

## Guidelines for Safe Inspection of Explosives Magazines/Vans

### Introduction:

An explosive is a substance or a mixture of substances, when initiated suitably results in violent release of energy in the form of a shock wave, accompanied by extremely rapid conversion of the explosive into a large volume of gases at high temperature and pressure. Mishandling of explosives by subjecting them to undue spark, flame, shock, impact, friction and static charge may also lead to their initiation resulting in accident. Every individual associated with explosives has to take due care, while handling explosives and adhere to the provisions and regulations stipulated under Explosives Rules, 2008, in the interest of personal and public safety.

### Safe Inspection of Explosives Magazines:

1. The following persons are authorized to carry out inspection, under Rule 128 of Explosives Rules, 2008.

<b>Officer</b>	<b>Area of Jurisdiction</b>
The Chief Controller and Controller of Explosives	All parts of India
All District Magistrates	Their respective jurisdiction
All Executive Magistrates Subordinate to the District Magistrate	Their respective jurisdiction
All Commissioners of Police and Police Officers of rank not below that of a Sub-Inspector of Police	Their respective jurisdiction
The Director General of Mines or Officers subordinate to him	Their respective jurisdiction

2. Persons entering the magazine should not carry Cellular Phones, Pagers, Wireless Instruments, Cigarettes, Matches, Lighters, Knives, other Articles made of Iron/Steel, Substances of Flammable Nature liable to spontaneous ignition or to cause/communicate fire/explosion such as Acids, Petroleum, Calcium Carbide & Compressed Gases.
3. Storage/existence of the above mentioned items and smoking should also be avoided within the 15 mts of radius of Explosives Magazine.
4. While entering into the magazine, the person should dip his overshoes/feet in water provided in the cemented trough located at the entrance of the magazine to avoid carrying sand/grid/dust inside the magazine.
5. Use of Boots/Shoes with exposed nails or shod at the base should be strictly avoided inside the magazine.
6. Numbers of person entering into the magazine should not exceed 2 Nos. during inspection.
7. Prior to inspection, magazine shall be well ventilated by opening the windows and doors for at least 10 min.
8. Operation/inspection of magazines should be avoided, whenever a thunderstorm appears to be imminent in the vicinity of a magazine. On such occasion, every person engaged in such magazine

should be withdrawn to a safe distance and such magazine should be kept closed & locked until the thunderstorm has ceased.

9. Person who has not completed the age of 18 years, person in a state of intoxication and person who is of unsound mind should not be taken inside the magazine.
10. Routine inspections of Explosives Magazines should be carried out only between the hours of sunset and sunrise.
11. In case of opening explosives boxes, the opening tool must be of wood, brass, copper or bronze, since use of tools made of iron is prohibited.
12. During inspection, the packages containing the explosives should not be thrown or dropped down or rolled or pulled along the ground or floor but shall be passed from hand to hand carefully.
13. Where a package is to be slung, due precaution should be taken to slung it in such a manner as effectively to prevent the possibility of a fall.
14. Packages containing explosives should not be allowed to remain in the sun or exposed to excessive heat, during inspection.
15. During physical examination of explosives:
  - a) Avoid use of Wristwatch and Rings.
  - b) Use non-synthetic dress materials; i.e., ideally cotton.
  - c) Be on bare foot or with boot made up of conducting rubber.
16. The explosives products namely: *Gunpowder; Slurry/Emulsion Explosives Cartridges; Boosters, Safety Fuse and Detonating Cord* shall be stored together in one room of the magazine.
17. Detonators should never be stored along with the above-mentioned explosives. Detonators shall be stored in a separate room of the same magazine separated by an air gap of 1.5 mt followed by concrete/brick wall of thickness not less than 60 cm.

### **Safe Inspection of Explosives Vans:**

1. The explosives van should be stationed in a non-congested location during inspection, where the public safety is not endangered.
2. When a convoy of two or more vans carrying explosives is inspected, they should not be stationed together for inspection.
3. When an explosives van containing explosives need to be parked over night due to the reasons beyond control, the same to be communicated by the Driver to the nearest police station and the premises in which the van is parked—
  - (a) Should not have any source of open flame or any substance or article likely to cause explosion or fire.
  - (b) Should be away from any habitation or any godown containing articles of a flammable nature or other hazardous goods.

4. If any fire occurs on a vehicle containing explosives, all other traffic should be stopped at least 300 meters from the vehicle and that all persons in the vicinity should be warned of the danger.
5. A van transporting explosives is involved in an accident, fire or any other occurrence, which causes a significant delay in the delivery of explosives or damage to the vehicle or explosives
  - a) The laws relating to road accidents shall be complied with
  - b) The JtCCE/DyCCE/CE in whose jurisdiction the accident has taken place shall be intimated giving the full details of explosives carried and accident
  - c) Explosives shall be kept under safe storage and custody till a examination by the JtCCE/DyCCE/CE if required, and then transported to the destination or place designated by the JtCCE/DyCCE/CE.
6. In case of a breakdown of van carrying explosives, where major repairs are required, prevent such repairs should be made until the explosives are transferred to another van or are removed from the vehicle and stored under proper security at a safe distance from the highway and at least 300 meters from any inhabited premises, under intimation to the JtCCE/DyCCE/CE in whose jurisdiction the incident has taken place.
7. Use of Boots/Shoes with exposed nails or shod at the base should be strictly avoided inside the explosives van.
8. Persons inspecting vans carrying explosives should not carry Cellular Phones, Pagers, Wireless Instruments, Cigarettes, Matches, Lighters, Knives, other Articles made of Iron/Steel, Substances of Flammable Nature liable to spontaneous ignition or to cause/communicate fire/explosion such as acids, Petroleum, Calcium Carbide & Compressed Gases.
9. During physical examination of explosives carried in a van:
  - a) Avoid use of Wristwatch and Rings.
  - b) Use non-synthetic dress materials; i.e., ideally cotton.
  - c) Be on bare foot or with boot made up of conducting rubber.
10. In case of handling of explosives from a van, no bale hooks or other metal tools should be used for the loading, unloading or handling of packages containing explosives. On such events, the loading/unloading/handling of explosives in the explosives van is commenced, the operation should not be stopped until completed and shall be completed as expeditiously as possible.
11. Packages containing explosives should not be allowed to remain in the sun or exposed to excessive heat, during inspection.
12. Detonators should never be transported along with the any other explosives.
13. Explosives should not be transported in any towed vehicle or tow any vehicle transporting explosives.

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