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CHAPTER 6.2 WAREHOUSE SAFETY AND HEALTH

6.2.1. Applicability of this chapter

You are required to follow this chapter if you work in a warehouse.

6.2.2. Fire prevention in warehouses

6.2.2.1 Fire is a major hazard in any warehouse or storage facility. Chapter 5.1, "Fire Safety," provides more details. To prevent warehouse fires, warehouse employees shall:

- a. Put combustible wastes, rags, or other flammable materials in metal containers with self-closing lids. Label each container with its contents (e.g., clean rags, oily rags, dirty rags, etc.)
- b. Empty waste containers or move them to safe locations outside the building for pickup at the end of each shift.
- c. Smoke only in designated smoking areas.
- d. Never use flammable liquids for cleaning purposes.
- e. Separate flammable liquids from other materials by a firewall.
- f. Use only forced-air space heaters (never radiant-type heaters) with a "tip-over cutoff switch." To use a heater, get approval from the Safety and Test Operations Division and concurrence from the Facility Manager.
- g. Follow the electrical safety practices in Chapter 8.1, "Electrical Safety."
- h. Ensure each liquid-fuel or liquefied petroleum gas-powered industrial truck has a Class ABC fire extinguisher.
- i. Use the following table when stacking materials:

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<i>Clearances between . . .</i>	<i>When a stack is . . .</i>	<i>Shall be . . .</i>
The top of any stack and sprinklers, ceiling joists, rafters, beams, or trusses	Less than 15 feet high	18 inches
The top of any stack and sprinklers, ceiling joists, rafters, beams, or trusses	15 feet high or higher	36 inches
Any stack and heating or lighting fixtures	Any height	18 inches
Any stack and building structural members or fixtures	Higher than the horizontal level of the roof truss	18 inches

6.2.3. Requirements to prevent stacked material from falling in a warehouse

6.2.3.1 Warehouse employees shall follow these requirements to help prevent injuries from falling objects:

- a. Follow these practices when stacking any materials:
 - (1) Store only properly packaged items.
 - (2) Place materials on firm foundations to prevent settling.
 - (3) Consider the height and weight of the material being stacked to prevent a collapse.
 - (4) Never overload floors.
 - (5) Stack material so it is stable and self-supporting.
 - (6) Secure all materials, whether palletized or non-palletized, in a safe manner.
 - (7) Square all pallet loads to achieve a four-point level top.
 - (8) Protect crushable containers so they aren't supporting excessive weight of materials stored on top.
- b. Stack, rack, block, interlock, or otherwise secure materials stored in tiers to prevent sliding, falling or collapse.
- c. Place the mouths of bags inward unless they are pre-palletized by the manufacturer.
- d. Stack Bagged materials by stepping back the layers and cross-keying the bags at least every 10 bags high.
- e. Protect materials from moisture.
- f. Follow these practices when stacking loaded boxes, crates, or cartons:
 - (1) Stack them on the side with the largest area unless the container states to lay them otherwise, such as with a "this side up" arrow.
 - (2) Cross-tie the stacks.
 - (3) Don't stack so high that the weight could collapse the lower cartons.

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- g. Follow these practices when stacking pipe and bar stock:
 - (1) Store the stock on stable storage racks so that items can be safely removed from the rack.
 - (2) Store the stock in layers on wood strips with stop blocks on the ends or on metal bars with upturned ends if storage racks are not available.
 - (3) Keep the ends of the stock out of aisles to prevent walking into or tripping over them.
- h. Follow these practices when stacking loaded barrels, drums, large pipes, rolls of paper, or other cylindrical items:

<i>If the items are stacked on their . . .</i>	<i>Then . . .</i>
Sides	<input type="checkbox"/> Stack them symmetrically and in a stable manner <input type="checkbox"/> Wedge every item on the bottom row
Ends and not palletized	<input type="checkbox"/> Lay two planks side by side on top of each row before starting another row <input type="checkbox"/> Limit each stack to a stable height

6.2.4. Safe housekeeping practices for warehouses

6.2.4.1 Warehouse employees shall follow these requirements for safe housekeeping:

- a. Store materials so they won't interfere with:
 - (1) Lighting.
 - (2) Passageways, traffic lanes, or doors.
 - (3) Fire detection or suppression systems.
- b. Keep warehouse floors smooth, clean, clear, and free from slippery substances.
- c. Mark all aisles and passageways clearly, keep them free from clutter and keep them clean at all times.
- d. Don't block fire exits.
- e. Maintain enough clearances in aisles, at loading docks, and through doorways to safely operate handling equipment such as forklifts or pallet jacks.
- f. Remove nails sticking out from crates, cases, packing boxes, or lumber.
- g. Use cleaning products only when there is enough ventilation to remove vapors.
- h. Clean up spills immediately with approved cleaning materials. Use only approved, noncombustible absorbents to dry up spills of flammable liquids. See Chapter 9.1, "Hazardous Materials Safety and Health," for hazardous material spills.
- i. Never store materials so they block aisles and passageways or interfere with the use of firefighting equipment.
- j. Keep hallways clear to allow large numbers of people to leave in emergency situations. See Chapter 5.1 for additional requirements.

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6.2.5. Warehouses storing hazardous materials

Employees in warehouses storing hazardous materials shall mark hazardous storage areas and follow the requirements in Chapter 9.1.

6.2.6. Other requirements for warehouses

6.2.6.1 Warehouse employees shall follow:

- a. Chapter 5.5, "Ergonomics," to evaluate hazards associated with manual lifting techniques and back safety.
- b. Chapter 8.5, "Lifting Operations and Equipment Safety," if they operate any lifting devices such as cranes or forklifts in the warehouse.
- c. Chapter 8.7, "Ladders, Scaffolds, and Elevated Platforms: How to Work with Them Safely," if they use ladders, scaffolds, or elevated platforms.