We are asking your office for an official interpretation on Title 19 CCR § 981, exceptions 1 and 2, specifically regarding the role of the pyrotechnic operator in charge in determining her or his unlicensed assistants.

It is our understanding that, given the responsibilities placed upon the pyrotechnic operator pursuant to Title 19 CCR § 981.5(b) and §992.6(b), he or she may employ unlicensed assistants.

May licensed pyrotechnic operators employ unlicensed assistants?

Yes. The unlicensed assistant may be employed by the pyrotechnic operator at his/her sole discretion. The unlicensed assistants shall perform only when under the direct, immediate and constant supervision of the licensee when handling fireworks and pyrotechnic compositions.