SAFER Combustible Dust Advisor Guidelines

Combustible Dust Management Assessment Matrix For Sawmill Operations

Purpose of Guidelines

Provide a structure to follow when examining lumber manufacturing operations for accumulations of primary and/or secondary combustible dust (CD) in a way that draws attention to instances that require attention and gives feedback when positive cleanup practices are observed. These guidelines represent a starting place for ad-hoc combustible dust management assessments and do not represent the entire scope of a combustible dust regulatory inspection.

Tools

Flashlight – Digital Camera – Measuring Tape – Notebook

Ground Level Combustible Dust Management Assessment

- Walk inside the sawmill and move through the basement area in a circular fashion while making a mental note on general condition for the purposes of determining the cleanup frequency
- Observe general condition of basement floor between chain run conveyors
- Check for CD on wall stringer ledges that support exterior wall cladding, and on the top of any exposed beams and stringers that support the production floor above
- Check for CD accumulation on any fixed or suspended lighting
- Check for CD on tops of MCC units and observe any passive dust shielding
- Check for CD on top on any mechanical or electrical rooms
- Look in any mechanical, electrical, or storage rooms for general condition cleanup and accumulations of CD and surrounding ignition sources
- Check for CD on elevated equipment drive unit platforms and possible ignition sources
- Check for CD on any elevated electrical cable tray runs
- Check for CD on fire protection sprinkler system pipes
- Look for and inspect the general conditions of any dust conveyance ducting
- Check any cleanup air wands/hoses for pressure control devices – proper labeling

Production Level Combustible Dust Management Assessment

- Start where the production process begins and follow the production process throughout the operation; i.e. – log cut-off saws or debarkers
- Make a mental note on general condition for the purposes of determining the cleanup frequency
- Check for CD on wall stringer ledges that support exterior wall cladding, and on the top of any exposed beams and stringers that support the ceiling
- Check for CD accumulation on any fixed or suspended lighting
- Observe general condition of cleanup from elevated walkways and descend to each work station for closer inspection for CD
- Check for CD on tops of MCC units near work stations and observe any passive dust shielding
- Check for CD on top on any electrical rooms and operator booths
- Look in any electrical, or storage rooms for general condition cleanup and accumulations of CD and surrounding ignition sources
- Check for CD on production equipment drive units and possible ignition sources
- Check for CD on any elevated electrical cable tray runs
- Check for CD on fire protection sprinkler system pipes
- Look for and inspect the general conditions of any ducted extraction systems that remove dust from operator booth and/or electrical MCC units and/or electrical room dust – check filters
- Check any cleanup air wands/hoses for pressure control devices – proper labeling

Upper Level Combustible Dust Management Assessment (Filing Room)

- Make a mental note on general condition for the purposes of determining the cleanup frequency
- Check for CD on wall stringer ledges that support exterior wall cladding, and on the top of any exposed beams and stringers that support the roof
- Check for CD accumulation on any fixed or suspended lighting
- Look for and inspect the general conditions of any ducted extraction systems on grinders and ensure that metal grindings extraction systems are separate from dust extraction systems – all grinders are possible ignition sources
- Look for floor debris pick-up ducting and check for tramp metal magnets – ask for frequency of cleaning magnets
- Check for CD on top on any separated work rooms (babbitt room), electrical rooms, and/or storage rooms.
- Look in any separated work rooms (babbitt room), electrical rooms, and/or storage rooms for general condition cleanup and accumulations of CD and surrounding ignition sources
- Check for CD on the top of grinding units and in saw storage area

- Check for CD on any elevated electrical cable tray runs
- Check for CD on fire protection sprinkler system pipes
- Check any vacuum cleaner units to ensure they are rated for extraction of combustible dust
- Check any cleanup air wands/hoses for pressure control devices – proper labeling