

Continental Underwriters, Inc is proud to be a leader in defining hot work standards for the wood products industry, and we are happy to share information free of charge – this checklist is a great place to start.

HOT WORK PERMIT GUIDELINES

- 1** A “hot work permit” must be utilized for any and all cutting, welding, grinding, brazing, or other hot work conducted outside of proper maintenance areas. The permit should be approved and the work supervised by a qualified individual such as a plant engineer or company officer utilizing a checklist to ensure compliance with all welding or hot work guidelines.
- 2** The supervisor or the welder should examine the location of any proposed work and make sure that the equipment used is in good condition. The person using the equipment should thoroughly check valves, regulators, hoses, and torches.
- 3** The hot work should be confined to the area in which work is to be performed and prior to the work, the area must be swept clean and thoroughly wet down to include areas beneath if work is done on elevated floors.
- 4** Whenever possible, hot work should be performed in the morning hours when employees are present. Very often, a hot work fire will occur in the early morning hours after welding has been completed during an afternoon shift.
- 5** A water hose or fire extinguisher should be on-site and ready for use in the event of a fire while the work is being performed.
- 6** The welding contractor or individual welder should use a welding curtain to prevent hot slag from being spread outside the work area.
- 7** A Spark Watcher must be a responsible person assigned to watch for dangerous sparks in the area and on the floors above and below while the work is being performed. Multiple Spark Watchers may be required depending on the location of the hot work. Hot work should never be permitted to be performed by person working alone.
- 8** When using electrical arc welding equipment, the ground clamp should be carefully connected. Since an improperly made ground can be a source of ignition, the ground clamp should be connected as close to the work as possible so that it can be easily observed.
- 9** The welders should use cooling rags (wet cloth) for all pipes and beams that they are cutting to prevent the transfer of thermal energy along the metal to an area that may be in contact with sawdust.
- 10** Once the welding has been completed, the area must again be thoroughly wet down (including chain troughs and other concealed spaces) and a watchman employee must be posted in the area for at least 60 minutes following the completion of the work.
- 11** After 60 minutes, the area should be periodically monitored every 45-60 minutes. After 5 hours, the permit expires. When standard watchman’s service is available, the areas in which hot work has been performed should be brought to the watchman’s attention so that he can check those areas hourly when he is making his rounds. The watchman should be equipped with a flashlight so that he can better check any poorly visible areas near where the welding has been performed. Hot slag dropping down into an area of combustible material can ignite dust, refuse, or other material after several hours have passed.

If you’re in the Forest Products Industry, get to know us. We provide insurance to protect the way you do business.

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