

Seattle Fire Department

Permit Conditions

4502

Spray Finishing With Water-Based Paint Products

When can water-based paints and other combustible products be exempted from Chapter 57 (Flammable and Combustible Liquids) and Chapter 24 (Spray Finishes) of the Fire Code?

1. Any liquid, which does not sustain combustion, with a flash point greater than 95°F (35°C) in a water-miscible solution (or dispersion) that has an aggregate water and inert (noncombustible) solids content of more than 80 percent by weight.
2. Any liquid, which does not sustain combustion, that does not have a fire point when tested in accordance with ASTM D92.

Instructions for Inspectors:

Once you have established that the permit applicant will be spray-finishing exclusively with water-based paints that meet the criteria above, you should take the following steps:

1. The permit should be processed and reviewed like any other annual permit prior to issuance. Do not cancel the application. The application may need a new permit code to reflect the use of water-based paints (4502-WB).
2. Do not refund the original permit application fee. You have already devoted inspection time and research time to this application that warrants retaining the application fee.
3. Obtain the SDS's and test data that you used to establish that the products are "water-based". **The SDS's and test data must be retained and attached to the permit.** This will enable Operations inspectors to identify whether the products being sprayed are the products that were approved for spraying outside of a booth or spray room.
4. Obtain a site map that clearly identifies the specific area within the building that will be used for the water-based spray finishing operation. Unlike typical spray finishing the activity does not need to be confined to a booth or spray room, so information about where the operation has been approved becomes important. **The site map must be attached to the permit.**

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5. Issue a no renewal-fee annual permit (Code 4502-WB) that authorizes spray finishing only with the specific products identified.