



**Subject:** Combustible Dust-producing Operations

**Revised** May 11, 2023

**Purpose:** A Combustible dust-producing operational permit is required to operate a grain elevator, flour starch mill, feed mill, or a plant pulverizing aluminum, coal, cocoa, magnesium, spices or sugar, wood finishing, or other operations producing combustible dusts. Combustible dust-producing permits shall be renewed on an annual basis. Combustible Dust is defined by the approved code as, finely divided solid material which is 420 microns 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 ignition. Combustible dust will pass through a U.S. No. 40 standard sieve.

**Fees:** \$300.00 Annually

**Requirements:** A Combustible Dust-producing Operations permit will be issued once an application has been completed appropriately, all applicable documents have been uploaded.

Applications will be completed electronically, and all required documentation shall be uploaded electronically. There shall be no paper submissions. Permit application shall be completed and submitted through the Harris County ePermits system, <https://epermits.harriscountytexas.gov/>. Once the application is received along with all required documentation, the Fire Code Official will conduct a review. When the permit process is complete, and authorization is given, the applicant will be notified that the permit is issued, and the duration of the permit will be indicated.

All Combustible Dust-producing Operations permit applications will begin with generalized information requirements. This information will pertain to the property information/property owner's information/application information/project name.

When applying for a Combustible Dust-producing Operations operational permit the applicant shall provide the following information:

- Site map identifying the location of all on-site fire suppression to include fire pumps, ponds, water supplies, layout of fire lanes, gas meter, and Knox Box if installed, and dust collectors. If renewing a combustible dust producing operations operational permit and no changes have been made to your facility from previous permit cycle, a written statement claiming no changes have been made can be submitted in lieu of plans;
- A drawing/ floor plan of building including all entrance and exits, location of primary and secondary exit routes, locations of fire extinguishers, fire protection system panels, risers, and/or other fire protection control systems and/or panels, etc. If renewing a combustible dust producing operations operational permit and no changes have been made to your facility from previous permit cycle, a written statement claiming no changes have been made can be submitted in lieu of plans;
- Copy of the emergency plan, compliant with Chapter 4 of the International Fire Code, current adopted edition;
- Information on types of fire alarm systems installed and last inspection date (provide last inspection report or photo of current inspection tag(s)). This shall include all fire alarm systems or other gas detection systems at the facility;

- Information on installed sprinkler systems and last inspection date (provide last inspection report or photo of current inspection tag(s). This shall include all fire sprinkler systems at the facility;
- Information on fire extinguishers or any type of alternate (including but not limited to automatic hood suppression, paint booth systems, clean agent) fire protection system installed and last inspection date (provide last inspection report or photo of current inspection tag(s));
- Detailed written description of the on-site operation (retail, manufacturing, storage, use, etc.);
- Written documentation identifying the CFM and type of dust collector;
  - Cyclonic,
  - Enclosure-less,
  - Bag House;
- Written documentation identifying the CFM and method of exhaust ventilation of dust collector, If one or more of the requested documents does not apply to your location, please submit in writing a reason for not submitting.

**Denial:** If it is determined that an application fails to meet the requirements as set forth in this standard or the applicant refuses to provide all required documentation, the fire code official shall not issue a permit, but shall return the application to the applicant with explanation for refusal.

**Revocation:** The fire code official is authorized to revoke a permit where it is found that there has been false statements or misrepresentation as to the material facts in the application or supporting documentation on which the approval and issuance was based, the permit was issued to a different person or firm than named on the permit, the permittee failed, refused or neglected to comply with orders or notices duly served in accordance with the provisions of this code within the time provided therein, or the permit was issued in error or in violation of an ordinance, regulation or this code.

\* \* \*



Fire Marshal Laurie L. Christensen, CFPS, TEM, M.S.

Harris County Texas