



FIRE PREVENTION BUREAU

ADMINISTRATIVE RULINGS

Policies/Interpretations

12.2

Hazardous Materials, Storage/Use

SCOPE: To assist in determining whether a hazardous material is in storage or use. The Fire Code and Building Code regulate the allowable amounts of hazardous material allowed in any control area, outside of a Group H occupancy. These materials shall be classified either:

- In storage
- In use, closed
- In use, open

DEFINITIONS

APPROVED CABINET: Flammable liquid or Hazardous material storage cabinet that complies with the requirements of the Fire Code Chapter's 27 and 34.

CONTROL AREA: A building or portion of a building within which the exempted amounts of hazardous materials are allowed to be stored, dispensed, used or handled. Control areas shall be in accordance with the Fire Code and Building Code.

FM or UL: Factory Mutual and Underwriters Laboratory are companies that provide approval or listing of products for a specific use. This meets recognized standards.

HAZARDOUS MATERIAL: Chemicals or substances which are physical hazards or health hazards as defined and classified in the Fire Code whether the materials are in usable or waste condition.

H OCCUPANCY: A building, structure or portion thereof with a use that involves the manufacturing, processing, generation or storage of materials that constitute a high fire, explosion or health hazard. Occupancies are classified in accordance with the Building Code. H occupancies have specific requirements based on the hazardous material involved.

USE, CLOSED: Use of a solid or liquid hazardous material in a closed vessel or system that remains closed during normal operations where vapors emitted by the product are not liberated outside of the vessel or system and the product is not exposed to the atmosphere during normal operations, and all uses of compressed gases.

USE, OPEN: Use of a solid or liquid hazardous material in a vessel or system that is continuously open to the atmosphere during normal operations and where vapors are liberated, or the product is exposed to the atmosphere during normal operations.

GENERAL

1. Containers not in immediate use shall have the lid on and shall be kept in an approved cabinet or H occupancy.
2. Only the amount of hazardous material necessary for the demonstration, treatment, laboratory work, maintenance purposes and operation of equipment shall be out of an approved cabinet or H room.
3. Dispensing from containers larger than 5 gallons shall be conducted a minimum of 20 feet from any area in which flammable & combustible liquids are used.
4. Additional safety conditions may be imposed by the chief regarding locations, types of containers, dispensing units, fire control measures and other factors involving fire safety.
5. The use of a fume hood shall not change the classification of the material.

EXAMPLES OF STORAGE

1. Factory sealed container.
2. Inside an approved cabinet with the lid of the container on (whether seal broken or not).
3. A UL or FM approved pump connected to the container and not connected to any use or system.

EXAMPLES OF USE, CLOSED

1. A UL or FM approved pump connected to the container and then connected to a closed pipe system.
2. Any container connected to a closed system with no venting of the container or system to the room.

EXAMPLES OF USE, OPEN

1. Dispensing from any container into an open container, tank or vessel.
2. If dispensing from a container with a UL or FM approved pump, the amount in use, open, is the container that is being dispensed into. The source container with the pump is still considered in storage.
3. A container removed from a cabinet, is opened for dispensing and the lid replaced, but the container is left out of the cabinet for later use.