

## SECTION 013526.23 - FIRE PREVENTION PRECAUTIONS FOR HOT WORK

### PART 1 - GENERAL

#### 1.1 RELATED DOCUMENTS

- A. Drawings and general provisions of the Contract, including General and Supplementary Conditions apply to this Section.
- B. Administrative Interpretation 20-3, Hazardous Work Program  
- <https://www.ors.od.nih.gov/ser/dfm/Pages/Administrative-Interpretations.aspx>

#### 1.2 SUMMARY

- A. This section applies to safeguards to be observed in performing hot work, including welding, soldering, brazing and similar applications producing a spark, flame or heat.
- B. All hot work shall comply with Administrative Interpretation 20-3, Hazardous Work Program.
- C. Specific requirements exist for performing hot work on the NIH campus. Any deviations from the requirements outlined in this section must be thoroughly coordinated with the Project Officer and the NIH Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM).
- D. Additional Requirements: Refer to the individual technical specification sections for additional requirements.

#### 1.3 SAFETY PRECAUTIONS

- A. Prior to commencing hot work operations, a positive determination shall be made that it is impractical to conduct the hot work in a shop area or outside of the building. Coordinate suitable locations for hot equipment operations agreeable to the Project Officer and the NIH Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM).
- B. Hazardous Work Permit
  - 1. The Contractor shall ensure that operations involving the use of open-flame, spark-producing tools, or electrical arc welding equipment are not conducted until a Hazardous Work Permit has been issued by the NIH Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM). The Contractor shall call the NIH Division of the Fire Marshal (DFM) to obtain a permit. The permit shall be conspicuously posted at the work site at all times.

#### 1.4 NOTIFICATION

- A. The Contractor shall notify the Project Officer of the area of hot work operations for each day and of all subsequent changes that occur. A separate Hazardous Work Permit is required for each area in which hot work will be performed and for all subsequent changes that occur.

PART 2 - PRODUCTS - (Not Applicable)

PART 3 - EXECUTION

3.1 GENERAL

- A. The Contractor shall not start work until all precautions noted in the "Hazardous Work Permit" have been implemented.

3.2 SAFEGUARDS

- A. Hot work shall not be done in or near rooms or areas where flammable liquids or explosive atmospheres are present or thought to be present.
- B. Insofar as possible, the Contractor shall remove and keep the area free from all combustibles, including rubbish, paper and waste within a radius of 35 feet (10.66 m) from hot work operations.
1. If combustible material cannot be removed, the Contractor shall furnish retardant blankets to cover such materials. At the direction of the Project Officer, floors, walls, and ceilings of combustible material shall be wetted thoroughly with water before, during, and after operations sufficiently to afford adequate protection. Where floors have been wet down, personnel operating arc welding or cutting equipment shall be protected from possible shock.
- C. The Contractor shall prevent the spread of sparks and particles of hot metal through openings or cracks in windows, doors, floors, walls, ceilings, roofs and ducts.
- D. Cylinders of gas used in hot work shall be placed a safe distance from the work. The Contractor shall provide hoses and equipment free of deterioration, malfunction and leaks. Suitable supports shall be provided to prevent accidental overturning of cylinders. All cylinder control valves shall be shut off while not in use.
- E. When hot work operations are completed or ended for the day, each location of the day's work shall be inspected by the Contractor at least 30 minutes after completion of operations to detect for hidden or smoldering fires and to ensure that proper housekeeping is maintained. The Contractor shall cleanup the area of work at the end of each shift or workday.
- F. Where sprinkler protection exists, the sprinkler system shall be maintained without interruption while operations are being performed. If operations are performed close to automatic sprinkler heads, a wet rag may be used to shield the individual heads temporarily. The heads shall be

inspected by the Contractor immediately after hot work operations cease, to ensure all materials have been removed from the heads and that the heads have not been damaged.

- G. Fully-charged and operable portable fire extinguishers that are appropriate for the type of fire shall be available at all times during hot work operations.
- H. If any of the above safeguards are not employed, or are violated, the Contracting Officer may, by written notice, stop the work until compliance is obtained. Such stoppage shall not relieve the Contractor from performing his work within the Contract period for the Contract price.

END OF SECTION 013526.23