

## CHAPTER 15

# FLAMMABLE FINISHES

### SECTION 1501 GENERAL

**1501.1 Scope.** This chapter shall apply to locations or areas where any of the following activities are conducted:

1. The application of flammable or combustible paint, varnish, lacquer, stain, fiberglass resins or other flammable or combustible liquid applied by means of spray apparatus in continuous or intermittent processes.
2. Dip-tank operations in which articles or materials are passed through contents of tanks, vats or containers of flammable or combustible liquids, including coating, finishing, treatment and similar processes.
3. The application of combustible powders when applied by powder spray guns, electrostatic powder spray guns, fluidized beds or electrostatic fluidized beds.
4. Floor surfacing exceeding 350 square feet (32.5 m<sup>2</sup>) or building component finishing operations.
5. The application of dual-component coatings or Class I or II liquids when applied by brush or roller in quantities exceeding 1 gallon (4 L).
6. Spraying and dipping operations.

**1501.2 Permits.** Permits shall be required as set forth in Sections 105.6 and 105.7.

**1501.3 Construction documents.** Construction documents shall be submitted to the fire code official prior to the installation, construction or modification of a spray booth, spray room, a powder coating booth or spray area. See Section 105.2.8.

### SECTION 1502 DEFINITIONS

**1502.1 Definitions.** The following words and terms shall, for the purposes of this chapter and as used elsewhere in this code, have the meanings shown herein.

**DETEARING.** A process for rapidly removing excess wet coating material from a dipped or coated object or material by passing it through an electrostatic field.

**DIP TANK.** A tank, vat or container of flammable or combustible liquid in which articles or materials are immersed for the purpose of coating, finishing, treating and similar processes.

**ELECTROSTATIC FLUIDIZED BED.** A container holding powder coating material that is aerated from below so as to form an air-supported expanded cloud of such material which is electrically charged with a charge opposite to the charge of the object to be coated. Such object is transported through the container immediately above the charged and aerated materials in order to be coated.

**FLAMMABLE FINISHES.** Material coatings in which the material being applied is a flammable liquid, combustible liq-

uid, combustible powder or flammable or combustible gel coatings.

**FLUIDIZED BED.** A container holding powder coating material that is aerated from below so as to form an air-supported expanded cloud of such material through which the preheated object to be coated is immersed and transported.

**LIMITED SPRAYING SPACE.** An area in which spraying operations for touch-up or spot painting of a surface area of 9 square feet (.84 m<sup>2</sup>) or less are conducted.

**RESIN APPLICATION AREA.** An area where reinforced plastics are used to manufacture products by hand lay-up or spray-fabrication methods.

**ROLL COATING.** The process of coating, spreading and impregnating fabrics, paper or other materials as they are passed directly through a tank or trough containing flammable or combustible liquids, or over the surface of a roller revolving partially submerged in a flammable or combustible liquid.

**SPRAY AREA.** An area in which dangerous quantities of flammable vapors or combustible residues, dusts or deposits are present because of the operation of spraying processes. It shall include the interior of spray booths, the interior of ducts exhausting from spraying processes, or any area in the direct path of spray or any area containing dangerous quantities of air-suspended powder, combustible residue, dust, deposits, vapor or mists as a result of spraying operations. The fire code official is authorized to define the spray area in any specific case.

**SPRAY BOOTH.** A mechanically ventilated appliance of varying dimensions and construction provided to enclose or accommodate a spraying operation and to confine and limit the escape of spray vapor and residue and to exhaust it safely.

**SPRAY ROOM.** A room designed to accommodate spraying operations constructed in accordance with the *International Building Code* and separated from the remainder of the building by a minimum 1-hour fire barrier.

**VAPOR AREA.** An area containing flammable vapors in the vicinity of dip tanks, drain boards or associated drying, conveying or other equipment during operation or shutdown periods. The fire code official is authorized to determine the extent of the vapor area, taking into consideration the characteristics of the liquid, the degree of sustained ventilation and the nature of the operations.

### SECTION 1503 PROTECTION OF OPERATIONS

**1503.1 General.** Operations covered by this chapter shall be protected as required by this section.

**1503.2 Sources of ignition.** Protection against sources of ignition shall be provided in accordance with Sections 1503.2.1 through 1503.2.8.

**1503.2.1 Electrical wiring and equipment.** Electrical wiring and equipment shall comply with this chapter and the *National Electrical Code*.

**1503.2.1.1 Spray spaces and vapor areas.** Electrical wiring and equipment in spray spaces and vapor areas shall be of an explosion-proof type approved for use in such hazardous locations. Such areas shall be considered to be Class I, Division 1 or Class II, Division 1 hazardous locations in accordance with the *National Electrical Code*.

**1503.2.1.2 Electrical wiring and equipment in resin application areas.** Electrical wiring and equipment located in resin application areas shall be in accordance with the *National Electrical Code*.

**1503.2.1.3 Areas subject to deposits of residues.** Electrical equipment in the vicinity of spray areas and dip tanks or associated drain boards or drying operations which are subject to splashing or dripping of liquids shall be specifically approved for locations containing deposits of readily ignitable residue and explosive vapors.

**Exceptions:**

1. This provision shall not apply to wiring in rigid conduit, threaded boxes or fittings not containing taps, splices or terminal connections.
2. This provision shall not apply to electrostatic equipment allowed by Section 1506.

In resin application areas, electrical wiring and equipment that is subject to deposits of combustible residues shall be listed for such exposure and shall be installed as required for hazardous (classified) locations. Electrical wiring and equipment not subject to deposits of combustible residues shall be installed as required for ordinary hazard locations.

**1503.2.1.4 Areas adjacent to spray booths.** Electrical wiring and equipment located outside of, but within 5 feet (1524 mm) horizontally and 3 feet (914 mm) vertically of openings in a spray booth or a spray room shall be approved for Class I, Division 2 or Class II, Division 2 hazardous locations, whichever is applicable.

**1503.2.1.5 Areas subject to overspray deposits.** Electrical equipment in spraying areas located such that deposits of combustible residues could readily accumulate thereon shall be specifically approved for locations containing deposits of readily ignitable residue and explosive vapors in accordance with the *ICC Electrical Code*.

**Exceptions:**

1. Wiring in rigid conduit.
2. Boxes or fittings not containing taps, splices or terminal connections.
3. Equipment allowed by Sections 1504 and 1506 and Chapter 21.

**1503.2.1.6 Flexible power cords.** The use of flexible power cords shall be in accordance with the *National Electrical Code*.

**1503.2.2 Open flames and sparks.** Open flames and spark-producing devices shall not be located in spray spaces or vapor areas and shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of such areas unless separated by a permanent partition.

**Exception:** Drying and baking apparatus complying with Section 1504.7.2.

**1503.2.3 Hot surfaces.** Heated surfaces having a temperature sufficient to ignite vapors shall not be located in vapor areas. Space-heating appliances, steam pipes or hot surfaces in a spraying area or a resin application area shall be located such that they are not subject to accumulation of deposits of combustible residues.

**Exception:** Drying apparatus complying with Section 1504.7.2.

**1503.2.4 Equipment enclosures.** Equipment or apparatus that is capable of producing sparks or particles of hot metal that would fall into a spray or vapor area shall be totally enclosed.

**1503.2.5 Grounding.** Metal parts of spray booths, exhaust ducts and piping systems conveying Class I or II liquids shall be electrically grounded in accordance with the *National Electrical Code*. Metallic parts located in resin application areas, including but not limited to exhaust ducts, ventilation fans, spray application equipment, workpieces and piping, shall be electrically grounded.

**1503.2.6 Smoking prohibited.** Smoking shall be prohibited in spray or vapor areas. "No Smoking" signs complying with Section 310 shall be conspicuously posted in such areas.

**1503.2.7 Welding warning signs.** Welding, cutting and similar spark-producing operations shall not be conducted in or adjacent to spray areas or dipping or coating operations unless precautions have been taken to provide safety. Conspicuous signs with the following warning shall be posted in the vicinity of spraying areas, dipping operations and paint storage rooms:

NO WELDING  
THE USE OF WELDING OR CUTTING  
EQUIPMENT IN OR NEAR THIS AREA  
IS DANGEROUS BECAUSE OF FIRE  
AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS. WELDING  
AND CUTTING SHALL BE DONE ONLY  
UNDER THE SUPERVISION OF THE  
PERSON IN CHARGE.

**1503.2.8 Powered industrial trucks.** Powered industrial trucks used in electrically classified areas shall be listed for such use.

**1503.3 Storage, use and handling of flammable and combustible liquids.** The storage, use and handling of flammable and combustible liquids shall be in accordance with this section and Chapter 34.

**1503.3.1 Use.** Containers supplying spray nozzles shall be of a closed type or provided with metal covers which are kept closed. Containers not resting on floors shall be on noncombustible supports or suspended by wire cables. Con-

tainers supplying spray nozzles by gravity flow shall not exceed 10 gallons (37.9 L) in capacity.

**1503.3.2 Valves.** Containers and piping to which a hose or flexible connection is attached shall be provided with a shut-off valve at the connection. Such valves shall be kept shut when hoses are not in use.

**1503.3.3 Pumped liquid supplies.** Where flammable or combustible liquids are supplied to spray nozzles by positive displacement pumps, pump discharge lines shall be provided with an approved relief valve discharging to pump suction or a safe detached location. Activation of an automatic sprinkler or fire extinguishing system inside a spray booth or room shall stop the flow of pumped liquid. When pressurized containers larger than 5 gallons are used to supply the liquid used in the spray application process, an automatic means shall be provided to shut off liquid flow at the container outlet in the event of fire.

**1503.3.4 Liquid transfer.** Where a flammable mixture is transferred from one portable container to another, a bond shall be provided between the two containers. At least one container shall be grounded. Piping systems for Class I and Class II liquids shall be permanently grounded.

**1503.3.5 Class I liquids as solvents.** Class I liquids used as solvents shall be used in spray gun and equipment cleaning machines which have been listed and approved for the purpose or shall be used in spray booths or spray rooms in accordance with Sections 1503.3.5.1 and 1503.3.5.2.

**1503.3.5.1 Listed devices.** Cleaning machines for spray guns and equipment shall not be located in areas open to the public and shall be separated from ignition sources in accordance with their listings or by a distance of 3 feet (914 mm), whichever is greater. The quantity of solvent used in a machine shall not exceed the design capacity of the machine.

**1503.3.5.2 Within spray booths and spray rooms.** When solvents are used for cleaning spray nozzles and auxiliary equipment within spray booths and spray rooms, the ventilating equipment shall be operated during cleaning.

**1503.3.6 Class II and Class III liquids.** Solvents used outside of spray booths, spray rooms or listed and approved spray gun and equipment cleaning machines shall be restricted to Class II and Class III liquids.

**1503.4 Operations and maintenance.** Spraying areas, exhaust fan blades and exhaust ducts shall be kept free from the accumulation of deposits of combustible residues. Where excessive residue accumulates in booths, ducts, or discharge points or other spraying areas, spraying operations shall be discontinued until conditions are corrected.

**1503.4.1 Tools.** Scrapers, spuds and other tools used for cleaning purposes shall be constructed of nonsparking materials.

**1503.4.2 Residue.** Residues removed during cleaning and debris contaminated with residue shall be immediately removed from the premises and properly disposed.

**1503.4.3 Waste cans.** Approved metal waste cans equipped with self-closing lids shall be provided wherever rags or waste are impregnated with finishing material. Such rags and waste shall be deposited therein immediately after being utilized. The contents of waste cans shall be properly disposed of at least once daily and at the end of each shift.

**1503.4.4 Solvent recycling.** Solvent distillation equipment used to recycle and clean dirty solvents shall comply with Section 3405.4.

## SECTION 1504 SPRAY FINISHING

**1504.1 Location of spray-finishing operations.** Spray-finishing operations conducted in buildings used for Group A, E, I or R occupancies shall be located in a spray room protected with an approved automatic sprinkler system installed in accordance with Section 903.3.1.1 and separated vertically and horizontally from other areas in accordance with the *International Building Code*. In other occupancies, spray-finishing operations shall be conducted in a spray room, spray booth or limited spraying space approved for such use.

**1504.1.1 Spray rooms.** Spray rooms shall be constructed and designed in accordance with this section and the *International Building Code*, and shall comply with Sections 1504.2, 1504.3, 1504.4, 1504.5 and 1504.6.

**1504.1.1.1 Floor.** Combustible floor construction in spray rooms shall be covered by approved, noncombustible, nonsparking material, except where combustible coverings, such as thin paper or plastic and strippable coatings are utilized over noncombustible materials to facilitate cleaning operations in spray rooms.

**1504.1.2 Spray booths.** The design and construction of spray booths shall be in accordance with Sections 1504.1.2.1 through 1504.1.2.6, Sections 1504.2 through 1504.6, and NFPA 33.

**1504.1.2.1 Construction.** Spray booths shall be constructed of approved noncombustible materials. Aluminum shall not be used.

Where walls or ceiling assemblies are constructed of sheet metal, single-skin assemblies shall be no thinner than 0.0478 inch (18 gage) (1.2 mm) and each sheet of double-skin assemblies shall be no thinner than 0.0359 inch (20 gage) (0.9 mm).

Structural sections of spray booths are allowed to be sealed with latex-based or similar caulks and sealants.

**1504.1.2.2 Surfaces.** The interior surfaces of spray booths shall be smooth and shall be constructed so as to permit the free passage of exhaust air from all parts of the interior and to facilitate washing and cleaning, and shall be designed to confine residues within the booth. Aluminum shall not be used.

**1504.1.2.3 Floor.** Combustible floor construction in spray booths shall be covered by approved, noncombustible, nonsparking material, except where combustible coverings, such as thin paper or plastic and

strippable coatings are utilized over noncombustible materials to facilitate cleaning operations in spray booths.

**1504.1.2.4 Means of egress.** Means of egress shall be provided in accordance with Chapter 10.

**Exception:** Means of egress doors from premanufactured spray booths shall not be less than 30 inches (762 mm) in width by 80 inches (2032 mm) in height.

**1504.1.2.5 Clear space.** Spray booths shall be installed so that all parts of the booth are readily accessible for cleaning. A clear space of not less than 3 feet (914 mm) shall be maintained on all sides of the spray booth. This clear space shall be kept free of any storage or combustible construction.

**Exceptions:**

1. This requirement shall not prohibit locating a spray booth closer than 3 feet (914 mm) to or directly against an interior partition, wall or floor/ceiling assembly, that has a fire-resistance- rating of not less than 1 hour, provided the spray booth can be adequately maintained and cleaned.
2. This requirement shall not prohibit locating a spray booth closer than 3 feet (914 mm) to an exterior wall or a roof assembly provided the wall or roof is constructed of noncombustible material and provided the spray booth can be adequately maintained and cleaned.

**1504.1.2.6 Size.** The aggregate area of spray booths in a building shall not exceed 15,000 square feet.

The area of an individual spray booth in a building shall not exceed 15,000 square feet (139 m<sup>2</sup>). If the area of an individual spray booth is greater than 15,000 square feet, the booth shall be separated from the remainder of the building by a minimum 2-hour fire barrier.

**1504.1.3 Spraying areas.** Spraying areas shall be designed and constructed in accordance with the *International Building Code* and Sections 1504.1.3.1, 1504.2, 1504.3, 1504.4, 1504.5 and 1504.6 of this code.

**1504.1.3.1 Floor.** Combustible floor construction in spraying areas shall be covered by approved, non combustible, nonsparking material, except where combustible coverings, such as thin paper or plastic and strippable coatings are utilized over noncombustible materials to facilitate cleaning operations in spraying areas.

**1504.1.4 Limited spraying spaces.** Limited spraying spaces shall comply with Sections 1504.1.4.1 through 1504.1.4.4.

**1504.1.4.1 Job size.** The aggregate surface area to be sprayed shall not exceed 9 square feet (0.84 m<sup>2</sup>).

**1504.1.4.2 Frequency.** Spraying operations shall not be of a continuous nature.

**1504.1.4.3 Ventilation.** Positive mechanical ventilation providing a minimum of six complete air changes per hour shall be installed. Such system shall meet the re-

quirements of this code for handling flammable vapors. Explosion venting is not required.

**1504.1.4.4 Electrical wiring.** Electrical wiring within 10 feet (3048 mm) of the floor and 20 feet (6096 mm) horizontally of the limited spraying space shall be designed for Class I, Division 2 locations in accordance with the *National Electrical Code*.

**1504.2 Ventilation.** Mechanical ventilation of spraying areas shall be provided in accordance with Section 510 of the *International Mechanical Code*.

**1504.2.1 Operation.** Mechanical ventilation shall be kept in operation at all times while spraying operations are being conducted and for a sufficient time thereafter to allow vapors from drying coated articles and finishing material residue to be exhausted. Spraying equipment shall be interlocked with the ventilation of the spraying area such that spraying operations cannot be conducted unless the ventilation system is in operation.

**1504.2.2 Recirculation.** Air exhausted from spraying operations shall not be recirculated.

**Exceptions:**

1. Air exhausted from spraying operations is allowed to be recirculated as makeup air for unmanned spray operations provided that:
  - 1.1. The solid particulate has been removed.
  - 1.2. The vapor concentration is less than 25 percent of the LFL.
  - 1.3. Approved equipment is used to monitor the vapor concentration.
  - 1.4. When the vapor concentration exceeds 25 percent of the LFL, the following shall occur:
    - a. An alarm shall sound; and
    - b. Spray operations shall automatically shut down.
  - 1.5. In the event of shutdown of the vapor concentration monitor, 100 percent of the air volume specified in Section 1504.2 is automatically exhausted.
2. Air exhausted from spraying operations is allowed to be recirculated as makeup air for manned spraying operations where all of the conditions provided in Exception 1 are included in the installation and documents have been prepared to show that the installation does not pose a life safety hazard to personnel inside the spray booth, spray area or spray room.

**1504.2.3 Air velocity.** Ventilation systems shall be designed, installed and maintained such that the average air velocity over the open face of the booth, or booth cross sectional in the direction of airflow during spraying operations, shall not be less than 100 feet per minute (0.51 m/s).

**1504.2.4 Ventilation obstruction.** Articles being sprayed shall be positioned in a manner that does not obstruct collection of overspray.

**1504.2.5 Independent ducts.** Each spray booth and spray room shall have an independent exhaust duct system discharging to the outside.

**Exceptions:**

1. Multiple spray booths having a combined frontal area of 18 square feet (1.67 m<sup>2</sup>) or less are allowed to have a common exhaust when identical spray-finishing material is used in each booth. If more than one fan serves one booth, fans shall be interconnected such that all fans operate simultaneously.
2. Where treatment of exhaust is necessary for air pollution control or for energy conservation, ducts shall be allowed to be manifolded if all of the following conditions are met:
  - 2.1. The sprayed materials used are compatible and will not react or cause ignition of the residue in the ducts.
  - 2.2. Nitrocellulose-based finishing material shall not be used.
  - 2.3. A filtering system shall be provided to reduce the amount of overspray carried into the duct manifold.
  - 2.4. Automatic sprinkler protection shall be provided at the junction of each booth exhaust with the manifold, in addition to the protection required by this chapter.

**1504.2.6 Termination point.** The termination point for exhaust ducts discharging to the atmosphere shall not be less than the following distances:

1. Ducts conveying explosive or flammable vapors, fumes or dusts: 30 feet (9144 mm) from the property line; 10 feet (3048 mm) from openings into the building; 6 feet (1829 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 30 feet (9144 mm) from combustible walls or openings into the building which are in the direction of the exhaust discharge; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.
2. Other product-conveying outlets: 10 feet (3048 mm) from the property line; 3 feet (914 mm) from exterior walls and roofs; 10 feet (3048 mm) from openings into the building; 10 feet (3048 mm) above adjoining grade.
3. Environmental air duct exhaust: 3 feet (914 mm) from the property line; 3 feet (914 mm) from openings into the building.

**1504.2.7 Fan motors and belts.** Electric motors driving exhaust fans shall not be placed inside booths or ducts. Fan rotating elements shall be nonferrous or nonsparking or the casing shall consist of, or be lined with, such material. Belts shall not enter the duct or booth unless the belt and pulley within the duct are tightly enclosed.

**1504.3 Filters.** Air intake filters that are part of a wall or ceiling assembly shall be listed as Class I or Class II in accordance with UL 900. Exhaust filters shall be required.

**1504.3.1 Supports.** Supports and holders for filters shall be constructed of noncombustible materials.

**1504.3.2 Attachment.** Overspray collection filters shall be readily removable and accessible for cleaning or replacement.

**1504.3.3 Maintaining air velocity.** Visible gauges, audible alarms or pressure-activated devices shall be installed to indicate or ensure that the required air velocity is maintained.

**1504.3.4 Filter rolls.** Spray booths equipped with a filter roll that is automatically advanced when the air velocity is reduced to less than 100 feet per minute (0.51 m/s) shall be arranged to shut down the spraying operation if the filter roll fails to advance automatically.

**1504.3.5 Filter disposal.** Discarded filter pads shall be immediately removed to a safe, detached location or placed in a noncombustible container with a tight-fitting lid and disposed of properly.

**1504.3.6 Spontaneous ignition.** Spray booths using dry filters shall not be used for spraying materials that are highly susceptible to spontaneous heating and ignition. Filters shall be changed prior to spraying materials that could react with other materials previously collected. Examples of potentially reactive combinations include lacquer when combined with varnishes, stains or primers.

**1504.3.7 Waterwash spray booths.** Waterwash spray booths shall be of an approved design so as to prevent excessive accumulation of deposits in ducts and residue at duct outlets. Such booths shall be arranged so that air and overspray are drawn through a continuously flowing water curtain before entering an exhaust duct to the building exterior.

**1504.4 Different coatings.** Spray booths, spray rooms and spray areas shall not be alternately utilized for different types of coating materials where the combination of materials is conducive to spontaneous ignition, unless all deposits of one material are removed from the booth, room or area and exhaust ducts prior to spraying with a different material.

**1504.5 Illumination.** Where spraying areas, spray rooms or spray booths are illuminated through glass panels or other transparent materials, only fixed lighting units shall be utilized as a source of illumination.

**1504.5.1 Glass panels.** Panels for light fixtures or for observation shall be of heat-treated glass, wired glass or hammered-wire glass and shall be sealed to confine vapors, mists, residues, dusts and deposits to the spraying area. Panels for light fixtures shall be separated from the fixture to prevent the surface temperature of the panel from exceeding 200°F (93°C).

**1504.5.2 Exterior fixtures.** Light fixtures attached to the walls or ceilings of a spraying area, but which are outside of any classified area and are separated from the spraying area by vapor-tight glass panels, shall be suitable for use in ordinary hazard locations. Such fixtures shall be serviced from outside the spraying area.

**1504.5.3 Integral fixtures.** Light fixtures that are an integral part of the walls or ceiling of a spraying area are allowed to be separated from the spraying area by glass panels that are an integral part of the fixture. Such fixtures shall be listed for use in Class I, Division 2 or Class II, Division 2 locations, which-

ever is applicable, and also shall be suitable for accumulations of deposits of combustible residues. Such fixtures are allowed to be serviced from inside the spraying area.

**1504.5.4 Portable electric lamps.** Portable electric lamps shall not be used in spraying areas during spraying operations. Portable electric lamps used during cleaning or repairing operations shall be of a type approved for hazardous locations.

**1504.6 Fire protection.** Spray booths and spray rooms shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system complying with Chapter 9 which shall also protect exhaust plenums, exhaust ducts and both sides of dry filters when such filters are used.

**1504.6.1 Protection of sprinklers.** Automatic sprinklers installed in spraying areas shall be protected from accumulation of residue from spraying operations in an approved manner. Bags used as a protective covering shall be 0.003-inch-thick (0.076 mm) polyethylene or cellophane or shall be thin paper. Automatic sprinklers contaminated by overspray particles shall be replaced with new automatic sprinklers.

**1504.6.1.1 Automatic sprinkler protection.** When a spray booth is protected by an automatic sprinkler system, the sprinkler system shall be designed for an Extra Hazard Group II hazard. A separate control valve shall be provided for sprinkler system supplying a spray booth. The valve shall be supervised in accordance with Section 903.3.3.

**1504.6.2 Automated spray application operations.** Where protecting automated spray application operations, automatic fire-extinguishing systems shall be equipped with an approved interlock feature that will, upon discharge of the system, automatically stop the operation of spraying operations and workpiece conveyors into and out of the spraying area. Where the building is equipped with a fire alarm system, discharge of the automatic fire-extinguishing system shall also activate the building alarm notification appliances.

**1504.6.2.1 Alarm station.** A manual fire alarm and emergency system shutdown station shall be installed to serve each spraying area. When activated, the station shall accomplish the functions indicated in Section 1504.6.2. At least one such station shall be readily accessible to operating personnel. Where access to this station is likely to involve exposure to danger, an additional station shall be located adjacent to an exit from the area.

**1504.6.3 Ventilation interlock prohibited.** Air makeup and spraying area exhaust systems shall not be interlocked with the fire alarm system and shall remain in operation during a fire alarm condition.

**Exception:** Where the type of fire-extinguishing system used requires that ventilation be discontinued, air makeup and exhaust systems shall shut down and dampers shall close.

**1504.6.4 Fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be provided for spraying

areas in accordance with the requirements for an extra (high) hazard occupancy.

**1504.7 Drying operations.** Spray booths and spray rooms shall not be alternately used for the purpose of drying by arrangements which could cause an increase in the surface temperature of the spray booth or spray room except in accordance with Sections 1504.7.1 through 1504.7.2.3.

**1504.7.1 Spraying procedure.** The spraying procedure shall use low-volume spray application.

**1504.7.2 Drying apparatus.** Spray booths with integral drying apparatus shall be listed. Independent drying ovens shall comply with Chapter 21. When recirculation ventilation is provided in accordance with Section 1504.2.2, the heating system shall not be within the recirculation air path.

**1504.7.2.1 Interlocks.** The spraying apparatus, drying apparatus and ventilating system for the spray booth or spray room shall be equipped with interlocks arranged to:

1. Prevent operation of spraying apparatus while drying operations are in progress.
2. Purge spray vapors from the spray booth or spray room for a period of not less than 3 minutes before drying apparatus is rendered operable.
3. Have the ventilating system maintain a safe atmosphere within the spray booth or spray room during the drying process and automatically shut off drying apparatus in the event of a failure of the ventilating system.
4. Shut off the drying apparatus automatically if the air temperature within the booth exceeds 200°F (93°C).

**1504.7.2.2 Portable infrared apparatus.** When portable infrared drying apparatus is used, electrical wiring and portable infrared drying equipment shall comply with the *National Electrical Code*. Electrical equipment located within 18 inches (457 mm) of floor level shall be approved for Class I, Division 2 hazardous locations. Metallic parts of drying apparatus shall be electrically bonded and grounded. During spraying operations, portable drying apparatus and electrical connections and wiring thereto shall not be located within spray booths, spray rooms or other areas where spray residue would be deposited thereon.

**1504.7.2.3 Sources of ignition.** Except as specifically provided in this section, drying or baking units utilizing a heating system having open flames or which are capable of producing sparks, shall not be installed in a spraying area.

## SECTION 1505 DIPPING OPERATIONS

**1505.1 Location of dip-tank operations.** Dip-tank operations conducted in buildings used for Group A, I or R occupancies shall be located in a room designed for that purpose, equipped with an approved automatic sprinkler system, and separated

vertically and horizontally from other areas in accordance with the *International Building Code*.

**1505.2 Ventilation of vapor areas.** Vapor areas shall be provided with mechanical ventilation adequate to prevent the dangerous accumulation of vapors. Required ventilation systems shall be arranged such that the failure of any ventilating fan shall automatically stop the dipping conveyor system.

**1505.3 Construction of dip tanks.** Dip tanks shall be constructed in accordance with this section and NFPA 34. Dip tanks, including drain boards, shall be constructed of noncombustible material and their supports shall be of heavy metal, reinforced concrete or masonry.

**1505.3.1 Overflow.** Dip tanks greater than 150 gallons (568 L) in capacity or 10 square feet (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) in liquid surface area shall be equipped with a trapped overflow pipe leading to an approved location outside the building. The bottom of the overflow connection shall not be less than 6 inches (152 mm) below the top of the tank.

**1505.3.2 Bottom drains.** Dip tanks greater than 500 gallons (1893 L) in liquid capacity shall be equipped with bottom drains that are arranged to automatically and manually drain the tank quickly in the event of a fire unless the viscosity of the liquid at normal atmospheric temperature makes this impractical. Manual operation shall be from a safe, accessible location. Where gravity flow is not practicable, automatic pumps shall be provided. Such drains shall be trapped and discharge to a closed, vented salvage tank or to an approved outside location.

**Exception:** Dip tanks containing Class IIIB combustible liquids where the liquids are not heated above room temperature, and the process area is protected by automatic sprinklers.

**1505.3.3 Dipping liquid temperature control.** Protection against the accumulation of vapors, self-ignition and excessively high temperatures shall be provided for dipping liquids that are heated directly or heated by the surfaces of the object being dipped.

**1505.4 Conveyors.** Dip tanks utilizing a conveyor system shall be arranged such that in the event of fire, the conveyor system shall automatically cease motion and the required tank bottom drains shall open.

**1505.5 Portable fire extinguishers.** Areas in the vicinity of dip tanks shall be provided with portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 and suitable for flammable and combustible liquid fires as specified for extra (high) hazard occupancies.

**1505.6 Fixed fire-extinguishing equipment.** An approved automatic fire-extinguishing system or dip tank covers in accordance with Section 1505.7 shall be provided for the following dip tanks:

1. Dip tanks less than 150 gallons (568 L) in capacity or 10 square feet (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) in liquid surface area.
2. Dip tanks containing a liquid with a flash point below 110°F (43°C), used in such manner that the liquid temperature could equal or be greater than its flash point from artificial or natural causes, and having both

a capacity of more than 10 gallons (37.9 L) and a liquid surface area of more than 4 square feet (0.37 m<sup>2</sup>).

**1505.6.1 Fire-extinguishing system.** An approved automatic fire-extinguishing system shall be provided for dip tanks with a 150-gallon (568 L) or more capacity, or 10 square feet (0.93 m<sup>2</sup>) or larger in a liquid surface area. Fire-extinguishing system design shall be in accordance with NFPA 34.

**1505.7 Dip tank covers.** Dip tank covers allowed by Section 1505.6 shall be capable of manual operation and shall be automatic-closing by approved automatic-closing devices designed to operate in the event of fire.

**1505.7.1 Construction.** Covers shall be constructed of noncombustible material or be of a tin-clad type with enclosing metal applied with locked joints.

**1505.7.2 Supports.** Chain or wire rope shall be utilized for cover supports or operating mechanisms.

**1505.7.3 Closed covers.** Covers shall be kept closed when tanks are not in use.

**1505.8 Hardening and tempering tanks.** Hardening and tempering tanks shall comply with Sections 1505.3 through 1505.5 but shall be exempt from other provisions of Section 1505.

**1505.8.1 Location.** Tanks shall be located as far as practical from furnaces and shall not be located on or near combustible floors.

**1505.8.2 Hoods.** Tanks shall be provided with a noncombustible hood and vent or other approved venting means, terminating outside of the structure to serve as a vent in case of a fire. Such vent ducts shall be treated as flues, and proper clearances shall be maintained from combustible materials.

**1505.8.3 Alarms.** Tanks shall be equipped with a high-temperature limit switch arranged to sound an alarm when the temperature of the quenching medium reaches 50°F (10°C) below the flash point.

**1505.8.4 Fire protection.** Hardening and tempering tanks greater than 500 gallons (1893 L) in capacity or 25 square feet (2.3 m<sup>2</sup>) in liquid surface area shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system complying with Chapter 9.

**1505.8.5 Use of air pressure.** Air under pressure shall not be used to fill or agitate oil in tanks.

**1505.9 Flow-coating operations.** Flow-coating operations shall comply with the requirements for dip tanks. The area of the sump and any areas on which paint flows shall be considered to be the area of a dip tank.

**1505.9.1 Paint supply.** Paint shall be supplied by a gravity tank not exceeding 10 gallons (37.9 L) in capacity or by direct low-pressure pumps arranged to shut down automatically in case of fire by means of approved heat-actuated devices.

**1505.10 Roll-coating operations.** Roll-coating operations shall comply with Section 1505.9. In roll-coating operations utilizing flammable or combustible liquids, sparks from static

electricity shall be prevented by electrically bonding and grounding all metallic rotating and other parts of machinery and equipment and by the installation of static collectors or by maintaining a conductive atmosphere such as a high relative humidity.

### SECTION 1506 ELECTROSTATIC APPARATUS

**1506.1 General.** Electrostatic apparatus and devices used in connection with paint-spraying and paint-detearing operations shall be of an approved type.

**1506.2 Location.** Transformers, power packs, control apparatus and all other electrical portions of the equipment, except high-voltage grids and electrostatic atomizing heads and connections, shall be located outside of the spraying or vapor areas, or shall comply with Section 1503.2.

**1506.3 Construction of equipment.** Electrodes and electrostatic atomizing heads shall be of approved construction, rigidly supported in permanent locations and effectively insulated from ground. Insulators shall be nonporous and non-combustible.

**1506.4 Clear space.** A space of at least twice the sparking distance shall be maintained between goods being painted or deteared and electrodes, electrostatic atomizing heads or conductors. A sign stating the sparking distance shall be conspicuously posted near the assembly.

**1506.5 Emergency shutdown.** Electrostatic apparatus shall be equipped with automatic controls operating without time delay to disconnect the power supply to the high-voltage transformer and signal the operator under any of the following conditions:

1. Stoppage of ventilating fans or failure of ventilating equipment from any cause.
2. Stoppage of the conveyor carrying articles past the high-voltage grid.
3. Occurrence of a ground or an imminent ground at any point of the high-voltage system.
4. Reduction of clearance below that required in Section 1506.4.

**1506.6 Ventilation interlock.** Hand electrostatic equipment shall be interlocked with the ventilation system for the spraying area so that the equipment cannot be operated unless the ventilating system is in operation.

**1506.7 Protection for automated liquid electrostatic spray application equipment.** Automated liquid electrostatic spray application equipment shall be protected by the installation of an approved, supervised flame detection apparatus that shall, in the event of ignition, react to the presence of flame within 0.5 second and shall accomplish all of the following:

1. Activation of a local alarm in the vicinity of the spraying operation and activation of the building alarm system, if such system is provided.
2. Shutting down of the coating material delivery system.
3. Termination of all spray application operations.
4. Stopping of conveyors into and out of the spraying area.

5. Disconnection of power to the high-voltage elements in the spraying area and disconnection of power to the system.

**1506.8 Barriers.** Booths, fencing, railings or guards shall be placed about the equipment such that either by their location or character, or both, isolation of the process is maintained from plant storage and personnel. Railings, fencing and guards shall be of conductive material, adequately grounded, and shall be at least 5 feet (1524 mm) from processing equipment.

**1506.9 Signs.** Signs shall be posted to provide the following information:

1. Designate the process zone as dangerous with respect to fire and accident.
2. Identify the grounding requirements for all electrically conductive objects in the spray area, including persons.
3. Restrict access to qualified personnel only.

**1506.10 Ventilation.** The spraying area shall be ventilated in accordance with Section 1504.2.

**1506.11 Maintenance.** Insulators shall be kept clean and dry. Drip plates and screens subject to paint deposits shall be removable and taken to a safe place for cleaning.

**1506.12 Fire protection.** Areas used for electrostatic spray finishing with fixed equipment shall be protected with an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system complying with Chapter 9.

### SECTION 1507 POWDER COATING

**1507.1 General.** Operations using finely ground particles of protective finishing material applied in dry powder form by fluidized bed, electrostatic fluidized bed, powder spray guns or electrostatic powder spray guns shall comply with this section.

**1507.2 Location and construction of powder coating rooms and booths.** Powder coating operations shall be conducted in enclosed rooms constructed of noncombustible materials, enclosed powder coating facilities which are ventilated, or ventilated spray booths complying with Section 1504.1.2.

**Exception:** Listed spray-booth assemblies that are constructed of other materials shall be allowed.

**1507.3 Sources of ignition.** When parts are heated prior to coating, the temperature of the parts shall not exceed the ignition temperature of the powder to be used.

Precautions shall be taken to minimize the possibility of ignition by static electrical sparks through static bonding and grounding, where possible, of powder transport, application and recovery equipment.

**1507.4 Ventilation.** Exhaust ventilation shall be sufficient to maintain the atmosphere below one-half the minimum explosive concentration for the material being applied. Non-deposited, air-suspended powders shall be removed through exhaust ducts to the powder recovery system.

**1507.5 Drying, curing and fusion equipment.** Drying, curing and fusion equipment shall comply with Chapter 21.

**1507.6 Operation and maintenance.** Powder coating areas shall be kept free from the accumulation of powder coating dusts, including horizontal surfaces such as ledges, beams, pipes, hoods, booths and floors.

**1507.6.1 Cleaning.** Surfaces shall be cleaned in such a manner so as to avoid scattering dusts to other places or creating dust clouds. Vacuum sweeping equipment shall be of a type approved for use in hazardous location.

**1507.6.2 Spark-producing metals.** Iron or spark-producing metals shall be prevented from being introduced into the powders being applied by magnetic separators, filter-type separators, or by other approved means.

**1507.6.3 Smoking.** “No Smoking” signs complying with Section 310 shall be conspicuously posted at all powder coating areas and powder storage rooms.

**1507.7 Fixed electrostatic-spraying equipment.** In addition to Section 1507, Section 1506 shall apply to fixed electrostatic equipment used in powder coating operations.

**1507.8 Fire protection.** Areas used for powder coating shall be protected by an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system complying with Chapter 9.

**1507.9 Additional protection for fixed systems.** Automated powder application equipment shall be protected by the installation of an approved, supervised flame detection apparatus that shall react to the presence of flame within 0.5 second and shall accomplish all of the following:

1. Shutting down of energy supplies (electrical and compressed air) to conveyor, ventilation, application, transfer and powder collection equipment.
2. Closing of segregation dampers in associated ductwork to interrupt airflows from application equipment to powder collectors.
3. Activation of an alarm that is audible throughout the powder coating room or booth.

**1507.10 Fire extinguishers.** Portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be provided for areas used for powder coating in accordance with the requirements for extra hazard occupancy.

## SECTION 1508 AUTOMOBILE UNDERCOATING

**1508.1 General.** Automobile undercoating spray operations conducted in areas with approved natural or mechanical ventilation shall be exempt from the provisions of Section 1504 when approved and where utilizing Class IIIA or IIIB combustible liquids.

## SECTION 1509 ORGANIC PEROXIDES AND DUAL-COMPONENT COATINGS

**1509.1 Contamination prevention.** Organic peroxide initiators shall not be contaminated with foreign substances.

**1509.2 Equipment.** Spray guns and related handling equipment used with organic peroxides shall be of a type manufactured for such use.

**1509.3 Pressure tanks.** Separate pressure vessels and inserts specifically for the application shall be used for the resin and for the organic peroxide, and shall not be interchanged. Organic peroxide pressure tank inserts shall be constructed of stainless steel or polyethylene.

**1509.4 Residue control.** Materials shall not be contaminated by dusts and overspray residues resulting from the sanding or spraying of finishing materials containing organic peroxides.

**1509.5 Spilled material.** Spilled organic peroxides shall be promptly removed so there are no residues. Spilled material absorbed by using a noncombustible absorbent shall be promptly disposed of in accordance with the manufacturer’s recommendation.

**1509.6 Use of organic peroxide coatings.** Spraying operations involving the use of organic peroxides and other dual-component coatings shall be conducted in approved sprinklered spray booths complying with Section 1504.1.2.

**1509.7 Storage.** The storage of organic peroxides shall comply with Chapter 39.

**1509.8 Handling.** Handling of organic peroxides shall be conducted in a manner that avoids shock and friction that produces decomposition and violent reaction hazards.

**1509.9 Mixing.** Organic peroxides shall not be mixed directly with accelerators or promoters.

**1509.10 Sources of ignition.** Smoking shall be prohibited and “No Smoking” signs complying with Section 310 shall be prominently displayed. Only nonsparking tools shall be used in areas where organic peroxides are stored, mixed or applied.

**1509.11 Personnel qualifications.** Personnel working with organic peroxides and dual-component coatings shall be specifically trained to work with these materials.

## SECTION 1510 FLOOR SURFACING OR FINISHING OPERATIONS

**1510.1 Scope.** Floor surfacing exceeding 350 square feet or finishing operations (33 m<sup>2</sup>) of doors, fixtures, wainscoting, millwork and similar components attached to a structure using Class I or Class II liquids shall comply with Sections 1510.2 through 1510.7.

Buildings under construction or renovation with a valid construction permit do not require a permit to conduct this activity. The activity shall be performed in accordance with this section.

**1510.2 Business operation.** Floor surfacing and finishing operations shall not be conducted while an establishment is open to the public.

**1510.3 Ventilation.** To prevent the accumulation of flammable vapors, mechanical ventilation at a minimum rate of 1 cubic foot per minute per square foot [0.00508 m<sup>3</sup>/(s × m<sup>2</sup>)] of area being finished shall be provided. Such exhaust shall be by approved temporary or portable means. Vapors shall be exhausted to the exterior of the building.

**1510.4 Mechanical system operation.** Heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems shall not be operated during resurfacing or refinishing operations or within 4 hours of the application of flammable or combustible liquids.

**1510.5 Ignition sources.** The power to all electrical devices shall be shut down to all electrical sources of ignition within the vapor area, unless those devices are classified for use in Class I, Division 1 hazardous locations.

**1510.5.1** All electric motors, elevators or other equipment within a 25-foot radius shall be shut down.

**1510.6 Finishing materials.** Finishing materials product cans or containers shall be kept tightly closed at all times except when necessary to replenish the supply of such material at the place of application.

**1510.6.1** Product-laden rags or waste shall be removed from the building and properly disposed of at the end of each day's operations.

**1510.6.2** Materials shall be stored in an approved manner at the end of each day's operation.

**1510.7 Fire Department notification.** The permittee shall notify the Fire Department prior to any spraying operation. The following information shall be provided:

1. Caller's name and telephone number at the site.
2. Building name and address.
3. Identify the floors or room numbers where the spray operation will be conducted.

**Exception:** Mechanical ventilation is not required for buildings that are unenclosed for at least 75 percent of the perimeter.

**1511.5.1 Local ventilation.** Local ventilation shall be provided inside of workpieces where personnel will be under or inside of the workpiece.

**1511.6 Storage and use of hazardous materials.** Storage and use of organic peroxides shall be in accordance with Section 1509 and Chapter 39. Storage and use of flammable and combustible liquids shall be in accordance with Chapter 34. Storage and use of unstable (reactive) materials shall be in accordance with Chapter 43.

**1511.7 Handling of excess catalyzed resin.** A noncombustible, open-top container shall be provided for disposal of excess catalyzed resin. Excess catalyzed resin shall be drained into the container while still in the liquid state. Enough water shall be provided in the container to maintain a minimum 2-inch (51 mm) water layer over contained resin.

**1511.8 Control of overchop.** In areas where chopper guns are used, exposed wall and floor surfaces shall be covered with paper, polyethylene film, or other approved material to allow for removal of overchop. Overchop shall be allowed to cure for not less than 4 hours prior to removal.

**1511.8.1 Disposal.** Following removal, used wall and floor covering materials required by Section 1511.8 shall be placed in a noncombustible container and removed from the facility.

## SECTION 1511 INDOOR MANUFACTURING OF REINFORCED PLASTICS

**1511.1 General.** Indoor manufacturing processes involving spray or hand application of reinforced plastics and using more than 5 gallons (19 L) of resin in a 24-hour period shall be in accordance with this section.

**1511.2 Resin application equipment.** Equipment used for spray application of resin shall be installed and used in accordance with Sections 1509 and 1511.

**1511.3 Fire protection.** Resin application areas shall be protected by an automatic sprinkler system. The sprinkler system design shall not be less than that required for Ordinary Hazard, Group 2, with a minimum design area of 3,000 square feet (279 m<sup>2</sup>). Where the materials or storage arrangements are required by other regulations to be provided with a higher level of sprinkler system protection, the higher level of sprinkler system protection shall be provided.

**1511.4 Sources of ignition in resin application areas.** Sources of ignition in resin application areas shall comply with Section 1503.2.

**1511.5 Ventilation.** Mechanical ventilation shall be provided throughout resin application areas in accordance with Sections 1504.2 and 1504.3. The ventilation rate shall be adequate to maintain the concentration of flammable vapors in the resin application area at or below 25 percent of the lower flammable limit (LFL).