

Flammable & Combustible Liquids & Printing Operations



You can prevent fires in printing operations by handling, storing and using flammable liquids properly.

Follow the simple step-by-step procedure inside to eliminate or lessen losses.

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Step 1 Determine Flash Point

You should list the inks, solvents, fountain solutions, blanket washes, press washes and waste materials used in your plant and their flash point temperatures. Flash point information can be obtained from the Manufacturer Safety Data Sheet (MSDS), which you should have for all such materials.

List below any flammable or combustible liquids you use in your operation, their flash points and the quantity used.

	<i>Flash Point</i>	<i>Quantity</i>
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____

Note! *If the flash point is at or above 100 degrees Fahrenheit, the liquid is combustible. Flammable liquids are those that have flash points less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit. Both will burn, but the flammable liquids are more hazardous because they ignite much more easily at normal room temperatures.*

Step 2 Substitution

At this point, you may want to determine which, if any, of these flammable liquids you can do without or replace with a noncombustible liquid.

List below those liquids for which a substitution is possible.

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Assuming you have eliminated as many flammable or combustible liquids as possible, the next step is to store and use those that remain safely.

Step 3 Safe Storage

To safely store liquids that remain in use, you need approved safety containers designed for the special requirements of a flammable liquid. They are designed to keep liquids and vapors contained and prevent them from mixing with air.

Safety containers should be used for any flammable liquids stored or used in the building. The liquid should be poured from the container in which it is received into the safety receptacle. Quantities up to five gallons can be stored in such receptacles.

A. No more than a 24-hour supply should be kept in the working area. Limiting the quantity of flammable or combustible liquids on hand is an important way of reducing the chance of fire or, in the event of fire, lessening its severity.

If quantities normally required in a 24-hour period exceed 25 gallons, consider purchasing a mobile dispenser with a 60-gallon capacity. The dispenser should be approved for in-plant use and must be equipped with grounding and bonding cables.

B. Shipping drums (55 gallon) should not be stored in the press area and no liquid should be dispensed from them in press areas. They must be maintained in a storage room, storage building or special cabinet.

C. All low-flash (under 100 degrees Fahrenheit) flammable liquids should be stored in a "flammable liquids" storage room or cabinet.

Step 4 Safe Usage

	Yes	No
A. Grounding and bonding are necessary when dispensing flammable liquids from any container larger than five gallons. This includes transfer from a 55-gallon drum to a safety container of five gallons or less.	_____	_____
B. Dispensing by gravity flow is not recommended. If it is absolutely necessary, use an automatic closing valve with a flash screen. Approved hand pumps are preferred. Forced dispensing by use of internal air pressure is prohibited.	_____	_____
C. All containers must be labeled. (Safety cans or other portable containers holding liquids with a flash point of less than 100 degrees Fahrenheit must be painted red and have a yellow band around the can).	_____	_____
D. Storage cabinets for flammables are approved for safety containers of no more than five gallons each, and no more than 60 gallons may be stored in one cabinet. A single 55-gallon drum may also be stored in a storage cabinet.	_____	_____
E. All storage cabinets should be labeled with conspicuous lettering, e. g., "Flammable — Keep Fire Away."	_____	_____
F. A storage cabinet should be provided when quantities exceed 25 gallons or more. A maximum of three cabinets is permitted. For quantities greater than 180 gallons, a property-designed storage room should be used.	_____	_____

Consult your Utica National Loss Control Representative for more information or assistance with the implementation of these guidelines.