



Orange County Fire Authority Community Risk Reduction INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN 01-16

Subject: Combustible Dust-Producing Operations Permit and Plan Submittal

Purpose: The Orange County Fire Authority (OCFA) is committed to providing quality emergency services to the community as quickly and efficiently as possible. The following requirements will ensure that the minimum measures required by code have been taken to provide for public safety. This information bulletin provides information pertaining to operational permits and plan review submittal requirements for combustible dust producing operations (includes any combustible dust collection systems).

Scope: CFC Section 105.6.7 specifies that an operational permit is required to operate a grain elevator, flour starch unit, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, or other operations producing combustible dust as defined in Chapter 2.

Chapter 2 Definition: (Combustible Dust)

Finely divided solid material which is 420 microns or less in diameter and which when dispersed in the air in the proper portions could be ignited by a flame, spark, or other source of ignition. Combustible dust will pass through a U.S. No. 40 standard sieve.

Since the CFC does not specify any lower limits for this operational permit, the OCFA will require operational permits for all combustible dust-producing operations per CFC Section 105.6.7. This will allow the OCFA to inspect dust collection operations and to verify good housekeeping standards are maintained.

Plans will be required to be submitted to the OCFA prior to installation of a new combustible dust-producing operation when:

1. The dust is combustible (see Chapter 2 definition above).

AND

2. The combustible dust-producing operation cannot meet all of the following conditions:
 - a. Equipment or machinery is used on an intermittent basis, including, but not limited to, model shops, research and development facilities, hobby, and other nonproduction uses.
 - b. Equipment is provided with a local, point of use dust collection system.
 - c. The dust collection system is limited to no more than 1,500 cfm.

For complex combustible dust-producing operations, please see [OCFA Informational Bulletin 01-13](#) regarding the submittal and plan review process.