

GRAVITY

SECTION 4 CHAPTER 14

PERFORMING SPRAY PAINTING OPERATIONS

Purpose This chapter covers the safety policies and procedures for spray-painting

Scope These policies apply to all Company facilities.

In this chapter

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Protecting against Harmful Chemicals

Purpose This document outlines the procedures for protecting against harmful chemicals used in spray painting operations, and covers:

- employee responsibilities
- supervisor responsibilities
- safety precautions
- required protective equipment

Employee responsibilities Before painting begins, employees will review:

- the Material Safety Data Sheets for the materials used
- the policies for the required personal protective equipment
- the safety precautions for painting operations

Supervisor responsibilities Before painting begins, the supervisor or Area Manager must ensure that each employee:

- has completed a medical questionnaire (*See Respiratory Protection*)
- has been fit tested for the specific respirator to be worn (*See Respiratory Protection*)
- is familiar with the protective clothing required
- is properly trained in spray painting procedures (see the page entitled "Preparing to Spray Paint" in this chapter for more information)

Safety precautions **IF** you are painting outside, **THEN** stand upwind of the painting gun.

To protect against accidental poisoning,

- do **not** use lead-based paint
- do **not** aim the painting gun at yourself or other employees
- do **not** eat or drink in the painting areas
- wash your hands of paint and solvents after painting



To minimize the risk of fire,

- **NEVER** smoke within 25 feet of the painting area. Smoking should only take place in designated areas
- remove all cigarette lighters and other spark-producing devices from the shop area during painting
- have an ABC type fire extinguisher in the painting area



Required protective equipment

The following protective equipment is required for spray painting operations:

- cartridge or canister respirators (**NOT** dust masks)
- safety goggles
- gloves
- protective coveralls

Notes:

1. Have extra goggles on hand in case the first pair is painted over.
2. The respirators must be approved by the National Institute of Occupational Safety and Health (NIOSH) for organic vapors and high-efficiency particulate removal.
3. Disposable filter respirators (dust masks) are **NOT** acceptable for painting operations.

Please see the chapter titled *Respiratory Protection* for more information on respirator selection and use.

Preparing to Spray Paint

Purpose This document discusses:

- safety precautions for the painting area
- the procedure for completing the final inspection before painting

Safety precautions

- Use only explosion-proof lights in the painting area.
- Keep the painting area clean and non-congested.
- Stand upwind when painting outside.

Preparations by employees Facilities (yards) that perform spray painting on a weekly basis should have an approved paint spraying booth. All items must be painted inside the booth. The HSE Coordinator/Yard Manager must approve any exceptions.

The painting booth must have:

- No Smoking signs clearly displayed
- ABC fire extinguisher.

Before painting, personnel will prepare the painting booth as follows.

Step	Action
1	Post signs at all entrances to the painting area restricting entry and explaining that spray painting is in progress.
2	Clear all moveable electrical devices from the area.
3	Open the shop bay doors to a minimum of one foot in bays up- and downwind of the unit being painted. This is necessary to provide adequate ventilation during paint mixing and spraying.
4	Inspect the painting equipment to ensure it is in good condition.
5	Ensure that the filtered exhaust systems in the spray painting booth are working.
6	Remove all spark-producing devices from the shop area.
7	Put on all required personal protective equipment (see the page titled "Protecting against Exposure to Harmful Chemicals in this chapter.")
8	Report any unsafe conditions to the supervisor or manager.



Labeling and Storing Materials

Purpose This document outlines the procedures for storing paint and solvents.

Storing paint and solvents The following guidelines apply when storing paint products.

Material	Type of Container
Opened cans of thinner and cleaning solvents	Safety cans <u>Note</u> : Do NOT use plastic or glass containers.
Discarded paint and thinner cloths	Self-closing metal containers
Other painting materials	NFPA approved metal cabinets*

*The cabinets must be properly ventilated and labeled as paint storage.
