

Welding and Cutting Policy

The purpose of the Welding and Cutting Policy is to protect employees from hazards associated with the hazards of welding and cutting, and to insure compliance with New Hampshire Department of Labor Standard 1403.63 Welding and Cutting.

A. Employer Responsibilities

The employer must train all employees designated to operate welding equipment, and be properly instructed and qualified by the employer or equipment manufacturer to operate it. The employer must also provide employees with all necessary personal protective equipment including welding shields.

Fluorine, Zinc, Lead, Beryllium, Cadmium, or Mercury compounds produce specific health hazards. When welding operations involving fluxes, coverings, coatings, alloys, or involving the compounds listed above, a supervisor shall evaluate potential exposure and ensure necessary protective measures, such as ventilation and personal protective equipment. The employer shall keep Material Safety Data Sheets on file for all materials used for welding and cutting.

B. Employee Responsibilities

All employees shall receive training from the Town of Amherst before performing any welding or cutting operation. In addition, the employee shall observe all safe operating procedures identified in section C of this policy when performing any welding or cutting operation.

C. Procedural Overview

Fire extinguishers are required to be present in the immediate work area when welding or cutting. Isolation of welding and cutting, removing fire hazards from vicinity, and providing a fire watch must be taken in areas where welding or cutting is being done. Arc welding and cutting operations shall be shielded by non-combustible or flameproof shields to protect employees from direct arc rays. Combustible walls and building material shall be covered with non-combustible material; such as metal or concrete when location of welding or cutting creates a fire hazard in those areas.

When welding in a fixed location, the welder shall be enclosed with a booth, or non-combustible screening, and with a finish of low reflectivity with respect to visible and ultraviolet radiation. When electrode holders are left unattended, the electrodes shall be removed, and the holder shall be placed or protected so that they cannot make electrical contact with employees or conducting objects. All arc welding and cutting cables shall be completely insulated, and be capable of handling the maximum current requirements for the job. There shall be no repairs or splices within ten feet of the electrode holder, except where splices are insulated equal to the insulation of the cable. Defective cable shall be repaired or replaced. Fuel gas and oxygen hose shall be easily distinguishable and shall

not be interchanged. Hoses shall be inspected at the beginning of each shift and shall be repaired or replaced if defective. Oxygen and fuel gas regulators shall be in proper working order when in use.

Arc welding and cutting operations shall be shielded by non-combustible or flameproof shields to protect employees from direct arc rays. Mechanical ventilation shall be provided when welding or cutting in an area with less than 10,000 cubic feet per welder, or where the overhead height is less than 16 feet. Proper shielding and eye protection to prevent exposure of personnel from welding hazards shall be provided. Employees shall wear a flameproof welding apron and gloves whenever performing welding or cutting operations.

From the Town of Amherst's Policy and Procedure Manual, 2009.