



## OSHA Inspections

OSHA Targets Companies at Risk for Combustible Dust Hazards

**IS YOUR FACILITY ON THE LIST?**

January 26, 2009

In March 2008, OSHA issued notices to 30,000 facilities that they may be at risk for combustible dust explosions based upon NAICS descriptions.

OSHA Regional & Area Offices are now using this list to target facilities for inspection.

### *Summary*

According to OSHA, since 1980 there have been over 350 explosions caused by the ignition of combustible dust resulting in over 100 fatalities nationwide. In an effort to address the problem and as mandated by the US Congress, OSHA intends to inspect hundreds of facilities within the next few years and issue citations for violations. Find out if your facility is on the priority list based upon your [NAICS](#) description.

Several facilities we are associated with have already been inspected and cited for housekeeping, lack of posted signs, and design requirements. Our intent is to make you aware of the upcoming inspections and provide you with information useful in preparing your facility. Please take the time to review OSHA's [Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program](#) and the specific OSHA standards that are being targeted.

Housekeeping Standards [29 CFR 1910.22](#) and [1910.176\(c\)](#)  
General Duty Clause [Section 5\(a\)\(1\) of the OSHA Act](#)  
Electrical Equipment Safety Requirements [29 CFR 1910.307](#)

You can also go [here](#) to search and review previous OSHA inspections & citations by NAICS.

Other informative publications concerning the dangers of combustible dust include:

1. U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigative Board's [Report](#) on the Aluminum Dust Explosion at Hayes Lemmerz International-Huntington, Inc.
2. CBS' 60 Minutes Report on the Dangers of Combustible Dust ([12 minute video](#))

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If you have any questions or need assistance in OSHA compliance, training, or litigation support, please contact [Ike Habib, P.E. of HB Engineering](#). We have the experience and knowledge to get you on track.

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