

By Doug Taylor

Zambelli Requires Third Party Testing of Display Fireworks - And So Should You!

Goal of Testing:

Ensure pyrotechnic products meet rigorous standards of safety and quality for use in the U.S. market.

Pre-2012 Reality:

Manufacturers produced product for use in the U.S. without any legitimate third party oversight. Though the better manufacturers were probably adhering to strict regulations and industry guidelines, no one knew for sure. As in any industry, there are companies that are less stringent about safety and quality than others.

2012 - 2013:

In 2012, a group of the premier fireworks companies in the U.S. joined forces with the American Fireworks Standards Laboratory ("AFSL"), an organization that has provided third party testing for consumer fireworks for a number of years. The task at hand was to design and implement a rigorous program of third party inspection. Today, sixteen U.S. display companies have signed on to the program. Twenty-two Chinese factories have passed the annual audits, with additional factories submitting to the process.

Zambelli Fireworks requires that its manufacturers participate in the third party testing program and that 100% of our product is tested.

In 2012, approximately 25,000 cases of professional display products were inspected prior to delivery to companies in the U.S. From January through March of 2013, 37,900 cases have been inspected. It is expected that for the full year of

2013, the number of cases of inspected product should reach 150,000. Though the amount of inspected product has increased significantly in the second year of inspections, the inspected product will only represent about 25 - 30% of display product imported into the U.S.

The Future:

In the years to come, more in-depth testing will be implemented. It is the hope of the participating companies that more companies join AFSL and help ensure that product quality and safety meets or exceeds the requirements of the U.S. market.

As a customer of fireworks display companies, you should inquire about testing on the product that is used at your display. It is the one large step towards the safety and quality that we should all demand.

Proudly known as the "First Family of Fireworks," Zambelli is one of the oldest and largest American fireworks companies. Today, the family name is synonymous with quality, creativity and safety.

Zambelli Fireworks is an IFEA Association Partner in addition to the sponsor of the IFEA/Zambelli Fireworks Volunteer of the Year Award recognizing outstanding volunteers whose unselfish and dedicated service has made a significant difference in their community. Visit them at www.zambellifireworks.com.

If you have fireworks questions you would like us to address in our column, please email me, Doug Taylor, President/CEO Zambelli Fireworks at dougtaylor@zambellifireworks.com.