily, Tony, and me) are the face of AFSL in China and we work very closely with Jieli, Jerry, and Jay to ensure the integrity of the program is protected and that we are testing product as it becomes ready for shipment. We communicate frequently with many fireworks factories and shippers in China, translating and distributing new policy documents, AFSL standards, and other relevant notices from AFSL Headquarters.

Continued on page 2



AFSL's China Team: A Commitment to Excellence - continued

We also provide the China fireworks factories and shippers a communication channel back to AFSL Headquarters. We collect feedback and reactions to our program, along with specific complaints and issues, and communicate them to the AFSL Executive Director so that we can coordinate a response.

Working closely with the Bureau Veritas team, we provide training and education to shippers and factories about the fireworks regulations and standards. The AFSL China Team also audits the AFSL testing program to ensure testing is accurate and complete. We conduct special investigations and research projects assigned by the AFSL Executive Director, and we collect and share information with AFSL Headquarters and our members in the China fireworks industry. We also occasionally write newsletter articles to help our members better understand what we do in China.

It is my belief that the best way to develop and maintain a good relationship with our shippers and factories is to be approachable and have a reputation as being objective and fair. I have been associated with AFSL for over 25 years and find that most people have come to believe we are reliable. As your representatives in China, we appreciate and treasure the trust we've built with the AFSL Board of Directors and the AFSL members. We also treasure the good relationship we have with the shippers and factories, with whom we work and are excited about the opportunity to continue to grow with the fireworks industry.

Sharing the Fireworks Safety Awareness Message

By Jieli Tan

We are always amazed at the good work done by the American Pyrotechnics Safety & Education Foundation (APSEF) to educate Americans on the proper use of fireworks, but this time they've outdone themselves! The APSEF has created a Fireworks Safety Coloring Activity book with 16 informative and fun pages to discover on the inside. The coloring activity book has been designed to complement the current curriculum kits that can be found at <https://www.celebratesafely.org/download-free-resources> (be sure to tell your local fire safety officials and educators about these free resources). Kids can enjoy the fun activities in the book while learning about the proper use of fireworks and fireworks safety; information they can share with their parents when the family celebrates with fireworks. As a fireworks safety organization, AFSL has joined APSEF and others in the industry to promote fireworks safety through the distribution of this activity book.

What are we going to do with the books we purchased? When AFSL met with the Fire Marshals in Michigan last year, the Fire Marshals mentioned that they were often asked to conduct safety classes in schools and were always in need of materials to share with the students. We will share our books with them and other local authorities who believe the books will help them promote the fireworks safety message. In addition, we will work with our PR firm BrandTrellis to identify other means to get these books distributed.

If you have any ideas you want to share with us or know of someone in your area who can use these fireworks safety resources, please do not hesitate to contact us.



AFSL Services Provided to Our New Members

By Jerry Wingard

Over the course of the last 12 months, AFSL has experienced an increase in the number of AFSL importer members. As a service to our new members, AFSL travels to their locations to meet with them and introduce them to AFSL. During our meetings, we provide copies of the key documents they will deal with as an Importer of Record. We also review AFSL, DOT, and CPSC requirements and answer any questions the new members have concerning AFSL and regulatory requirements. Before joining AFSL, many of our new members relied on their wholesalers to manage the purchasing and logistics required to import fireworks. As these new members discover some of the challenges of importing fireworks, they are looking for information to help them succeed in their new endeavor.

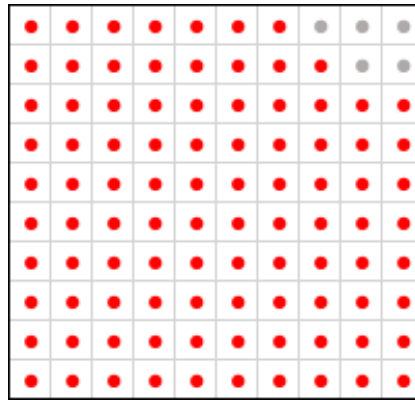
During these visits we often review their finished product inventory to help make our new members aware of potential issues with documents, such as test reports and invoices. When meeting with our new members, one of the most common areas of misunderstanding that we see is the CPSC's requirements for the General Certificate of Conformity (GCC). We have heard that some fireworks producers have advised importers that the factory will generate the GCC and keep them on file until they are needed. This is not what the law requires! The GCC document is required to be completed by the Importer of Record and be readily available to the regulator and any of the importer's wholesale customers.

One benefit of AFSL membership is the ability to store your GCC documents on the AFSL website. This feature of the AFSL website facilitates ready access to the documents, if requested by CPSC or other issues arise that require access to the information contained in these documents. Any AFSL Member with questions concerning regulatory or general importation requirements should reach out to me, or Jieli, and let us help you manage these issues.

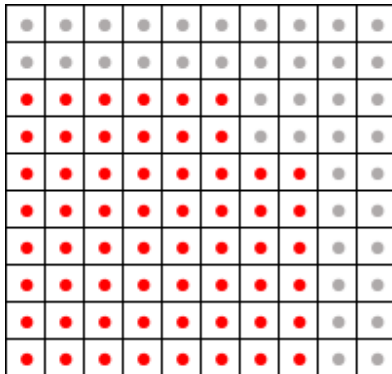
By the Numbers - 1st Quarter 2022

By Jay Howell

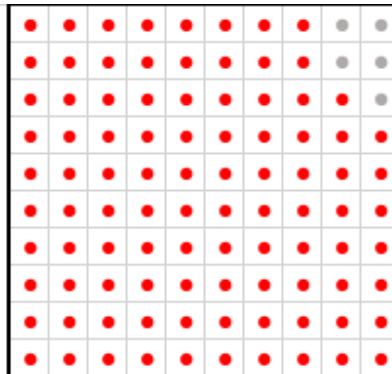
Compliance Rate
Cases Tested
95%



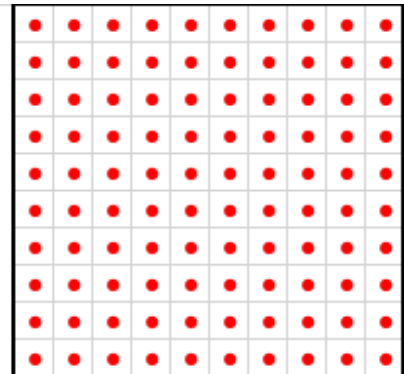
AFSL Testing Turnaround Time



Tested Within
24 Hours
60%

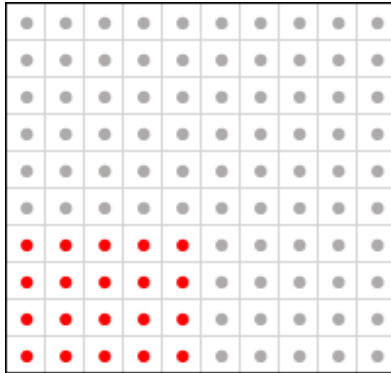


Tested Within
48 Hours
95%

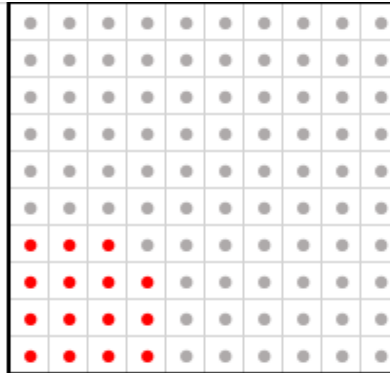


Tested Within
72 Hours
100%

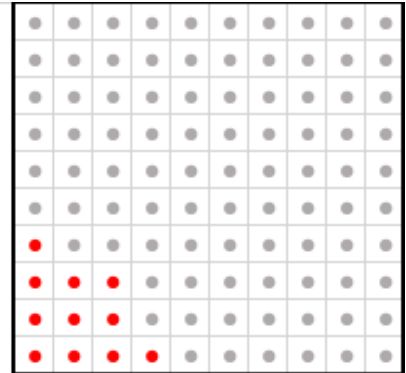
Top Reasons for Test Failures by Lots Tested



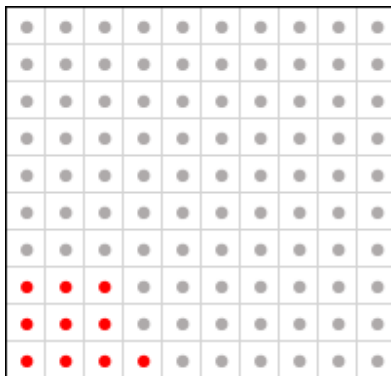
Fuse Burn Time
Short or Long
20%



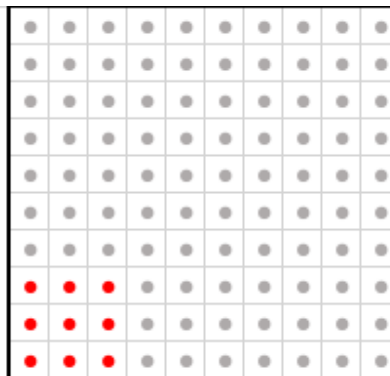
EX/FC Number
Missing from
Product/Packaging
15%



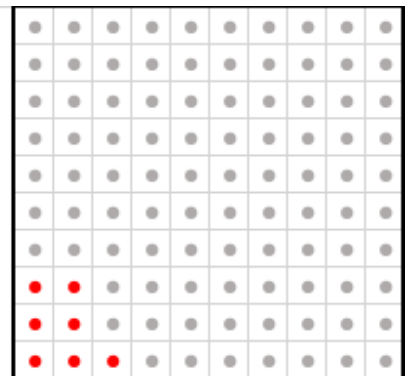
Product Burns After
Functioning
11%



Product Failed to
Function
10%



Flaming Debris
Below 3 Meters
9%



Aerial Effects
Below Minimum
Required Height
7%