

MICHIGAN PENAL CODE (EXCERPT)  
Act 328 of 1931, as amended

**750.243a Definitions; prohibited sales and conduct; fireworks for which permit not required.**

Sec 243a. (1) As used in this chapter:

(a) "Fireworks" means a device made from explosive or flammable compositions used primarily for the purpose of producing a visible display or audible effect, or both, by combustion, deflagration, or detonation. Fireworks includes class B fireworks and class C fireworks.

(b) "Class B fireworks" means toy torpedoes, railway torpedoes, firecrackers or salutes that do not qualify as class C fireworks, exhibition display pieces, aeroplane flares, illuminating projectiles, incendiary projectiles, incendiary grenades, smoke projectiles or bombs containing expelling charges but without bursting charges, flash powders in inner units not exceeding 2 ounces each, flash sheets in interior packages, flash powder or spreader cartridges containing not more than 72 grains of flash powder each, and other similar devices.

(c) "Class C fireworks" means toy smoke devices, toy caps containing not more than .25 grains of explosive mixture, toy propellant devices, cigarette loads, trick matches, trick noise makers, smoke candles, smoke pots, smoke grenades, smoke signals, hand signal devices, Very signal cartridges, sparklers, explosive auto alarms, and other similar devices.

(2) Except as provided in subsection (3) and sections 243b, 243c, and 243d, a person, firm, partnership, or corporation shall not offer for sale, expose for sale, sell at retail, keep with intent to sell at retail, possess, give, furnish, transport, use, explode, or cause to explode any of the following:

(a) A blank cartridge pistol, toy cannon, toy cane, or toy gun in which explosives are used.

(b) An unmanned balloon which requires fire underneath to propel it and is not moored to the ground while aloft.

(c) Firecrackers, torpedoes, skyrockets, roman candles, daygo bombs, bottle rockets, whistling chasers, rockets on sticks, or other fireworks of like construction.

(d) Fireworks containing an explosive or inflammable compound or a tablet or other device commonly used and sold as fireworks containing nitrates, fulminates, chlorates, oxalates, sulphides of lead, barium, antimony, arsenic, mercury, nitroglycerine, phosphorus, or a compound containing these or other modern explosives.

(3) A permit is not required for the following:

(a) Flat paper caps containing not more than .25 of a grain of explosive content per cap, in packages labeled to indicate the maximum explosive content per cap.

(b) Toy pistols, toy cannons, toy canes, toy trick noise makers, and toy guns of a type approved by the director of the department of state police in which paper caps as described in subdivision (a) are used and which are so constructed that the hand cannot come in contact with the cap when in place for the explosion and which are not designed to break apart or be separated so as to form a missile by the explosion.

(c) Sparklers containing not more than .0125 pounds of burning portion per sparkler.

(d) Flitter sparklers in paper tubes not exceeding 1/8 inch in diameter, cone fountains, and cylinder fountains.

(e) Toy snakes not containing mercury, if packed in cardboard boxes with not more than 12 pieces per box for retail sale and if the manufacturer's name and the quantity contained in each box are printed on the box; and toy smoke devices.

(f) Possession, transportation, sale, or use of signal flares of a type approved by the director of the department of state police, blank cartridges or blank cartridge pistols specifically for a show or theater, for the training or exhibiting of dogs, for signal purposes in athletic sports, for use by military organizations, and all items described in subsection (2) used by railroads for emergency signal purposes.

(g) The sale of fireworks, provided they are to be shipped directly out of state pursuant to regulations of the United States department of transportation covering the transportation of explosives and other dangerous articles by motor, rail, and water.

**History:** Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969; - Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976; - Am. 1978, Act 258, Eff. July 1, 1978; - Am. 1980, Act 422, Eff. March 31, 1981.

### **750.243b Permit for use or sale of fireworks.**

Sec. 243b. (1) The legislative body of a city, village, or township, upon application in writing, on forms provided by the bureau of fire services created in section 1b of the fire prevention code, 1941 PA 207, MCL 29.1b, may grant a permit for the use of fireworks otherwise prohibited by section 243a, within the city, village, or township, manufactured for outdoor pest control or agricultural purposes, or for public display by municipalities, fair associations, amusement parks, or other organizations or groups of individuals approved by the city, village, or township authority, if the applicable provisions of this act are complied with. The permits shall be on forms provided by the bureau of fire services. After a permit has been granted, sales, possession, or transportation of fireworks for the purposes described in the permit only may be made. A permit granted under this subsection is not transferable and shall not be issued to a person under the age of 18 years.

(2) The legislative body of a city, village, or township, upon application in writing, may grant a permit, on forms provided by the bureau of fire services, to a resident wholesale dealer or jobber to have in his possession within the city, village, or township, fireworks otherwise prohibited by section 243a, for sale only to holders of permits as provided in this section. A permit granted under this subsection is not transferable, nor shall a permit be issued to a person under the age of 18 years.

(3) Before a permit for a pyrotechnic display is issued, the person, firm, or corporation applying for the permit shall furnish proof of financial responsibility by a bond or insurance in an amount, character, and form deemed necessary by the local governing authority to satisfy claims for damages to property or personal injuries arising out of an act or omission on the part of the person, firm, or corporation, or an agent or employee thereof, and to protect the public.

(4) A permit shall not be issued under this act to a nonresident person, firm, or corporation for conduct of a pyrotechnic display in this state until the person, firm, or corporation has appointed in writing a resident member of the bar of this state or a resident agent to be the legal representative upon whom all process in an action or proceeding against the person, firm, or corporation may be served.

(5) The local governing authority shall rule on the competency and qualifications of operators of pyrotechnic displays, as the operator has furnished in his application form, and on the time, place, and safety aspects of the displays before granting permits.

**History:** Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan 1, 1969; - Am. 1972, Act 14, Imd. Eff. Feb. 19, 1972; - Am. 1976, Act 36, Imd. Eff. Mar. 9, 1976; - Am. 2006, Imd. Eff. June 19, 2006.

**750.243e Violation of section; penalty; misdemeanor.**

Sec. 243e. Any person, firm, copartnership or corporation, who violates any of the provisions of sections 243a to 243d, or who violates the terms of any permit issued thereunder, is guilty of a misdemeanor.

**History:** Add. 1968, Act 358, Eff. Jan. 1, 1969.