

# Seattle Fire Department

## Permit Conditions

3001

### Exterior Storage of Finished Lumber (Lumber Yard) / Woodworking / Wood Products including storage of solid biomass, agro-industrial, and wood chips

Issued permits shall be kept on the premises designated therein at all times and shall be readily available for inspection by the fire code official. (SFC 105.3.5)

An operational permit is required for the storage or processing of lumber exceeding 100,000 board feet (8,333 cubic feet) (SFC 105.6.27)

An operational permit is required to store chips, hogged material, lumber or plywood in excess of 200 cubic feet (SFC 105.6.54)

#### EXTERIOR STORAGE OF FINISHED LUMBER (LUMBER YARDS) AND SOLID BIOFUEL PRODUCTS

1. Exterior storage shall be arranged to form stable piles with a maximum height of 20 ft. Piles shall not exceed 150,000 cubic feet in volume. (SFC 2809.2)
2. Fire apparatus access roads in accordance with Section 503 shall be located so that a maximum grid system unit of 50 ft. by 150 ft. is established. This is to provide not only fire department access to all parts of the pile array, but also fire breaks between piles. (SFC 2809.3 and SFC Section 503)
  - a. Fire apparatus access roads shall have an unobstructed width of not less than 20 ft. and an unobstructed vertical clearance of not less than 14 ft.
  - b. Fire apparatus access roads shall be designed and maintained to support the imposed loads of the fire apparatus and shall be surfaced so as to provide all weather driving capabilities.
  - c. Approved signs or other approved notices or markings that include the words NO PARKING --- FIRE LANE shall be provided for fire apparatus access roads to identify such roads or prohibit the obstruction of.
  - d. The required turning radius of a fire apparatus access road shall be 25 feet minimum inside curb and 50 feet minimum outside curb.
3. Permanent storage areas shall be surrounded with an *approved* fence. Fences shall be not less than 6 feet in height. (SFC 2809.4)

**Exceptions:** 1. Lumber piles inside of buildings and production mills for lumber, plywood and veneer.  
2. Solid biofuel piles inside of buildings and agro-industrial facilities for solid biomass feedstock.
4. An *approved* hydrant and hose system or portable fire-extinguishing equipment suitable for the fire hazard involved shall be provided for open storage yards. Hydrant and hose systems shall be installed in accordance with NFPA 24. Portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 shall be located so that the distance of travel from the nearest unit does not exceed 75 feet. (SFC 2809.5)

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5. Smoking is prohibited, post "No Smoking" signs in conspicuous locations. (SFC 310.2 and 310.3)

#### WOODWORKING

1. Equipment or machinery located inside buildings that generates or emits *combustible dust* shall be provided with an *approved* dust collection and exhaust system installed in accordance with Chapter 22 and the *International Mechanical Code*. Equipment or systems that are used to collect, process or convey *combustible dusts* shall be provided with an *approved* explosion control system. (SFC 2803.2)
2. Electrical wiring and equipment shall comply with NFPA 70. (SFC 2803.4)
3. Static electricity shall be prevented from accumulating on machines and equipment subject to static electricity buildup by permanent grounding and bonding wires or other *approved* means. (SFC 2803.5.2)
4. Accumulation of *combustible dust* shall be kept to a minimum in the interior of buildings. Accumulated *combustible dust* shall be collected by vacuum cleaning or other means that will not place *combustible dust* into suspension in air. Forced air or similar methods shall not be used to remove dust from surfaces. (SFC 2203.4)
5. Smoking is prohibited, post "No Smoking" signs in conspicuous locations. (SFC 310.2 and 310.3)
6. Portable fire extinguishers or standpipes and hose supplied from an *approved* water system shall be provided within a 50-foot (15 240 mm) distance of travel from any machine producing shavings or sawdust. Portable fire extinguishers shall be provided in accordance with Section 906 for extra high hazards, which is a **4- A:40-B:C** extinguisher. (SFC 2803.3 and Tables 906.3 (1) & (2))

#### STORAGE AND PROCESSING OF WOOD CHIPS, HOGGED MATERIAL, FINES, COMPOST, SOLID BIOMASS FEEDSTOCK AND RAW PRODUCT ASSOCIATED WITH YARD WASTE, AGRO-INDUSTRIAL AND RECYCLING FACILITIES

1. Storage sites shall be level and on solid ground, elevated soil lifts or other all-weather surface. Sites shall be thoroughly cleaned before transferring wood products to the site. (SFC 2808.2)
2. Piles shall not exceed 25 feet in height, 150 feet in width and 250 feet in length.  
**Exception:** The *fire code official* is authorized to allow the pile size to be increased where a fire protection plan is provided for approval that includes, but is not limited to, the following:
  - a. Storage yard areas and materials-handling equipment selection, design and arrangement shall be based upon sound fire prevention and protection principles.

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- b. Factors that lead to spontaneous heating shall be identified in the plan, and control of the various factors shall be identified and implemented, including provisions for monitoring the internal condition of the pile.
- c. The plan shall include means for early fire detection and reporting to the public fire department; and facilities needed by the fire department for fire extinguishment including a water supply and fire hydrants.
- d. Fire apparatus access roads around the piles and access roads to the top of the piles shall be established, identified, and maintained.
- e. Regular yard inspections by trained personnel shall be included as part of an effective fire prevention maintenance program.

Additional fire protection called for in the plan shall be provided and shall be installed in accordance with this code. The increase of the pile size shall be based upon the capabilities of the installed fire protection systems and features. (SFC 2808.3)

3. Piles shall be separated from adjacent piles by *approved* fire apparatus access roads. (SFC 2808.4)
4. Static piles shall be monitored by an *approved* means to measure temperatures within the static piles. Internal pile temperatures shall be monitored and recorded weekly. Such records shall be maintained. An operational plan indicating procedures and schedules for the inspection, monitoring and restricting of excessive internal temperatures in static piles shall be submitted to the *fire code official* for review and approval. (SFC 2808.6)
5. Portable fire extinguishers complying with Section 906 and with a minimum rating of **4- A:60-B:C** shall be provided on all vehicles and equipment operating on piles and at all processing equipment. (SFC 2808.8)
6. Material handling equipment shall be available for moving wood chips, hogged material, wood fines and raw product during fire-fighting operations. (SFC 2808.9)
7. The *owner* or operator shall develop a plan for monitoring, controlling and extinguishing spot fires and submit the plan to the *fire code official* for review and approval. (SFC 2808.10)
8. Weeds, grass, vines or other growth that is capable of being ignited and endangering property, shall be cut down and removed by the *owner* or occupant of the premises. Vegetation clearance requirements in urban-wildland interface areas shall be in accordance with the *International Wildland-Urban Interface Code*. (SFC 2808.5 and SFC 304.1.2)
9. Smoking is prohibited, post "No Smoking" signs in conspicuous locations. (SFC 310.2 and 310.3)