

## Loss Control Tips for Manufacturing Occupancies



Manufacturing businesses are an occupancy class that has inherent hazard due to the use of flammable and combustible materials used during the manufacturing process, or as a result of the nature of the finished goods. Building departments, fire departments and other government regulators have comprehensive code requirements for manufacturing businesses to follow. Code adherence should be considered a way to prevent injury, maintain property, and safeguard jobs.

### **Please use the checklist to recognize what you need to do to decrease the potential of fire.**

Know the materials used in your manufacturing process. Obtain Material Data Hazard Sheets from suppliers and understand use and storage requirements. Make employees aware of safety considerations.

Create special areas and install equipment for safe processing. Use spray booths for painting and varnishing. Be sure that dust, woodworking residue, or polyethylene filler are accumulated in a properly installed and maintained collection system. Maintain areas and equipment.

Do not allow accumulation of debris. Remove waste from the premises daily.

Be sure to satisfy municipal requirements for employee certification for the operation of dangerous equipment.

Be sure that all employees are familiar with a fire prevention and safety plan.

Require strict adherence to "No Smoking" rules.

Inspect all electrical equipment to identify worn or damaged wiring that could cause sparking.

Keep only minimal amounts of flammable material outside of specially designed storage rooms that have required ventilation.

Install the proper type of fire extinguishers for your premises. Have them inspected regularly.

Train employees in their proper use.

Mark appropriate aisle spacing and keep aisles clear.

Safely store both empty and full gas tanks used for welding, cutting equipment or fork lift vehicles. Tanks should be stored in a low traffic area, preferably outside, and chained to avoid tipping. Remember that tanks are never completely empty.

Maintain the building's sprinkler system, or demand that the property owner comply with all requirements. Be sure that the system is operational.

Restrict the use of welding or cutting equipment closer than 35 feet from combustibles.

Store cardboard boxes and finished goods away from heat sources. Use pallets or shelving for storage.