

### Subpart J—Marking of Plastic Explosives

#### § 555.180 Prohibitions relating to unmarked plastic explosives.

(a) No person shall manufacture any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent.

(b) No person shall import or bring into the United States, or export from the United States, any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent. This paragraph does not apply to the importation or bringing into the United States, or the exportation from the United States, of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by or on behalf of any agency of the United States performing military or police functions (including any military reserve component) or by or on behalf of the National Guard of any State, not later than 15 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives with respect to the United States, *i.e.*, not later than June 21, 2013.

(c) No person shall ship, transport, transfer, receive, or possess any plastic explosive that does not contain a detection agent. This paragraph does not apply to:

(1) The shipment, transportation, transfer, receipt, or possession of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by any person during the period beginning on that date and ending on April 24, 1999; or

(2) The shipment, transportation, transfer, receipt, or possession of any plastic explosive that was imported or brought into, or manufactured in the United States prior to April 24, 1996, by or on behalf of any agency of the United States performing a military or police function (including any military reserve component) or by or on behalf of the National Guard of any State, not later than 15 years after the date of entry into force of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives with respect to the United States, *i.e.*, not later than June 21, 2013.

(d) When used in this subpart, terms are defined as follows:

(1) *Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives* means the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purposes of Detection, Done at Montreal on 1 March 1991.

(2) “Date of entry into force” of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives means that date on which the Convention enters into force with respect to the U.S. in accordance with the provisions of Article XIII of the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives. The Convention entered into force on June 21, 1998.

(3) *Detection agent* means any one of the substances specified in this paragraph when introduced into a plastic explosive or formulated in such explosive as a part of the manufacturing process in such a manner as to achieve homogeneous distribution in the finished explosive, including—

(i) Ethylene glycol dinitrate (EGDN),  $C_2H_4(NO_3)_2$ , molecular weight 152, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.2 percent by mass;

(ii) 2,3-Dimethyl-2,3-dinitrobutane (DMNB),  $C_6H_{12}(NO_2)_2$ , molecular weight 176, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.1 percent by mass;

(iii) Para-Mononitrotoluene (p-MNT),  $C_7H_7NO_2$ , molecular weight 137, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.5 percent by mass;

(iv) Ortho-Mononitrotoluene (o-MNT),  $C_7H_7NO_2$ , molecular weight 137, when the minimum concentration in the finished explosive is 0.5 percent by mass; and

(v) Any other substance in the concentration specified by the Director, after consultation with the Secretary of State and Secretary of Defense, that has been added to the table in Part 2 of the Technical Annex to the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives.

(4) *Plastic explosive* means an explosive material in flexible or elastic sheet form formulated with one or more high explosives which in their pure form has a vapor pressure less than  $10^{-4}$  Pa at a temperature of 25 °C, is formulated with a binder material, and is as a mixture malleable or flexible at normal room temperature. *High explosives*, as defined in § 555.202(a), are explosive materials which can be

caused to detonate by means of a blasting cap when unconfined.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8376, Feb. 25, 1997, as amended by T.D. ATF-419, 64 FR 55628, Oct. 14, 1999]

**§ 555.181 Reporting of plastic explosives.**

All persons, other than an agency of the United States (including any military reserve component) or the National Guard of any State, possessing any plastic explosive on April 24, 1996, shall submit a report to the Director no later than August 22, 1996. The report shall be in writing and mailed by certified mail (return receipt requested) to the Director at P.O. Box 50204, Washington, DC 20091-0204. The report shall include the quantity of plastic explosives possessed on April 24, 1996; any marks of identification on such explosives; the name and address of the manufacturer or importer; the storage location of such explosives, including the city and State; and the name and address of the person possessing the plastic explosives.

[T.D. ATF-382, 61 FR 38085, July 23, 1996, as amended by T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8377, Feb. 25, 1997; ATF-11F, 73 FR 57242, Oct. 2, 2008]

**§ 555.182 Exceptions.**

It is an affirmative defense against any proceeding involving §§ 555.180 and 555.181 if the proponent proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the plastic explosive—

(a) Consisted of a small amount of plastic explosive intended for and utilized solely in lawful—

(1) Research, development, or testing of new or modified explosive materials;

(2) Training in explosives detection or development or testing of explosives detection equipment; or

(3) Forensic science purposes; or

(b) Was plastic explosive that, by April 24, 1999, will be or is incorporated in a military device within the territory of the United States and remains an integral part of such military device, or is intended to be, or is incorporated in, and remains an integral part of a military device that is intended to become, or has become, the property of any agency of the United States performing military or police functions (including any military re-

serve component) or the National Guard of any State, wherever such device is located. For purposes of this paragraph, the term “military device” includes, but is not restricted to, shells, bombs, projectiles, mines, missiles, rockets, shaped charges, grenades, perforators, and similar devices lawfully manufactured exclusively for military or police purposes.

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

**§ 555.183 Importation of plastic explosives on or after April 24, 1997.**

Persons filing Form 6 applications for the importation of plastic explosives on or after April 24, 1997, shall attach to the application the following written statement, prepared in triplicate, executed under the penalties of perjury:

(a) “I declare under the penalties of perjury that the plastic explosive to be imported contains a detection agent as required by 27 CFR 555.180(b)”;

(b) “I declare under the penalties of perjury that the plastic explosive to be imported is a “small amount” to be used for research, training, or testing purposes and is exempt from the detection agent requirement pursuant to 27 CFR 555.182.”

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8377, Feb. 25, 1997]

**§ 555.184 Statements of process and samples.**

(a) A complete and accurate statement of process with regard to any plastic explosive or to any detection agent that is to be introduced into a plastic explosive or formulated in such plastic explosive shall be submitted by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer, upon request, to the Director.

(b) Samples of any plastic explosive or detection agent shall be submitted by a licensed manufacturer or licensed importer, upon request, to the Director.

(Paragraph (a) approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 1140-0042)

[T.D. ATF-387, 62 FR 8378, Feb. 25, 1997, as amended by ATF-11F, 73 FR 57242, Oct. 2, 2008]