



PENNSYLVANIA LUMBERMENS MUTUAL
I N S U R A N C E C O M P A N Y

MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS: ELECTRICAL INSTALLATIONS & SPRINKLER SYSTEMS

Minimum requirements for the periodic inspection, testing, and maintenance of fire protection systems and electrical installations should become part of the regular scheduled preventive maintenance program for any woodworking operation. The accumulation of sawdust and wood bi-products in woodworking operations can create conditions that result in the failure of protective systems and can contribute to a deterioration of the safeguards built into the installation of electrical equipment and services.

The National Fire Protection Association has specifically addressed several areas that need to be included in the routine maintenance and clean-up operations for any woodworker. The areas that need to be addressed that relate to sawdust and wood products include maintenance of fire protection systems and the integrity of electrical equipment and connections.

The general responsibility for the owner or occupant of a building regarding fire protection systems is to provide periodic inspection, testing and maintenance of the equipment. The maintenance for a woodworking operation includes the cleaning off of the accumulation of sawdust on the sprinkler system piping, heads, and alarm devices. Cleaning should be by brushing or vacuum method and not by blowing off the accumulation with compressed air nozzles or other devices.

The general requirement for maintaining the integrity of electrical equipment and connections includes the periodic inspection and maintenance of electrical equipment and connections. Electrical equipment shall not be damaged or contaminated with foreign materials such as sawdust, paint, plaster, adhesives or corrosive residues. There shall be no damaged parts that adversely affect safe operation or mechanical strength of the equipment such as parts that are bent, broken, cut deteriorated by corrosion, chemical action, overheating, or the accumulation of foreign materials such as sawdust.

The general methods for cleaning electrical equipment also include the brushing method or vacuuming the accumulation of sawdust from the equipment.

Including periodic inspection and cleaning of fire protection and electrical systems will prevent the buildup up sawdust on building systems. The buildup of sawdust and wood products can lead to an unusual fire exposure and can inhibit the effectiveness of the fire detection and suppression systems should a fire occur.