

May 24, 2012

Sir;

We are both a retailer and distributor of model rockets and engines. As it stands, we are under great pressure with regards to maintaining this category of hobbies. We have to move the motors by special carrier as hazmat. Many carriers do not want to carry the motors because they lose too much time at the border. The cost of the hazmat truck can add 10% to the cost of the shipment.

We have to keep the motors in a locked cabinet, so every time someone wants them, we have to open the cabinet to serve them. This is time consuming. The excess motors are kept in three 2 hour rated fire proof filing cabinets in our basement under a sprinkler head and marked Fireworks. This is a pain to keep filling the shelves.

We currently pay \$150.00 for our import license and another \$100.00+ for a magazine license. We already stopped importing motors H+ because we neither had the storage nor the market and it was just too expensive to buy another cabinet just for those motors. From what I gather, some guy border runs them and sells them at the fields.

We sell about <redacted> in motors a year, plus the rockets and starter kits which brings the value to about <redacted>.

To have to pay \$1,000 or more for the licenses will absolutely cause our exit from this market, and likely kill that segment of the market. That will be regrettable because it will affect the schools who use rocketry to teach mathematics.

Model rocketry is a great hobby that allows you to legally fire rockets hundreds of feet into the air where they burst open before floating gently down to earth.

It can be both a lesson in safety and in physics, giving you or your child a better understanding of how rockets are capable of traveling out of our atmosphere and into the cosmos. Discovering how varying wind and weather conditions impact the flight of your rocket, learning about angle compensation, and discovering the reasons behind the design of larger rockets can help you gain a better understanding of the science behind these technological marvels.

That includes:

- Calculating trajectories,
- Calculating the thrust required to lift a specific weight of rocket
- Calculating height using geometry
- Etc

Such schools just in Quebec alone include

- John Abbot College
- CEGEP Victoriaville

CEGEP Edward Montpetit
CEGEP saint Jean Sur Richelieu
CEGEP de Thetford Mines
CEGEP de Ste Foy
CEGEP de Levis Lauzon
COLLEGE GERALD-GODIN
COLLEGE DE MAISONNEUVE
COLLEGE EDOUARD MONTPETIT
COLLEGE JEAN-DE-BREBEUF
COLLEGE LIONEL GROULX

Look at this URL by the University of B.C.
<http://www.publicaffairs.ubc.ca/media/releases/2005/mr-04-isu.html>

I am sure you will suggest passing on the costs, but that is not practical either. Students simply do not have those type of funds, and you can see by the riots and protests in Montreal over the last hundred days, the student reaction to a small price increase in fees.

Your department has justified all this regulation and cost as part of controlling explosives and security. Let us consider the following

- 1) You can go into any drug store and buy sulphur and salt peter (Potassium Nitrate). Go to the hardware or super market and buy a bag of charcoal. Crush the charcoal and mix the three together and you have gunpowder.
- 2) You can buy zinc and sulphur in the drug store, mix them together and you have an explosive.
- 3) You can go to any sporting goods store and buy a gallon of black powder without even a licence.
- 4) You can buy ammunition in any Canadian Tire and remove the powder.

I am not a chemist or a terrorist. I just remember the formulas from my chemistry in high school from the 1950's.

Terrorists have far more sophisticated formulas using simple agricultural chemicals.

I remember when I was about 15 we took a piece of pipe. Capped one end, put a firecracker in, followed by a marble and lit the firecracker. The marble could easily fire 500 feet across a football field.

If you put these restrictive fees and I don't know what else is in the regulations into law, you will cause students to start inventing their own motors and will be back in the 1960's when kids were losing fingers and eyes in explosions. Sorry, I have not read the regulations. They are too convoluted and put me to sleep.

I have spoken to Aerotech, and they are considering abandoning the Canadian market because approving their motors is too expensive for the volume they sell. They asked me, if I would do it

to have the exclusive importation rights to Canada. I turned it down, because the cost was too high and the potential volume too low. Add to that the problems I would have in building a proper magazine in a proper place and the cost of insurance and it is simply out of reach.

If all you want to do is stop the importation, then just stop the importation and it will be the end.

But, consider what effect this will have on education, the Space camps, and maybe the manufacturers of spin-off products in Canada.

You may even destroy a Canadian company that manufactures and exports the rockets, because there will be no motors to fly them.

Will you just promote more public opposition to laws, where there are already too many laws, with too many unjustified regulations and restrictions?

Will you now create more cross border sales, by forcing Canadians to drive across the border, buy their motors and bring them back in their cars? They come and buy one or two packages of motors from Udisco. But if they have to drive across the border as they do for the bigger restricted motors, they will be carrying greater quantities of explosive materials in their cars. How will you control that? What will happen if there is an accident?

Consider the testing that has to be done just to certify a rocket motor. Consider that Rockets should not be classed as fireworks, but have their own category, being an educational product. The fees should remain where they are, or even be lowered. We want to encourage education, not hinder it.

Be assured, if we have to drop this category of hobby, we will most certainly say why and we will advertise why there are no rockets in Canada.

Will you be a part of the problem or a part of the solution?

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