

New Jersey Model Rocketry Act and Regulations

Model Rocketry

The NJ Model Rocketry Act and Regulations were written to substantially comply with the NFPA 1122 Code for Unmanned Rockets of the National Fire Protection Association. The rules and regulations include the procedures for obtaining storage permits, the procedures to be followed for use of model rockets, and the acceptable design, weight, and power of model rockets. The Department of Labor, Safety Compliance Unit maintains a current and complete list of all model rockets that have received certification, and this list is available to any person upon request. For more information, [click here](#) or call 609-292-2096, or e-mail hblack@dol.state.nj.us.

This statute and rule reprint is for ready reference only. For official text consult the New Jersey Statutes Annotated and the New Jersey Administrative Code.

N.J.S.A. 21:1C-1 et. seq. MODEL ROCKETS	
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-1.	Definitions
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-2.	Examination and testing of model rockets; certification
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-3.	Model rocket, certification required for sale or usage
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-4.	Age requirements of purchaser; storage permit conditions
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-5.	Violation; penalty
N.J.S.A. 21:1C-6.	Rules, regulations
N.J.A.C. 12:194. MODEL ROCKETRY	
SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL STANDARDS	
12:194-1.1	Purpose
12:194-1.2	Scope
12:194-1.3	Adoption by reference
SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS	
12:194-2.1	Definitions
SUBCHAPTER 3. AGE RESTRICTIONS	
12:194-3.1	Age restrictions
SUBCHAPTER 4. CERTIFICATIONS	
12:194-4.1	Certification requirements
SUBCHAPTER 5. PERMITS	
12:194-5.1	Permit restrictions
12:194-5.2	Storage permits

SUBCHAPTER 6. VIOLATIONS/PENALTIES AND HEARINGS	
12:194-6.1	Violations/penalties
12:194-6.2	Hearings

N.J.S.A. 21:1C-1 et. seq. MODEL ROCKETS

21:1C-1. Definitions

As used in this act:

"Model rocket" means a commercially made rocket that is propelled by a rocket motor; that contains a device for returning it to the ground in a condition to fly again; whose structural parts are made of paper, wood, or breakable plastic and contain no substantial metal parts; and whose primary use is for purposes of education, recreation, and sporting competition.

"Rocket motor" means a device that provides the necessary force or thrust to cause a rocket to move and the force or thrust is created by the discharge of gas generated by combustion, decomposition, change of state, or other operation of materials completely stored within the rocket motor during the commercial manufacturing process and requiring no mixing of propellants.

[Back to top](#)

21:1C-2. Examination and testing of model rockets; certification

Model rockets offered for sale, sold, used, or made available to the public in this State shall be examined and tested by the Department of Labor to determine if they comply with the requirements of this act and with the rules and regulations promulgated thereto. The Commissioner of the Department of Labor shall certify as acceptable for sale and use those products that do comply. At the discretion of the commissioner, the examination, testing, and certification may be carried out by an approved testing laboratory or an organization such as the National Association of Rocketry or an organization affiliated with the National Aeronautic Association.

The commissioner shall maintain a current and complete list of all model rockets which have received certification and shall make copies of this list available to any person upon request.

[Back to top](#)

21:1C-3. Model rocket, certification required for sale or usage

A model rocket shall not be sold, offered for sale, made available to the public, or used in this State unless it has been certified by the commissioner.

A model rocket shall not be used in this State except in accordance with this act and in compliance with the rules and regulations promulgated in accordance with section 6 of this act.

[Back to top](#)

21:1C-4. Age requirements of purchaser; storage permit conditions

- a. A person at least 14 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, shall be eligible to purchase and use a model rocket bearing the standardized engine coding 1/4A, 1/2A, A, B, and C provided that the person has a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian.
- b. A person at least 18 years of age shall be permitted to purchase and use a model rocket of any type or size.
- c. A person at least 12 years of age but less than 14 years of age who is a participant in a bona fide model rocket education program may fire a model rocket bearing the standardized engine coding 1/4A, 1/2A, A, B, and C only when under the direct supervision and control of a person who is at least 21 years of age and only during the course of the model rocket education program.
- d. A person shall be required to obtain a permit for the storage of more than 100 kg (220 lbs.) of solid propellant model rockets. No other permit shall be required for the possession, use, purchase, transportation, or sale of model rockets.

[Back to top](#)

21:1C-5. Violation; penalty

A person who violates any of the provisions of this act shall be fined \$100.00 which shall be collected in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the "penalty enforcement law" (N.J.S. 2A:58-1 et seq.).

[Back to top](#)

21:1C-6. Rules, regulations

The Commissioner of the Department of Labor shall establish rules and regulations pursuant to the "Administrative Procedure Act," P.L.1968, c.410 (C.52:14B-1 et seq.) which shall substantially comply with the NFPA 1122 Code for Unmanned Rockets of the National Fire Protection Association. The rules and regulations shall include, but need not be limited to, the procedures for obtaining the permit specified in subsection d. of section 4 of this act, the procedures to be followed for the permitted use of model rockets, and the acceptable design, weight, and power of model rockets.

[Back to top](#)

N.J.A.C. 12:194. MODEL ROCKETRY

SUBCHAPTER 1. GENERAL STANDARDS

12:194-1.1 Purpose

This chapter is promulgated to establish minimum safety requirements and standards for the manufacture and use of explosives in model and amateur rocketry.

[Back to top](#)

12:194-1.2 Scope

This chapter is applicable to rocket experimentation by amateurs, including the mixing of rocket propellants, and the sale, storage, transportation and use of rocket propellants and preloaded, factory-made commercial model rocket engines that do not require mixing the propellant, as set forth in the National Fire Protection Association 1122 Code.

[Back to top](#)

12:194-1.3 Adoption by reference

(a) The standards of the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1122, "Code for Model Rocketry," 1994 edition and subsequent amendments thereto are hereby incorporated by reference as the rules for the manufacture and use of explosives in model and amateur rocketry. Copies of the NFPA 1122 may be obtained from the U.S. Government Publications, Superintendent of Documents, U.S. Government Printing Office, Washington, DC 20402.

(b) In addition to the standards incorporated by reference, this chapter sets forth additional rules governing the use of model and amateur rocketry.

[Back to top](#)

SUBCHAPTER 2. DEFINITIONS

12:194-2.1 Definitions

The following words and terms, when used in this chapter, shall have the following meanings unless the context clearly indicates otherwise.

"Act" means *N.J.S.A. 21:1C-1* et seq.

"Approved" means approved by the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development.

"Authority having jurisdiction" means in the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development.

"Commissioner" means the New Jersey Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development or his or her authorized representative.

"Department" means the New Jersey Department of Labor and Workforce Development.

"Model rocket" means a commercially made rocket that is propelled by a rocket motor:

1. That contains a devise for returning it to the ground in a condition to fly again;
2. Whose structural parts are made of paper, wood, or breakable plastic and contain no substantial metal parts; and
3. Whose primary usage for the purposes of education, recreation, and sporting competition.

"NFPA 1122 Code" shall mean the National Fire Protection Association 1122 Code for model rocketry.

"Rocket motor" means a devise that provides the necessary force or thrust to cause a rocket to move and the force or thrust is created by the discharge of gas generated by combustion, decomposition, change of state, or other operation of materials completely stored within the rocket motor during the commercial manufacturing process and requiring no mixing of propellants.

[Back to top](#)

SUBCHAPTER 3. AGE RESTRICTIONS

12:194-3.1 Age restrictions

(a) A person at least 12 years of age, but less than 14 years of age, who is a participant in a bona fide model rocket education program may fire a model rocket bearing the standardized engine coding 1/4A, 1/2A, A, B and C only when under the direct supervision and control of a person who is at least 21 years of age and only during the course of the model rocket education program.

(b) A person at least 14 years of age, but less than 18 years of age, shall be eligible to purchase and use a model rocket bearing the standardized engine coding 1/4A, 1/2A, A, B and C provided that the person has a consent form signed by a parent or legal guardian.

(c) A person at least 18 years of age shall be permitted to purchase and use a model

rocket of any type or size.

[Back to top](#)

SUBCHAPTER 4. CERTIFICATIONS

12:194-4.1 Certification requirements

- (a) A model rocket shall not be sold, offered for sale, made available to the public, or used in this State unless it has been certified by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development.
- (b) Each model rocket certified by the National Association of Rocketry is deemed certified by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development for sale and use.
- (c) The Department shall maintain a current and complete list of all model rockets, which have been certified by the Commissioner of Labor and Workforce Development for sale and use and shall make such list available to the public upon request.

[Back to top](#)

SUBCHAPTER 5. PERMITS

12:194-5.1 Permit restrictions

A person shall be required to obtain a permit for the storage of more than 100 kilograms (220 pounds) of solid propellant model rockets. No other permit shall be required for the possession, use, purchase, transportation, or sale of model rockets.

[Back to top](#)

12:194-5.2 Storage permits

- (a) Applications for a storage permit shall be made to the Commissioner on forms provided by him or her and shall contain such information including the applicant's name, address and amount of model rockets being stored.
- (b) Any permit is revocable by the Commissioner for any violation of the Act or any rules or codes adopted thereunder.

[Back to top](#)

SUBCHAPTER 6. VIOLATIONS/PENALTIES AND HEARINGS

12:194-6.1 Violations/penalties

(a) A person who violates any of the provisions of the Act or any rules or codes adopted thereunder, shall be liable for an administrative penalty of \$100.00.

(b) Each incident in violation of the provisions of this Act, or any rules or code adopted thereunder shall constitute an additional separate and distinct offense.

(c) Unsatisfied penalties shall be recovered by the Commissioner in a civil action by a summary proceeding under the Penalty Enforcement Law, *N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1 et seq.* in the county or municipality where the violation occurred.

[Back to top](#)

12:194-6.2 Hearings

(a) No administrative penalty shall be levied pursuant to this chapter unless the alleged violator is provided with:

1. Notification of the violation;
2. The amount of the penalty to be imposed;
3. An opportunity to request a formal hearing.

(b) A request for formal hearing must be made in writing and received within 10 calendar days following service of the Notice of Violation.

(c) All hearings shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, *N.J.S.A. 52:14B-1 et seq.* in the Uniform Administrative Procedure Rules, *N.J.A.C. 1:1*.

(d) If a hearing is not requested, the Notice of Violation shall become the final order upon expiration of the 10-day period following receipt thereof.

(e) The operator may request the initiation of a settlement conference at the time that the request for formal hearing is made. If a settlement conference is requested, or if the Department determines that a settlement conference would be useful, the settlement conference shall be scheduled and conducted by the Department within 30 days of the receipt of their request for a formal hearing.

(f) If a settlement is not agreed upon or no settlement conference is scheduled, the request for a formal hearing shall be transmitted to the Office of Administrative Law (OAL).

(g) Payment of the penalty shall be due when the final agency determination is issued or when notification becomes the final decision because no appeal has been filed.

(h) All payments shall be made payable to the Department of Labor and Workforce Development in the form of a certified check or money order, or such other form that the Department deems suitable.

(i) Upon entry of the final order the penalty imposed may be recovered with the cost and the summary proceeding commenced by the Commissioner pursuant to the Penalty Enforcement Law, *N.J.S.A. 2A:58-1* et seq.

[Back to top](#)