



HM Coastguard Flare disposal policy in Northern Ireland

HM Coastguard has no legal responsibility to accept out of date flares / pyrotechnics for disposal and does so at its own discretion. We recommend that those buying new flares ask their supplier to accept their old flares in exchange.

Where this has not been possible, HM Coastguard may accept small numbers of out of date flares at their headquarters building in Bangor from members of the public provided that they are in good condition and undamaged.

We do not provide a collection service and will only accept them at Bregenz House, Bangor by pre-arranged appointment with one of our trained officers during normal office hours. Appointments can be arranged by phoning (028) 91463933.

We will not accept damaged or decaying flares, those which have been the subject of a product recall or misfire or those where the identifying marks are illegible or worn off. Flares in any of these categories should be reported to the Police who may arrange disposal by military personnel.

Further information on the disposal of out of date flares can be found on the MCA website at the following link:

<http://www.mcga.gov.uk/c4mca/mcga07-home/emergencyresponse/mcga-searchandrescue/mcga-hmcgsar-sarsystem/pyrotechnics.htm>

Please note that flares can be extremely dangerous if handled incorrectly and it is a criminal offence to dispose of them inappropriately or to leave them unattended at any Coastguard property.