

Dipping/Coating Fire Prevention

Dipping and coating operations utilizing flammable and combustible liquids should be properly conducted, arranged, and protected to prevent fire.

Inadequate controls, and large volumes of exposed volatile fuel, contribute to the potential for severe fires in Dipping/Coating operations.

Definition of operation:

Light – Tanks up to 4 sq. ft. surface area and 10 gallon capacity.

Moderate – Tanks up to 10 sq. ft. surface area and 150 gallon capacity.

Heavy – Tanks over 10 sq. ft. surface area or over 150 gallon capacity.

Basic safeguards for all dipping/coating operations include:

Control of fuel

The amount of fuel kept at the work station should be kept to a minimum.

Quantities should be limited to a supply for one day.

Safety cans should be used.

These and all process containers should be in good condition and kept closed when not in use. Less flammable liquids should be substituted for highly flammable materials whenever possible.

Control of ignition sources

Sources of ignition include smoking, open flame, static or frictional sparks, welding and cutting, electrical arcs, and radiant heat. All ignition sources should be prohibited within 25 feet of Dipping/Coating locations. (Greater distances are required where vapors travel.)

Electrical equipment should be listed for use in “Hazardous Areas” as defined by National Electrical Code. During transfer/mixing, all containers should be grounded and bonded.

Location

Dipping/Coating operations should be conducted in non-combustible buildings, above grade, away from structural supports and exits. Light Dipping/Coating (See Definitions) may be safely conducted in open plant areas. Moderate and heavy operations should be located in cut off rooms.

Protection

Basic protection for all operations should include automatic closing covers, and sprinklers or other local automatic extinguishing systems. Such protection is essential in moderate and heavy processes.

Process tanks in heavy operations should be equipped with trapped overflow pipes leading to a safe location. A portable fire extinguisher should be located nearby.

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Ventilation

Natural or mechanical ventilation should be provided to confine ignitable vapors to within 5 feet of the Dipping/Coating tank. Ventilation for automatic processes should be interlocked to stop the process in the event of ventilation failure.

Housekeeping

Accumulation of combustible residues and trash should be removed from the work area. Rags and waste should be stored in covered metal containers and removed from the building daily. All surfaces including floors and drainboards should be kept free of residue by frequent cleaning.

The loss prevention information and advice presented in this brochure are intended only to advise our insureds and their managers of a variety of methods and strategies based on generally accepted safe practices, for controlling potentially loss producing situations commonly occurring in business premises and/or operations. They are not intended to warrant that all potential hazards or conditions have been evaluated or can be controlled. They are not intended as an offer to write insurance coverage for such conditions or exposures, or to simply that Great American Insurance Company will write such coverage. The liability of Great American Insurance Company is limited to the specific terms, limits and conditions of the insurance policies issued.
301 E. Fourth Street, Cincinnati, OH 45202 F13634A-LP (11/12)

