

**Company Health & Safety  
Standard Method Statements and Bibliography**

**II  
Fire and Explosion**

Guidance Notes

- HSE Fire & Explosion – How safe is your work place
- HSE Safe working with flammable substances
- HSE Dust explosions in the Food Industry
- Fire Safety an Employers guide
- HSE Zoning areas with explosive atmospheres.

Forms

Risk Assessment record.

1. Employees will familiarise them selves with the fire and explosion health and safety procedures relevant to their place of work.
2. Employees will consider risks relevant to fire and explosion in every risk assessment.
  - a. Considering
    - i. Sources of ignition
    - ii. Sources of fuel
    - iii. Work processes.
3. Where risk is present
  - a. Methods of Avoidance
    - i. Removal of the ignition source from the working practice or area
      1. No hot surfaces
      2. No live electrical work
      3. No static electrical source
      4. No naked flames.
      5. No spark generators
    - ii. Removal of the fuel source from the working practice or area.
      1. No flammable gases
      2. No flammable liquids
      3. No flammable solids or dusts.

- b. Methods of Control
  - i. Separation of sources of ignition and fuel within the working practice or area.
    - 1. Ignition (may still be subject to “permit to work”)
      - a. See electrical live work method statements.
      - b. Containing electrical contactors with enclosures.
      - c. Use of screens when grinding sited to limit distribution of sparks
      - d. Use of screens for welding sited to limit distribution of sparks
      - e. Removal of all “Smokers material” from the area.
    - 2. Fuel
      - a. Ensuring that appropriate containers are used.
      - b. Use fire resisting cabinets for highly combustible material.
      - c. Adopting practice of re sealing containers.
      - d. Ensuring gas and oil lines are properly secured and isolated.
      - e. Disposing of flammable waste regularly in appropriate containers
  - ii. Minimising risk.
    - 1. Fuel
      - a. Working with the minimum quantity of combustible material required for the work.
      - b. Cleaning up or wetting down heavy dust contamination.
    - 2. Oxygen
      - a. Reducing drafts or ventilation sources that may “fan” a fire.
      - b. Controlling the use of oxygen cylinders, ensuring they are not leaking or being used inappropriately.
    - 3. Explosion
      - a. Ensure that the area of work is ATEX compliant with appropriate explosion relief systems in place.
      - b. Do not work with categorised explosive materials.
    - 4. Arson
      - a. Consider arson as a source of risk and secure against it.

- c. Fire detection and warning.
  - 1. Automatic systems
    - a. Where possible ensure that automatic fire detection systems are in place and operable.
  - 2. Alarms
    - a. Have knowledge of, and access to fire alarm buttons.
- d. Evacuation
  - 1. Escape
    - a. Be aware of at least 2 escape routes from any area.
    - b. Ensure that escape routes are not blocked or locked.
- e. Fighting Fire
  - 1. Equipment
    - a. Ensure fire fighting equipment appropriate to the form of hazardous fuel is in or adjacent to the working area.
    - b. Ensure that employees are appropriately trained in the use of fire fighting equipment provided.
    - c. Ensure that the fire fighting equipment is appropriately filled and ready for use.