24.0 Squib Safety Program

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24.1 Introduction

The cartridges (a.k.a. squibs) used on aircraft engines and APU fire bottles are classified as low explosives. An electrically operated explosive cartridge may contain from 0.3 to 0.8 grams of an explosive material. Per the Material Safety Data Sheets for these articles, the squibs are classified as “Cartridges, power devices,” which are basically defined by the Department of Transportation (DOT) as articles designed to accomplish mechanical actions, including projection of extinguishing agents.

Some squibs are exempt from U.S. Department of Justice - Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (BATFE) requirements. However, until all are considered exempt, at this time, the Squib Safety Program will apply to all squibs at this facility.

This program has six key parts:

- Assignment of a Responsible Party
- Squib Storage
- Daily Inventory of Squibs and storage
- Authorized Users/Handlers
- Disposal of Squibs
- Sales of Squibs

Please review the following program for more details and requirements.
24.02 BATEF Licensing and Assignment of a Responsible Party

The Vice President-General Manager of the site is the responsible party for the site.

Day to day compliance of the overall program is the responsibility of the Sr. Safety Representative, the Logistics Control Manager, and the Hazardous Material Operator. The Human Resources department is responsible for maintaining a log of the application permit, along with all completed Employee Possessor forms (see Section 24.04) and distribution of badges. The Part Sales department is responsible to ensure that squibs sold to outside parties meet BATFE requirements. See Section 24.06 for more details.

Application for an Explosive License/Permit (ATF Form 5400.13/5400.16) has been submitted. This includes a list of authorized possessors/handlers of squibs.

A link to the blank application is shown below.

"ATF License app.pdf"
24.3 Daily Squib Inventory

Under direction of the Logistics Control Manager, an inventory of squibs, both new and those removed from aircraft and pending disposal, will be performed each business day. AIM Data is used to track/inventory new squibs.

If inventory results are not satisfactory (ex. a squib is missing), the responsible party will be informed and steps will be taken to correct/address the situation until a satisfactory result is obtained.

All squibs will be stored in a magazine designed to hold explosive devices. This magazine will be controlled by stock room personnel and will be stored at the North Hangar Stock Room.

The following is a link to all squibs slated for disposal. The list also indicates if the squib is exempt or not exempt from federal licensing requirements.

"Squib Disposal Inventory Sheet.xls"
24.04 Authorized Squib Possessors and Handlers

The following personnel will be considered 'Authorized Users/Handlers' of squibs:

- All Stock Room Personnel
- All Aircraft Service Technicians, Managers, Service Team Managers, Service Center Coordinators, and aircraft managers, including those from the completion
- Sr. Safety Representative
- Hazardous Material Operator

All must submit a completed one-page ATF Form 5400-28 to Human Resources, who will then submit to the BATFE for review. A link to the blank form is shown below. Unless notified by the BATFE, all employees who have submitted a completed form will be considered authorized to handle/use a squib.

All authorized users must also have a badge on at all times, indicating that s/he can possess or handle a squib that is on-site. This includes installing, removing, or relocating a fire bottle inside an aircraft. A sample badge is shown below. Human Resources will control the badges, along with a listing of who is approved to possess/handle squibs on-site.

Sample Badge

"Form ATF F 5400-28.pdf"
24.5 Disposal of Squibs

The corporate office is reviewing a disposal plan. Until a disposal method is selected, all squibs slated for disposal (such as those removed from an aircraft) must remain inside the storage magazine.
24.06 Sale of Squibs

Sales of squibs to outside parties are to take place only if:

- The squib for sale is exempt from BATEF requirements, or
- The Buyer has an applicable BATEF license

The Part Sales department is responsible to ensure that one of the two requirements are met before transfer of the squibs takes place.