



Federation of European Explosives Manufacturers



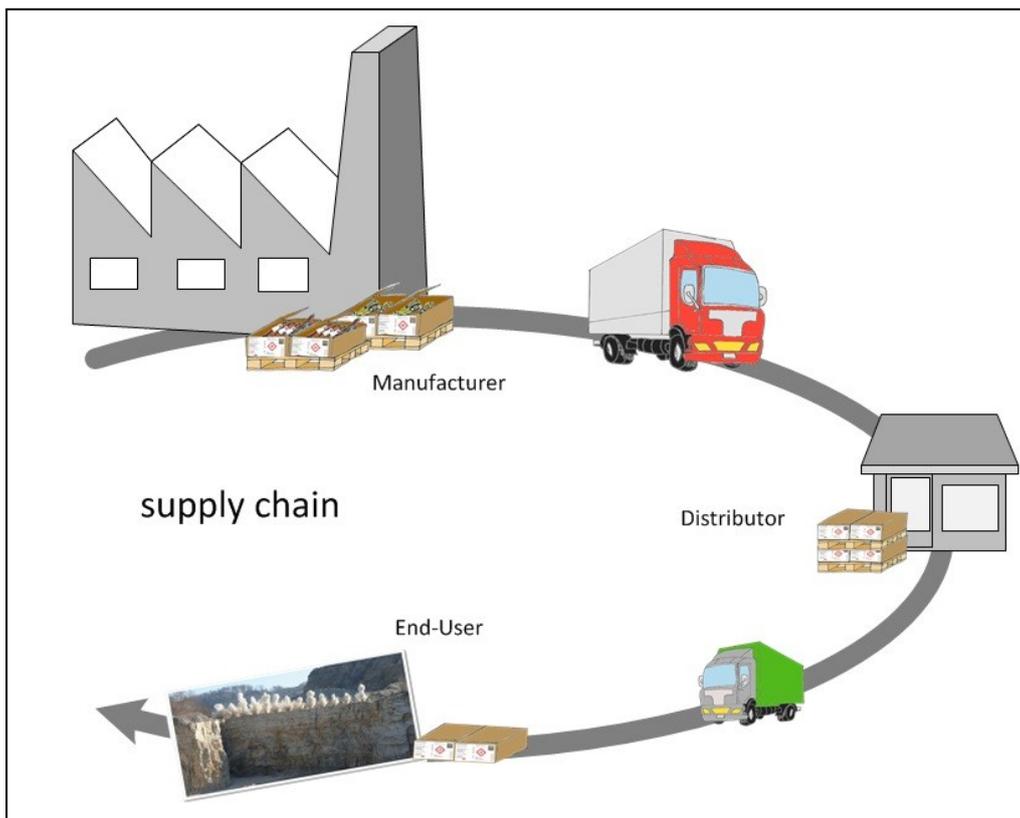
With the support of



*Explosives for civil uses Task Force<sup>i</sup>*

## Guidance Document

[A system for the identification and traceability of explosives for civil uses](#), as laid down in [Commission Directive 2008/43/EC](#) of 4 April 2008, adopted pursuant to Council Directive 93/15/EEC, as amended by [Directive 2012/4/EU](#).



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### 1- Introduction – Scope and Background of [Directive 2008/43/EC](#) consolidated version

The aim of the Directive is to:

ensure the identification and the traceability of an explosive from its production site and its first placing on the market until its final user and its use with a view to preventing misuse and theft and to assisting law enforcement authorities in the tracing of the origin of lost or stolen explosives.

## 2- Definition of end-users – *QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 93/15/EEC*

- The end-user would be the last undertaking to take possession or custody and to use the explosive, for example operating blasting on site. In certain cases this could be the sub-contracting company undertaking the blasting.
- In other words, those responsible for the last place of storage on a site prior to use should keep records from the time they take possession or custody of the explosive until it is used.
- It should not however normally be necessary for records to be kept on the individual person, such as the individual shot-firer, to whom the explosive is given to use.

## 3- Exemption of explosives – *[Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#),*

- Explosives transported and delivered unpackaged or in pump trucks for their direct unloading into the blast-hole.
- Explosives manufactured at the blasting sites, and that are loaded immediately after being produced (in situ production).
- Ammunitions.
- fuses, which are cord-like non-detonating igniting devices;
- safety fuses, which consist of a core of fine grained black powder surrounded by a flexible woven fabric with one or more protective outer coverings and which, when ignited, burn at a predetermined rate without any external explosive effect;
- cap-type primers, which consist of a metal or plastic cap containing a small amount of primary explosive mixture that is readily ignited by impact and which serve as igniting elements in small arms cartridges or in percussion primers for propelling charges.

## 4- Small articles – *[Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#),*

For articles too small to affix all the information, or where it is technically impossible due to their shape, design or specification (diameter  $\leq 8,5$  mm), full marking requirements do not apply – see point 3 of Annex to Directive and FEEM technical guidance document "Small Articles".

## 5- Marking Obligations of Manufacturers/Importers – *[Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#),*

- **From the 5 April 2013**, undertakings in the explosives sector which manufacture or import explosives or assemble detonators shall mark explosives and each smallest packaging unit with a unique and harmonised identification code – see [FEEM European Explosives Code Structure](#).

## 6- Marking Obligations of Distributors -*[Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#),*

- **From 5 April 2015**, distributors which repackage explosives shall make sure that the unique identification is affixed to the explosive and the smallest packaging unit.

## **7- Data Collection and Record-keeping Obligations for Manufacturers/Importers/Distributors/Users – [Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#),**

- **From 5 April 2015**, manufacturers, importers, distributors and users of explosives have to comply with the following obligations:
  - Putting in place a system for collecting data in relation to explosives including their unique identification throughout the supply chain and life cycle.
  - Keeping a record of all identifications of explosives, together with all pertinent information including the type of explosive, the company or person to the custody of whom it was given; (...) for a period of 10 years after the delivery or whenever known after the end of the life cycle of the explosive even if undertakings have ceased trading.
  - Recording the location of each explosive while the explosive is in their possession or custody until it is either transferred to another undertaking or used.
  - At regular intervals testing their data collection system in order to ensure its effectiveness and the quality of the data recorded.
  - Protecting the data collected against accidental or malicious damage or destruction.
  - Providing the competent authorities, upon their request, with the information concerning the origin and location of each explosive during its life cycle and throughout the supply chain.
  - Providing the responsible Member State authorities with the name and contact details of a person able to provide the information described in the previous point outside normal business hours.

## **8- IT Programme, System and Equipment for tracking, where used**

- To be in compliance with National legislation/ European Fair and Competitive trade/ compatibility at European level/ EU Directives.

## **9- Practical implementation for end users – [Directive 2008/43/EC consolidated version](#)**

As from 5 April 2015, all end users have to comply with the provisions of the Directive.

- End user companies must record the identification code (alphanumeric, bar or matrix code) and to keep and maintain the data collected including the unique identifications for a period of 10 years after the delivery. Running a software and having tracking hardware devices will facilitate this, especially where the end user is handling large volumes of data. For end users using only a handful of explosives a year, manual data collection and record-keeping documentation should be sufficient.
- Explosives manufacturers, importers and/or distributors will give practical recommendations to end users in order to properly implement the provisions of the Directive.
- It is highly recommended for End user companies to undertake and/or inform on training actions, on the track & trace system and on the legal responsibilities, in order to improve the knowledge and skills of the people that take possession or custody and use the explosive, for example operating blasting on site, including where appropriate sub-contractors.

**Other sources of information:**

• **European Commission Explosives: Page & Directives:**

<http://ec.europa.eu/enterprise/sectors/chemicals/documents/specific-chemicals/explosives/>  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2008:094:0008:0012:EN:PDF>  
<http://eur-lex.europa.eu/LexUriServ/LexUriServ.do?uri=OJ:L:2012:050:0018:0020:EN:PDF>

• **Other information sources with a direct access for users**

[\*QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS CONCERNING THE IMPLEMENTATION OF DIRECTIVE 93/15/EEC\*](#)  
[FEEM European Explosives Code Structure](#)  
[FEEM definitions of small articles](#)

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<sup>i</sup> ***Explosives for civil uses Task Force:***

CEMBUREAU – [European Cement Association](#), Deutscher Sprengverband e.V. – [German Blasting Association](#), EFEE – [European Federation of Explosives Engineers](#), EURACOAL – [European Association for Coal and Lignite](#), EUROGYPSUM – [European Gypsum Industry](#), EUROMINES – [European Association of Mining Industries, Metal Ores & Industrial Minerals](#), FEEM – [European Federation of Explosives Manufacturers](#), IMA-Europe – [European Association of Industrial Minerals](#), industriAll – [European Trade Union](#), Tracking und Tracing von Explosivstoffen – [TTE-Europe GmbH](#), UEPG – [European Aggregates Association](#) (chair), with the support of the [European Commission](#)

<sup>ii</sup> ***Reference*** : TTE-Europe GmbH