

CHAPTER 66

UNSTABLE (REACTIVE) MATERIALS

User note:

About this chapter: Chapter 66 addresses the hazards of unstable (reactive) liquid and solid materials as well as unstable (reactive) compressed gases. In addition to their unstable reactivity, these materials may pose other hazards, such as toxicity, corrosivity, explosivity, flammability or oxidizing potential. This chapter, however, is intended to address those materials whose primary hazard is unstable reactivity. Materials that pose multiple hazards must conform to the requirements of the code with respect to all hazards. Strict compliance with the provisions of this chapter, along with proper housekeeping and storage arrangements, helps to reduce the exposure hazards associated with unstable (reactive) materials in a fire or other emergency.

SECTION 6601 GENERAL

6601.1 Scope. The storage and use of unstable (reactive) materials shall be in accordance with this chapter. *Compressed gases* shall also comply with Chapter 53.

Exceptions:

1. Display and storage in Group M and storage in Group S occupancies complying with Section 5003.11.
2. Detonable unstable (reactive) materials shall be stored in accordance with Chapter 56.

6601.2 Permits. Permits shall be required as set forth in Section 105.5.

SECTION 6602 DEFINITION

6602.1 Definition. The following term is defined in Chapter 2:

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- Class 4.
- Class 3.
- Class 2.
- Class 1.

SECTION 6603 GENERAL REQUIREMENTS

6603.1 Quantities not exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area. Quantities of unstable (reactive) materials not exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* shall be in accordance with Sections 6603.1.1 through 6603.1.2.5.

6603.1.1 General. The storage and use of unstable (reactive) materials in amounts not exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Section 5003.1 shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 6601 and 6603.

6603.1.2 Limitations for indoor storage and use by occupancy. The indoor storage of unstable (reactive) materials shall be in accordance with Sections 6603.1.2.1 through 6603.1.2.5.

6603.1.2.1 Group A, E, I or U occupancies. In Group A, E, I or U occupancies, any amount of Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall be stored in accordance with the following:

1. Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall be stored in hazardous material storage cabinets complying with Section 5003.8.7.
2. The hazardous material storage cabinets shall not contain other storage.

6603.1.2.2 Group R occupancies. Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall not be stored or used within Group R occupancies.

6603.1.2.3 Group M occupancies. Class 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall not be stored or used in retail sales portions of Group M occupancies.

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6603.1.2.4 Offices. Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall not be stored or used in offices of Group B, F, M or S occupancies.

6603.1.2.5 Classrooms. In classrooms in Group B, F or M occupancies, any amount of Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall be stored in accordance with the following:

1. Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall be stored in hazardous material storage cabinets complying with Section 5003.8.7.
2. The hazardous material storage cabinets shall not contain other storage.

6603.2 Quantities exceeding the maximum allowable quantity per control area. The storage and use of unstable (reactive) materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Section 5003.1 shall be in accordance with Chapter 50 and this chapter.

SECTION 6604 STORAGE

6604.1 Indoor storage. Indoor storage of unstable (reactive) materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Table 5003.1.1(1) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 5004 and this chapter.

In addition, Class 3 and 4 unstable (reactive) detonable materials shall be stored in accordance with the *International Building Code* requirements for *explosives*.

6604.1.1 Detached storage. Storage of unstable (reactive) materials shall be in detached buildings where required in Section 5003.8.2.

6604.1.2 Explosion control. Indoor storage rooms, areas and buildings containing Class 3 or 4 unstable (reactive) materials shall be provided with explosion control in accordance with Section 911.

6604.1.3 Liquid-tight floor. In addition to Section 5004.12, floors of storage areas for liquids and solids shall be of liquid-tight construction.

6604.1.4 Storage configuration. Unstable (reactive) materials stored in quantities greater than 500 cubic feet (14 m³) shall be separated into piles, each not larger than 500 cubic feet (14 m³). Aisle width shall be not less than the height of the piles or 4 feet (1219 mm), whichever is greater.

Exception: Materials stored in tanks.

6604.1.5 Location in building. Unstable (reactive) materials shall not be stored in *basements*.

6604.2 Outdoor storage. Outdoor storage of unstable (reactive) materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantities per control area* indicated in Table 5003.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 5004 and this chapter.

6604.2.1 Distance from storage to exposures Class 4 and 3 (detonable) materials. Outdoor storage of Class 4 or 3 (detonable) unstable (reactive) material shall be in accordance with Table 5604.5.2(2). The number of pounds of material listed in the table shall be the net weight of the material present. Alternatively, the number of pounds of material shall be based on a trinitrotoluene (TNT) equivalent weight.

6604.2.2 Distance from storage to exposures Class 3 (deflagratable) materials. Outdoor storage of deflagratable Class 3 unstable (reactive) materials shall be in accordance with Table 5604.5.2(3). The number of pounds of material listed shall be the net weight of the material present.

6604.2.3 Distance from storage to exposures Class 2 and 1 materials. Outdoor storage of Class 2 or 1 unstable (reactive) materials shall not be located within 20 feet (6096 mm) of buildings not associated with the manufacture or distribution of such materials, *lot lines*, public streets, public alleys, *public ways* or *means of egress*. The minimum required distance shall not apply where *fire barriers* without openings or penetrations having a minimum *fire-resistance rating* of 2 hours interrupt the line of sight between the storage and the exposure. The *fire barrier* shall either be an independent structure or the exterior wall of the building adjacent to the storage area.

6604.2.4 Storage configuration. Piles of unstable (reactive) materials shall not exceed 1,000 cubic feet (28 m³).

6604.2.5 Aisle widths. Aisle widths between piles shall be not less than one-half the height of the pile or 10 feet (3048 mm), whichever is greater.

SECTION 6605 USE

6605.1 General. The use of unstable (reactive) materials in amounts exceeding the *maximum allowable quantity per control area* indicated in Table 5003.1.1(1) or 5003.1.1(3) shall be in accordance with Sections 5001, 5003, 5005 and this chapter.