

Where to start with Grain and Feed Facility Housekeeping



Housekeeping should be a critical component of every grain and feed facility's operations. Proper housekeeping not only helps create a safe environment for your employees, but it ensures product safety for your customers and safeguards you from receiving OSHA citations and fines. OSHA regulates housekeeping activities to prevent dust explosions that can be fatal or cause critical injuries. Refer to this handy pull-out to brush up on OSHA's housekeeping requirements as stated in the **Grain Handling Standard (29CFR 1910.272)**.

FIVE COMMANDMENTS OF HOUSEKEEPING

1. Develop a Written Housekeeping Program

Be prepared to present a written plan to an OSHA inspector that includes:

- ▶ Areas inside the facility to be cleaned
- ▶ Cleaning frequency
- ▶ The method of cleanup



2. Follow the 1/8-inch Rule

Immediately remove grain dust accumulations whenever they exceed 1/8 inch at priority housekeeping areas, unless your housekeeping plan includes equivalent protections like:

- ▶ Treating the grain stream with oil additives to inhibit combustibility
- ▶ Wetting down the areas of dust accumulations using an oil- or water-based solution



3. Prioritize Cleaning Areas

Violations are viewed more severely at certain places in a facility. Immediately remove grain dust accumulations more than 1/8 inch thick from:

- ▶ Any place within a 35-foot-radius of an inside bucket elevator, including walls, overhead, equipment and walking surfaces
- ▶ Floors of enclosed areas containing grinding equipment
- ▶ Floors of enclosed areas containing indoor grain dryers



4. Turn Off Ignition Sources

Only use compressed air to blow dust from ledges, walls, and other areas during downtime when all ignition sources are shut down.

5. Clean All Spills

Although product spills are a lower priority than dust accumulations, inspectors pay attention to them.

- ▶ Train all staff to take action when spills are detected
- ▶ Vacuum spills with portable vacuum
- ▶ Keep ingredient and product tubs closed to prevent spills



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