

Combustible Dust Checklist

Many types of dust can be combustible under the right conditions including metal dust, wood dust, plastic dust and organic dusts like sugar and paper. Dust is common in many industries such as wood production, agriculture, furniture production, chemical production, pulp and paper operations, metal processing and concrete production and handling. Keeping your facility safe from combustible dust hazards requires paying close attention to the details, and if OHS shows up for an inspection, they will be examining those details

Company:

Address:

City:

Inspection: Start Date: End Date:

Inspector:

Or check one: ☐ Facility wide ☐ Building/Area:

Inspection date: Start Date: End Date:

Combustible Dust Facility Checklist:	YES	NO
(1) I know what types of combustible dust my facility has.	☐	☐
(2) My facility's housekeeping plan features a cleaning plan for surfaces where Dust accumulates such as floors, pipes, ducts, ledges, and beams.	☐	☐
(3) Dust on floors and other surfaces is removed during regular operations.	☐	☐
(4) My facility has no dust accumulations of 1/32 of an inch or greater.	☐	☐
(5) Ducts and dust collectors are designed to prevent dust from accumulating in work areas. If answer is "NO", enter name of party responsible for installing 	☐	☐
(6) Dry dust collectors larger than 8 cubic feet (in volume) are located outdoors and vented away from workers.	☐	☐
(7) My facility has isolation devices in place to prevent deflagration—the dispersal of dust in a concentration that could lead to combustion—between equipment connected by ductwork.	☐	☐

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(8) My facility dissipates electrostatic charges potentially generated by transporting dust through ductwork with an ignition control program (bonding, grounding, etc.).	☐	☐
(9) Sweepers, vacuums, and other electric cleaning machines used in dusty areas are approved for hazard classification	☐	☐
(10) Smoking is only allowed in specified safe areas, and areas where smoking is prohibited are clearly marked with "No Smoking" signs	☐	☐
(11) Exhaust from dust collectors is not recycled into buildings.	☐	☐
(12) The dust collector system uses a spark detection and explosion suppression system (or takes similar precautions).	☐	☐
(13) The dust collection system is made entirely from noncombustible materials	☐	☐
(14) All machines that produce dust, duct systems and dust collectors are bonded and grounded to reduce the accumulation of static electrical charges.	☐	☐
(15) My facility permits hot work only in designated areas.	☐	☐
(16) Ducts maintain sufficient velocity to carry both coarse and fine particles.	☐	☐
(17) In general, my company uses methods such as grounding and bonding to dissipate static electricity	☐	☐
(18) Those involved in the operation, supervision and maintenance of procedures that deal with combustible dust are trained in combustible dust hazards.	☐	☐
(19) All safety data sheets (SDSs) for chemicals that could become combustible (under normal operations) are available for employees to consult.	☐	☐

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Keep the Workplace Dust-Free

Please review this evaluation sheet with your facility safety manager or safety council. It is imperative, for the safety of your employees, that these 19 items be address as well as possible and that solutions be found to allow as many as possible to be answered with a solid yes - meaning steps have been taken to address areas of danger and neglect.

Overall, your company can prevent combustible dust accidents by having good housekeeping practices. Make sure to change the filters on your dust collector regularly as indicated by the manufacturer. (Some filters can last for two years, while others must be changed more often.) Storage of dust is also important. Do not store dust in the dust collector's hopper; the dust should be sent to a separate storage container, which also must be emptied out frequently.

Additionally, check for dust accumulation hazards and ignition hazards regularly. Try to eliminate as many hazards as possible by removing dust from surfaces and limiting and labeling ignition sources like hot surfaces and electrical discharges. If you are concerned about how likely an explosion is, you can also have the dust at your facility tested by a laboratory.

Explosions from combustible dust can be very dangerous, so take as many precautions as possible to keep your workplace safe. Contact Vortex Pneumatics for more information.