



Fire Department

HEADQUARTERS

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CODE SUMMARY

PERMITS – LUMBERYARDS AND WOODWORKING FACILITIES

A code summary is a compilation of code sections related to a specific occupancy or permit. This code summary lists sections of code pertaining to occupancies and operations as defined by the **California Fire Code**. Under each heading you will find the correlating code language and the reference cited. These requirements pertain to existing buildings. New construction may be subject to additional requirements. Please direct any questions to the Fire Prevention Division at (805) 681-5500.

SCOPE:

The storage, manufacturing and processing of timber, lumber, plywood, veneers and byproducts shall be accordance with Chapter 28 of the *California Fire Code*.

DEFINITIONS:

Combustible dust - Finely divided solid material which is 420 micron or less in diameter and which, when dispersed in air in the proper proportions, could be ignited by a flame, spark or other source of ignitions. Combustible dust will pass through a U.S #40 standard sieve.

1. **An operational permit is for the storage or processing of lumber exceeding 100,000 board feet.**
(CFC 105.6.25)

2. **Dust control is required when combustible dust is generated inside buildings.**

Equipment or machinery located inside buildings that generates or emits combustible dust shall be provided with an approved dust collection and exhaust system installed in accordance with Chapter 22 of the California Fire Code and the California Mechanical Code. Equipment or systems used to collect, process or convey combustible dust shall be provided with an approved explosion control system. (CFC 2803.2)

Requirement of Chapter 22 of the California Fire Code:

A. Accumulation of combustible dust shall be kept to a minimum in the interior of buildings. Accumulated combustible dust shall be collected by vacuum cleaning or other means that will not place combustible dust into suspension in air. Forced air or similar methods shall not be used to remove dust from surfaces.

3. **Explosion venting is required when combustible dust is generated inside buildings.**

Where a dust explosion hazard exists in equipment rooms or buildings, such areas shall be provided with explosion (deflagration) venting complying with Section 911 of the *California Fire Code*. See Chapter 9 of the California Fire Code for additional requirements. (CFC 2803.2.1)

4. **Housekeeping required.**

Provisions shall be made for a systematic and thorough cleaning of the entire plant at sufficient intervals to prevent the accumulations of combustible dust and spilled combustible liquids. (CFC 2803.3.1)

5. **Electrical wiring and equipment shall comply with the California Electrical Code. (CFC 2803.4)**

6. Protection from ignition sources shall be provided as follows:

- A. Cutting and welding shall take place in "Hot Work" areas only which meet the requirements of Chapter 35 of the *California Fire Code*. (2803.5.1)
- B. Static electricity shall be prevented from accumulating on machines and equipment subject to static electricity buildup by permanent grounding and bonding wires. (2803.5.2)
- C. Smoking is not allowed in areas where combustible dust is produced. No Smoking signs shall be posted. (CFC 2803.5.3)

7. Portable fire extinguishers or standpipes and hose shall be provided as follows:

- A. Portable fire extinguishers in accordance with Section 906 for extra-high hazards. (CFC 606.10)
 - 1) A minimum 4-A extinguisher is required for extra-high Class A hazards.
 - 2) Two 2 ½ gallon pressurized water-type extinguishers shall be deemed the equivalent of one 4-A rated extinguisher.
- B. Portable extinguisher shall be provided within 50 feet of travel distance to any machine producing shavings or sawdust.
- C. Standpipes with hose and nozzles supplied from an approved water system may be used in place of portable extinguishers but must also be within 50 feet of travel distance from machinery.

8. Storage of exterior lumber products shall comply with the following:

Exterior lumber storage shall be arranged to form stable piles with a maximum height of 20 feet. (CFC 2809.2)

Piles shall not exceed 150,000 cubic feet in volume. (CFC 2809.2)

Fire apparatus access roads of at least 20 feet in width made of all-weather surface shall be provided within 150 of lumber storage piles.

Permanent lumber storage areas shall be surrounded by an approved fence a minimum of 6 feet in height.

An approved hydrant and hose system OR portable extinguishing equipment suitable for the fire hazard shall be provided for open storage yards. Portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be located so that travel distance to the nearest unit does not exceed 75 feet.

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

For additional specific requirements referenced above, contact the Santa Barbara County Fire Department Fire Prevention Services Division at 805-681-5500. Due to the complex building design of the requirements specified within the CFC and adopted standards, it is often necessary to obtain the service of a fire protection design professional to assist with developing a protection scheme that meets the requirements of both the business and the California Fire Code.