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WHITE PAPER:

Updates on Compliance to New OSHA Standards for Combustible Dust/Lint

New Federal Regulations Enforced

2008 was a big year for establishing new federal standards on tolerance of combustible dust. The new legislation demands all facilities to take note - and to take action immediately. Here is the news that impacts your operations:

- The House of Representatives passed bill H.R. 5522, which requires OSHA to enforce a new standard on combustible dust. This legislation includes ALL plants that produce combustible dust. The new standards for compliance are outlined in NFPA654, which identifies the acceptable levels of dust and lint.
- OSHA issued directive CPL03-00-008 "Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program", which states that OSHA offices are now mandated to conduct investigations of all plants that produce some type of combustible dust. This impacts the operations of all plants in the U.S. As with bill H.R. 5522, this directive specifically references NFPA 654 as the standard to apply for acceptable housekeeping and dust levels.

The NFPA 654 Standard

NFPA 654 requires "**Regular cleaning frequencies for ducts, pipes, hoods, beams and other horizontal surfaces.**" It continues by stating, "**Surfaces shall be cleaned in a manner that minimizes dust clouds.**" This means that before compressed air can be used for blow down the plant personnel must "**...vacuum all surfaces prior to blow down. Dust layers 1/32in. thick can be sufficient to warrant immediate cleaning of the area....**" This new tolerance level is significantly thin – basically, it's the thickness of a paper clip. Many industrial plants can easily accumulate this level of dust in a week's time or less. Plant owners and managers have to be diligent to avoid OSHA fines for noncompliance.

IES Response

IES has developed new, innovative clean fan technology that meets these federal regulations. Our product line of automatic SonicAire fan systems allows you to clean a plant continuously, thereby preventing dust and lint accumulation. A one-time investment in this solution will provide you ongoing protection – and peace of mind – that you have met the new, more stringent OSHA standards.

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