

Minutes of the State Appeals Board
Appeal #16-01
Monday, October 24, 2016
Hearing 8:45 a.m.

Preliminaries:

- **Appeals Board Members:**
 - Scott McKown, Chair – State Appeals Board, Assistant Director – Construction Codes & Licensing Division (CCLD) – DLI
 - Michael Godfrey, Manager of Education, Rules and Code Development, CCLD
 - Chris Meier, Regional Construction Code Representative, CCLD
 - Rich Lockrem, Construction Code Representative, CCLD
 - Ryan Rehn, Construction Code Representative, CCLD
- **Other Appearances:**
 - Jeff Lebowski, Attorney, State Appeals Board, DLI
 - Jonathan Moler, Assistant Attorney General representing the Board – Office of the Attorney General
 - Dean Wick, Outsource Architecture LLC, Applicant
 - David Barsody, Building Official, Benton County
 - Lyndy Lutz, Administrative support, CCLD – DLI
- Scott McKown welcomed everyone and introduced himself as the Chair of the State Appeals Board, introduced board members and Jonathan Moler. The State Appeals Board convened to hear an appeal from Dean Wick and the determination made by the Building Official, David Barsody.
- Chair McKown stated that the appeal is based on:
 - Dean Wick contends that Mighty Max Hops should be classified as an “F-2” low-hazard factory industrial use instead of an “F-1” Moderate-hazard factory industrial use as determined by the building official.
- Chair McKown noted that the meeting would be recorded in order to produce minutes of the hearing and he asked that speakers clearly state their name and who they are representing. He then asked Mr. Moler to address the Board.
- Mr. Jonathan Moler introduced himself as an Assistant Attorney General with the State representing the Board. According to Minnesota Rule 1300.0230, the Board of Appeals has the authority to reverse a decision if it determines the state building codes were incorrectly interpreted, if the provisions of the code don’t apply, or if a better form of construction is proposed. The Board has no authority to waive any part of the code. The Board’s decision must be made exclusively on the evidence in the record and Board members can utilize their experience, technical competence, and specialized knowledge to evaluate evidence in the record.

Call to order/ 8:45 am

- Chair McKown called the hearing to order and reviewed procedures:
 - The applicant and building official will each have an opportunity to address the board. He asked that both limit their comments to 30 minutes. The issue before the Board is an interpretation of the building code. The applicant, Mr. Wick, will begin testimony with Mr. Barsody, Building Official, next, followed by Board members asking questions for clarification.
- Dean Wick - Outsource Architecture LLC. He has been in the architectural field for 30 years and registered since 2006. Prior to this he was a full time building official. He is representing Mighty Axe Hops, a new company in state of Minnesota that currently owns a 2 acre parcel where they grow hops in Ham Lake. They are moving to the Benton County area and have purchased approximately 180 acres where they are putting a facility on to dehydrate and dry hops. After they are grown they go through a process with a pellet coming out at the end. Through the process of designing this over the last 8 or 9 months he has learned a lot about the hop process. Most of the equipment comes from Germany. This is the third facility located in the United States of this type of process. There are some larger facilities in Yakima, Washington and he believes David (Barsody) spoke with someone at one of the facilities regarding their process. He referred to **Attachment A** and said the hops grow vertically on a string and then they are brought into the building and harvested. The hop harvester is similar to a combine without wheels and separates the hop flour. The hop is the flour of the hop plant and it is separated from the string and the stem then those are re-composted and put back in the field for the next year. After the hop flour is separated it goes into a hopper then the dehydrating facility. Cooler air, somewhere between 90 and 110 degrees, is pushed up through the bottom of the layer of hops. They come out of the kiln at approximately 6%. They are then brought over to a rehydrating box where air conditioning flows through them until they are at a moisture level of approximately 10%. Next they are conveyed to a baler and then a freezer. Once harvesting is done, approximately 4 to 6 weeks every year, the frozen bales are brought out and put through a de-baler and a pelletizer. He referred to pictures in Attachment A and noted the following:
 - Photo1 – Harvester
 - Photo 2 – Hop or silo – stored until the conveyer belt can be run
 - Photo 3 – Top of the kiln
 - Photo 4 – Storage box
 - Photo 5 – Baler
- Wick noted the pelletizer, shown on Attachment A, is about the size of a 5 gallon bucket. When Mighty Axe started the process, they were under the impression that the whole facility was going to be an Ag, which would be a U facility. Much like some of the facilities that are going in now over closer to the Wisconsin border, they are post frame buildings, total wood construction with a harvester and possibly a

pelletizer. Winkleman Building Corporation, a construction management firm in St. Cloud, and a bale and building distributor, designed a rigid frame, pre-engineered steel building to handle Mighty Axe's equipment, harvester and kiln. Preliminary drawings were done by Wolf Manufacturing from Germany, the supplier of all the equipment. Wick began reviewing Wolf's rough design, then learned the process and construction techniques in order to classify the building as a U occupancy under the state building code. Wick said that David (Barsody) said the building doesn't fit under the Ag situation because of the pelletizer. This is the same determination made by Benton County with the farm. Mighty Axe went through a conditional use permit because of the pelletizer and 1 acre of land and the building was assessed as industrial as taxes as such. Wick and Mighty Axe still believe it should be classified as an Ag building much like a barn where all this farm work is being done and brought into the facility. During the CUP testimony, Benton County said Mighty Axe needed a building permit due to the pelletizer. During the permitting process, David (Barsody) and Tom Bruce, Winkelman, discussed about whether Mighty Axe is an F-1 or F-2. The F-2 classification in the building code talks about significant fire hazard. It all comes down to whether the dehydrating or drying hops are flammable. Wick referred to **Attachment B**, Appendix – Ignitability and Explosibility Data for Dusts from Laboratory Tests, page 689, Hops, malted, and said he discussed the flammability designations with the St. Cloud Fire Marshal and the Building Official and Fire Marshal from Wade Park. Malted hops don't have a classification for flammability as shown on the table which is described on page 685, Class 1. No self-sustained combustion and Class 6. Explosive combustion and he noted that malted hops would be classified as a zero. Wick is confident that flammability is non-existent and not a hazard. Wick was only able to find a Safety Data Sheet from Europe for raw hops and they were not classified as a dangerous product according to the European Union. Wick wasn't able to find a U.S. Safety Data Sheet.

- David Barsody, Benton County Building Official. Barsody explained that Mighty Axe first came in as a U occupancy and after discussion with the state it was determined it didn't fit the U occupancy classification. Next he looked into manufacturing and backed into F-1 because it didn't fit an F-2. Looking at the product itself as being a dehydrated or dried product but the packaging, bales, palletizing, and storage of the products in the building make them combustible products. Barsody discussed possible combustibility issues with local building officials and after explaining the entire process, overwhelmingly everyone agreed it should be an F-1. Barsody spoke with the facility in Yakima, Washington, and the drying process was fully explained and he was told that during the drying process there is a possibility of fire. However, the only information on fires he found after researching the Internet was regarding self-combusting or storing too wet. No information was found on dryer fires. Barsody educated himself and arrived at the F-1 occupancy classification due to the size of facility – it exceeds the 12,000 square foot rule; therefore, it would need to have a sprinkler system per the drawing. He was unable to find a similar facility in Minnesota.

- McKown asked Wick if he had anything to add.
- Wick – The facility is approximately 13,111 square feet; therefore, during the permitting process a 3-hour fire wall was put in to separate the freezer from the rest of the building. The cost of the firewall is pushing the owners to see if they can get rid of it. If the facility were 12,000 sq. ft. or less we probably wouldn't be here right now; however, the next facility could be larger. As a new industry coming in, as David mentioned, it is best for the state to determine. Wick said they tried to make the facility up to code or better than what a typical barn is. He believes they have done this.
- McKown closed testimony proceedings and Board members were directed to ask questions of Wick and Barsody for clarification.

Board discussion:

- Mike Godfrey referred to Attachment A, page 3 of Wick's letter, F-2 description – "Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials which during finishing, packing, or processing do not involve a significant fire hazard shall be classified as F-2 occupancies and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:..." Godfrey said the problem he sees is you have to start with a non-combustible material in the beginning to be classified as an F-2. To drop from an F-1 to and F-2 you need to start with a non-combustible material, such as steel. If you are bringing in a non-combustible material but during the finishing, packaging, or processing stage you create a significant fire hazard then that bumps you back to an F-1. The problem is the product. It cannot be classified as non-combustible. It may not be a significant fire hazard. F-2 is a very limited category.
- Chris Meier asked Wick – Is there information on what type of cooler it is? Wick said no, only designed on how much the system needs to cool down and how fast. Wick said he thinks the cooler is less than 1,000 sq. ft. but said yes, it is over 500 sq. ft. Meier said the reason for the question was regarding Chapter 26 for coolers and the only allowance for non-sprinkled buildings is under 400 sq. ft. in relation to a cooler with foam plastics. If the building were classified as an F-2, the cooler could represent a situation where it would need to be sprinklered because it is within the building.
- Godfrey – asked if Fire Door G at the cooler is a roll-up or rolling fire door? Wick responded yes, it is a roll-up fire door.
- Godfrey – Is the building classed as a Type II-B building? Wick said no, this was changed in the code review. Godfrey said Sheet S2.1 shows a lot of wood floor framing and the walkway platforms are all wood. This wouldn't be permitted in a Type B construction; therefore, the construction type for the building would be V-B.

- Richard Lockrem – referred to Section 302.1 General Provisions – and said that it wasn't even close to an F-2. The raw products are a living plant that more resembles an F-1 occupancy.
- Wick said they started with the U occupancy for agricultural buildings and made it fit the building code. Then it changed to an F-1 during the permitting process. The Owner doesn't understand why the U classification is in the building code if it can't be used for an agricultural building which is what this is.
- Meier told Wick it would be hard to say it is a volatile product in respect to combustibility although it doesn't say it isn't and this is the issue at hand. Meier said that in western states they are approving a similar product for ground cover around the perimeter of homes in dry, inclement climates with high fire hazards. A "less fire resistant" classification was given for conifers, grasses, shrubs, decorous trees, perennials, annuals, and vines such as their product, and all were classified as the most fire resistive products to be used on the exterior of homes in western states. Meier noted that a 1,000°C flammability test was used on the above products. He also said it isn't noted how much is going to be processed – this information isn't indicated.
- Wick said that Mighty Axe has determined how many bales they needed to process their acreage. Meier said that it was mentioned that Mighty Axe may entertain others product and Wick said Barsody mentioned this but he isn't aware if this is true. Wick said he doesn't know if they owners know how much can be processed due to the freezer capacity because the hops have to maintain a lower temperature, staying green through the entire process, or they lose their value. If they burn or get charred or below 6% humidity, they are of no use. They have to stay between 6 and 10% humidity – they are at 10% when frozen. If they get higher than 10% they will have to be used for compost. This is why the dehydrator works at approximately 19° C (90 to 110°). They are moved into the boxes in order to humidify them with cooler air going in. Wick said he would be more worried about a corn dryer.
- Meier asked why Wick would be more concerned with a corn dryer and Wick responded due to dust, noting he has seen elevators blow up. This doesn't happen in (hops) facilities as far as he knows. Wick said the product is organic, but non-combustible with very low flammability.
- Lockrem said it is confusing how hops are less combustible than the other products with the same moisture content that are being used as a bio fuel. How is there a difference? Wick said he doesn't know what the process is for bio fuels. In the process for brewing beer it is the aroma and the flavor from the hops. The hops stay green through the entire process. The hops need to maintain a lower temperature.
- Lockrem – any living thing can be made into a bio fuel. How is there a difference?

- Wick doesn't know the process for bio fuels.
- Barsody – during the CUP process Benton County asked the owners if they would be entertaining the processing of other farmer's hops. This would determine if it was industrial and not agricultural. The minutes show the owner saying it would be dumb not to take others hops in if someone asked because this is what their facility is for.
- Godfrey said he did some basic floor calculations of the floor area of the building and with the cooler being sprinklered it appears it wouldn't matter if it were F-1 or F-2 – it is close. The biggest problem is the cooler room isn't sprinklered.
- Wick said there is a provision in the fire code that allows for larger, high pile storage than 500 (sq. ft.) without a sprinkler system. Godfrey said it is just the cooler room he was concerned with.
- McKown said the bottom line is the 3 hour wall. Wick said the 3 hour wall was put in to allow the building to get permitted for an F-1 facility. If it gets changed by the Board to an F-2 facility then the 3 hour wall fire wall could be removed.
- Chair McKown closed the presentation portion of fact finding and advised a member of the Board to make a motion. The motion should be specific to the classification by Mr. Barsody on whether the facility should be an F-1 or an F-2 classification. McKown asked Mr. Moler if it would be acceptable for the board members to have a discussion amongst themselves with Moler responding yes, as long as it is on the open record. McKown said he would ask Mr. Moler to help the board propose a motion.
- Meier stated he would need more clarification to drop to an F-2 classification.
- Godfrey said he found a material safety data sheet from Germany. They use the European and ISO Standard and under regulatory information it states not applicable for hazard identification. Normally a U.S. report would be relied upon but nonetheless the Germany report is a valid piece of information. He is not uncomfortable with an F-2 classification and noted he watched the video Wick provided and the amount of dust was very negligible.
- Ryan Rehn –If you explore an F-1 as a separated use then you can get into an area where you wouldn't require a sprinkler system for the F-1 but if you kick it into an F-2 category as a separated use then you are going to get into a 2 hour separation between all other occupancies. Whether it is combustible or not, the building could still fit as an F-1 or combustibility, and may not require a sprinkler system if the building area doesn't exceed the ratio of one. The cooler would still be required to be sprinklered based on IBC Section 2603.4.1.3.

- Meier agreed with Rehn if breaking up the B from the S with a two hour wall then the other would need to be broken up.
- Rehn said if an F-1 then there is no separation required. Rehn and Meier said a 5B might need to be re-evaluated.
- McKown said that this is fabricating a product, one that is relatively new to the state of Minnesota. The question is it an F-1 or an F-2 based on the information at hand.

A motion was made by Meier but was rescinded.

A motion was made by Meier, seconded by Godfrey, based on the information in the record, the board moves to classify the processing portion of the facility as an F-2. The majority vote ruled in favor; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Meier, seconded by Godfrey, to move that Chair McKown and Attorney Jonathan Moler prepare the Findings of Fact and Order. The vote was unanimous; the motion carried.

A motion was made by Chair McKown to adjourn the meeting at 9:47 a.m. The vote was unanimous to adjourn the meeting.



OUTSOURCE
ARCHITECTURE

P.O. Box 7274; St. Cloud, MN 56302
Office: (320) 267-3206

October 13, 2016

Project Title: Mighty Axe Hops
8505 95th St. NE
Foley, MN 56329

Doug Nord
MN Department of Labor & Industry
443 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Dear Mr. Nord;

We are respectfully appealing the interpretation of the Benton County Building Official, David Barsody of Inspection Services of Central Minnesota, Inc. concerning the above referenced project. We understand the complexity of the project and the new industry to Minnesota. The Owner, the Contractor and I, the Architect, make ourselves available for any additional questions or clarifications required through-out this process. We have a summary of the project and the resulting facts below:

We initially decided that the building was an agricultural building covered under the State Building Code as a U-Occupancy. The building was designed as such. During the code review process Mr. Barsody wanted to classify the building as an F-1 Occupancy as he had conversations with Building Officials in the Yakima Valley in Washington State. I explained that these western producers handle the hops in a different manner than what is planned at Mighty Axe Hops. These discussions were not fully understood by Mr. Barsody. I will further explain the hop harvesting process, the humidification process and the pelleting process. As my research will show, there is not a "significant fire hazard" posed by pelletizing hops.

Mr. Barsody classified the building as an F-1 because "The definition of hops is that it is of the hemp family and hemp is found under F1 classification." (see paragraph 3 of his letter dated 9-21-2016). While it is true that a hop plant (*Humulus lupulus*) is a member of the Cannabaceae family same as hemp or hackberry trees, a hop plant is classified as a separate genera. The Cannabaceae family includes about 170 species grouped in about 11 genera, including *Cannabis* (hemp, marijuana), *Humulus* (hops) and *Celtis* (hackberries). To say that a hop flower is hemp would be much like saying corn is bamboo or the grass in your lawn. Those are all in the Poaceae family but very different in structure and use.

The easiest way to explain why a hop flower product is different from hemp stem product is that the hop stem is not processed. The hop plant produces a flower or a

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seed cone that is typically called a hop. The hop harvester separates the seed cone (the hop) from the stem prior to drying and baling of the seed cone. The green hops when freshly picked have a moisture content of close to 80%; this is reduced to 6% by the use of a flow of heated air (70-110 degrees) in a "kiln", rather than a firing process in a dryer bin. The hops are then humidified (think air conditioning) in storage boxes. Once to the proper moisture content (about 10%) the hops are baled for storage. This process does not change the form of the hop.

The term "hemp" is used to name the durable soft fiber from the Cannabis plant stem (stalk). However, hemp can refer to any industrial or foodstuff product that is not intended for use as a drug. Cannabis for industrial uses is valuable in tens of thousands of commercial products, especially as fiber ranging from paper, cordage, construction material and textiles and clothing. It also is a useful source of foodstuffs (hemp milk, hemp seed, hemp oil) and biofuels. Other products made from hemp fiber include: insulation, particleboard, fiberboard, rope, twine, yarn, newsprint, cardboard, paper, horse stable bedding, and compost.

In hemp production the stem is harvested and manipulated for its fiber. The stem is chemically treated to breakdown the fibrous material and then it is dried (above 210 degrees) until it resembles cotton candy or batt insulation.

In Mr. Barsody's letter dated September 21, 2016, paragraph 4 states that he had conversations with a building official in Yakima, Washington concerning hop production facilities in his jurisdiction. These facilities should not be compared at all to the business model for Mighty Axe Hops. The Mighty Axe Hops facility is only the third of its kind in the nation. The first USA facility with the same equipment was built in Michigan. I have personally toured this facility. In my opinion, Mighty Axe Hops' building is far superior to it in code protection. The second facility is being constructed in Nebraska. I have included pictures of what Mighty Axe Hops is proposing for equipment and pictures of facilities in Yakima, Washington, for comparison.

Benton County classified the 80 acre hop farm, harvesting, drying of the hop, baling and storage of the hop as agricultural. At the point the hop bale is pelletized, the County determined that a Conditional Use Permit would be required. The Owner went through the process to secure the CUP. During the public hearing, it was stated by the County that if the pelletizer wasn't a part of this project, the Owner would not be going through the CUP process and would have been able to obtain a building permit at the counter without much documentation, similar to a "barn". While it is true that the pelletizing of the hops does change the form of the hop it does not pose a "significant fire hazard". The hop flower and associated dust is not flammable (see attached documentation). Pictures of the hop pelletizer can be found in this package. The manufacturer of the pelletizer has commented on the local requirement for a sprinkler system in this facility. These comments are also attached to this appeal. The Mighty Axe Hops' pelletizer is

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the size of a 5-gallon bucket; compare this to the Yakima Washington pelletizers which are the size of a small house.

We are not asking for any agricultural exemption with this appeal. We have designed this facility with the MN State Building Code in mind. The building is a pre-engineered steel building with a concrete block kiln area. We are asking that this facility be classified as an F-2 instead of the F-1 classification the local building inspector has placed on the building because of a misunderstanding of what the facility does and how it differs from a hemp processing facility. Section 306.3 Low-hazard factory industrial, Group F-2 is defined as: "Factory industrial uses that involve the fabrication or manufacturing of noncombustible materials which during finishing, packing or processing do not involve a significant fire hazard shall be classified as F-2 occupancies and shall include, but not be limited to, the following:..." A hop harvesting facility does not involve a "significant fire hazard" as shown by the attached documents. An F-2 classification is not and should not be limited to the short list provided within Section 306.3.

The MN State Building Code Section 306.2 classifies those "Factory industrial uses which are not classified as Factory Industrial F-2 Low Hazard shall be classified as F-1 Moderate Hazard..." It seems that the building code attempts to first classify a structure as F-2 before dumping it into the layer category of F-1. We are able to explain why this structure should be an F-2 Occupancy therefore it doesn't belong to the F-1 Occupancy.

Please review the letter and attached documentation at your earliest convenience. We feel very confident that an F-2 classification is the appropriate occupancy with regards to the concept of equivalent risk.

If additional information should be required please contact my office. Thank you for your consideration of this request.

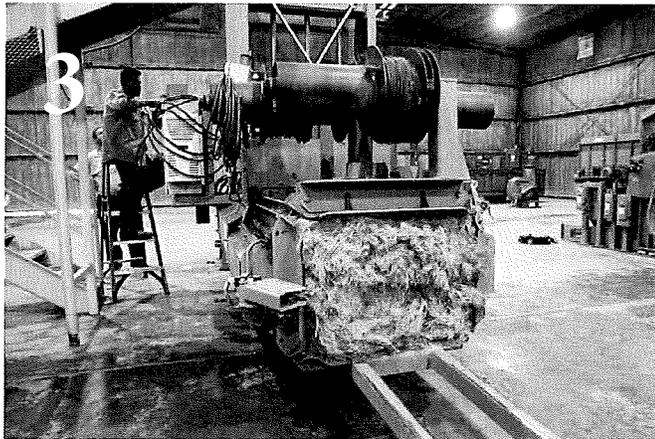
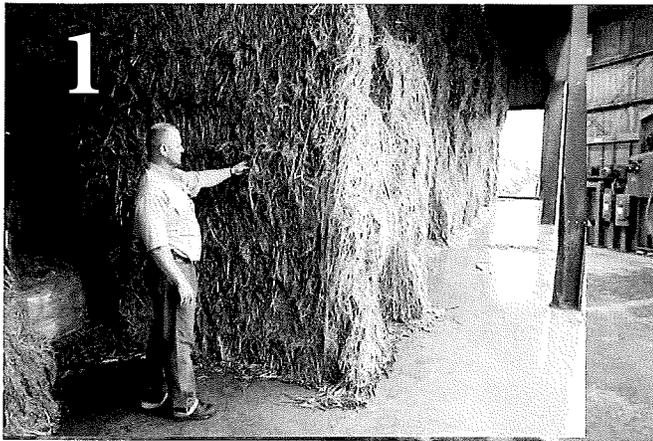
Respectfully submitted,



Dean A. Wick, Architect
MN Registration #44794

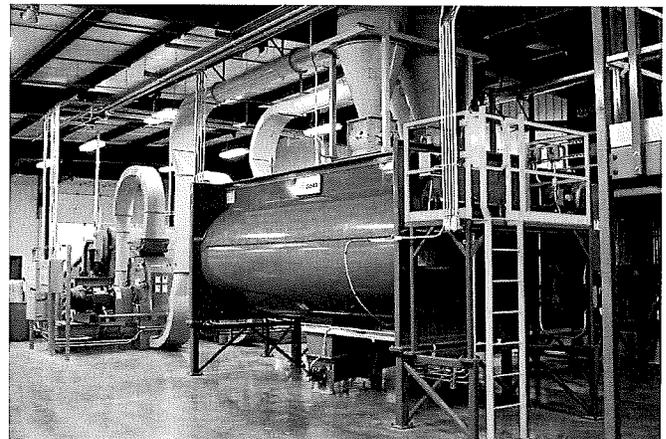
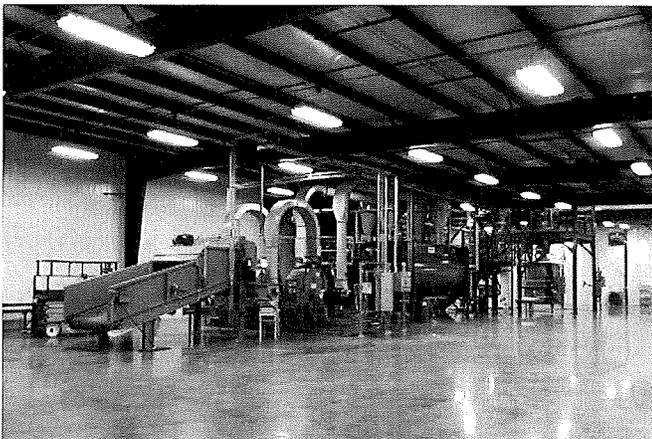
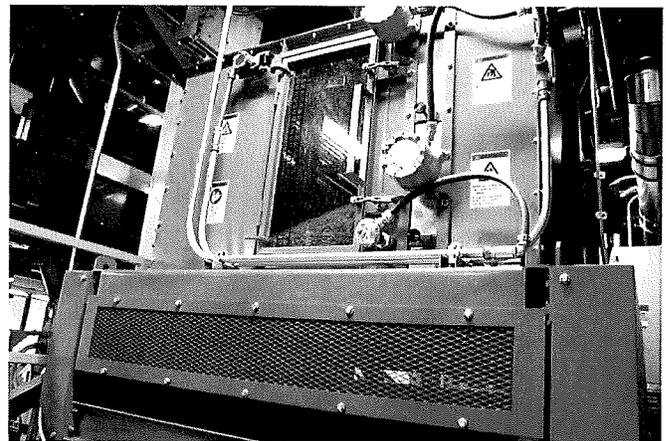
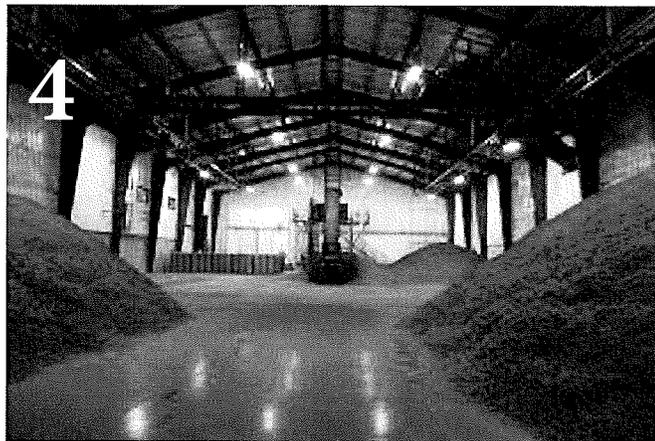
Enclosures

Cc: Benton County
Mighty Axe Hops
Winkelman Building Corp.

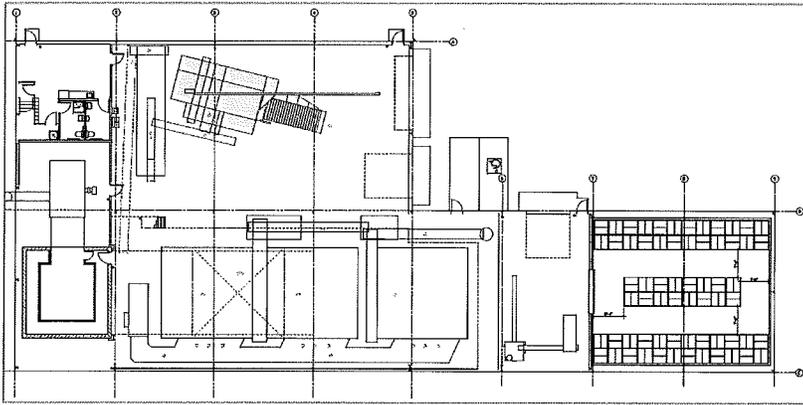


 Hemp processing facility

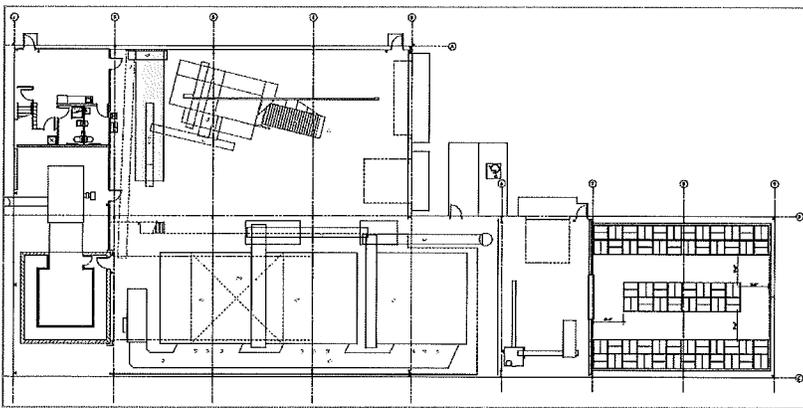
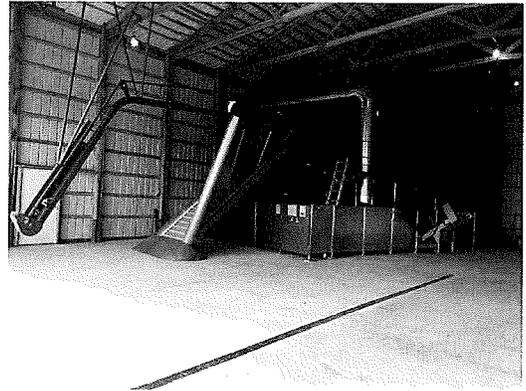
 Yakima Washington Hop
Storage & Pelletizing Machines



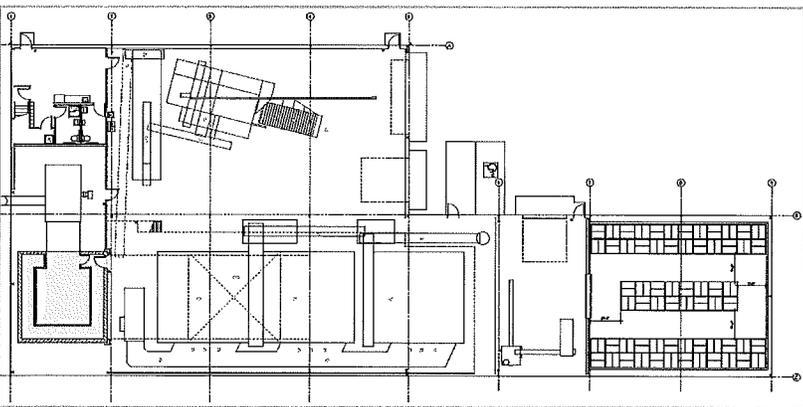
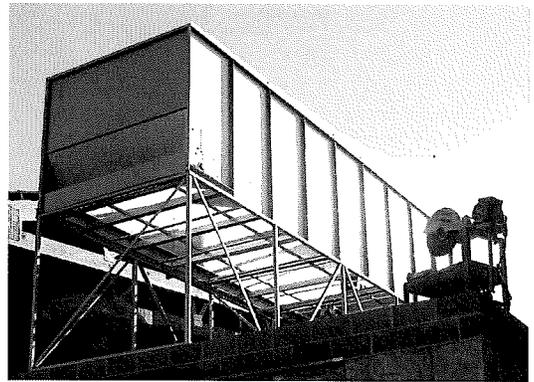
Mighty Axe Hops



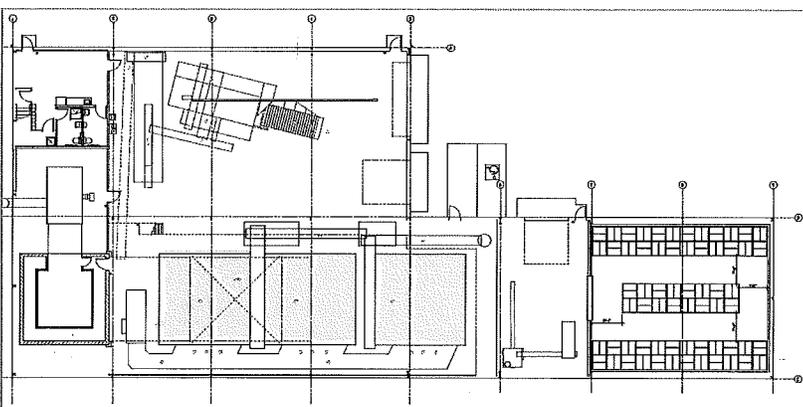
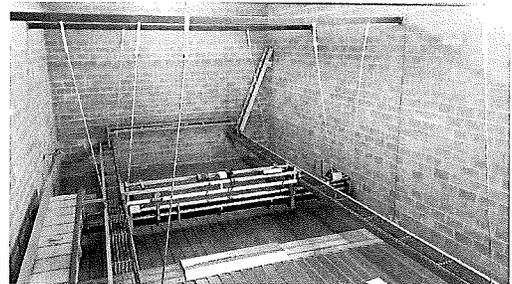
Harvester



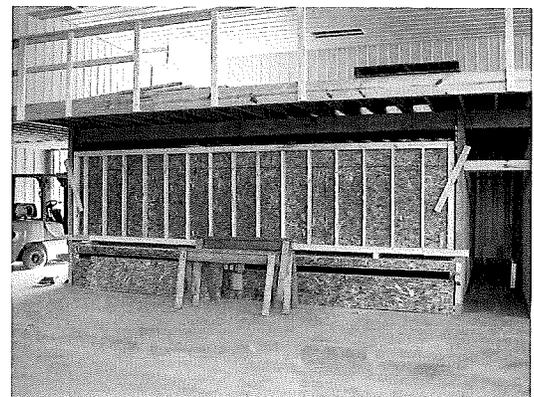
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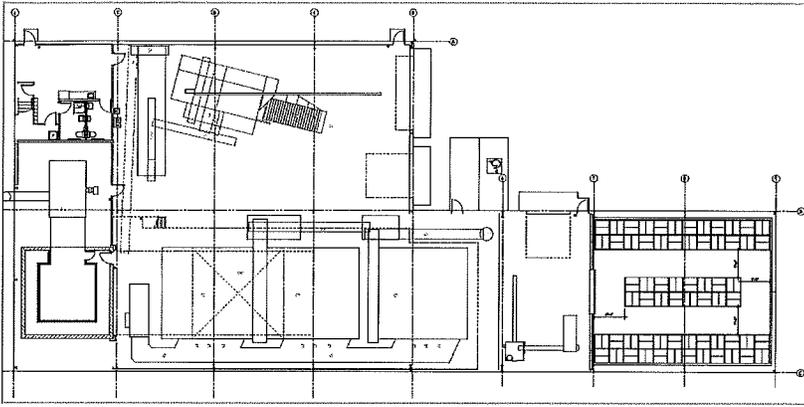


Kiln

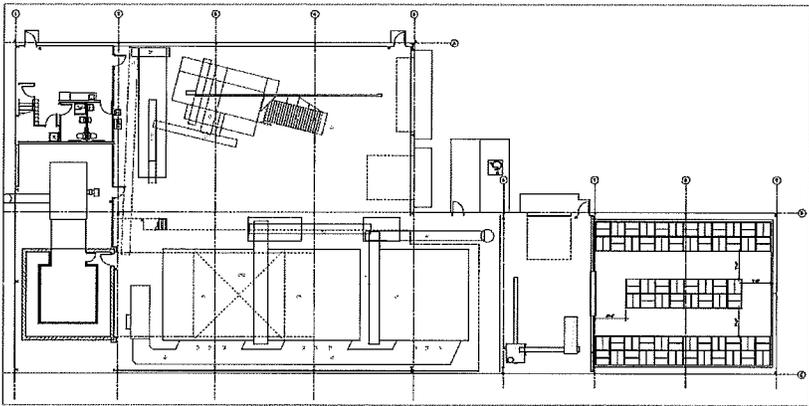
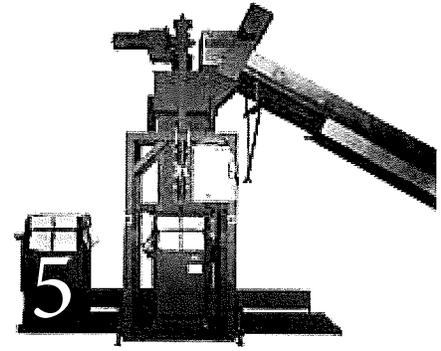


Boxes

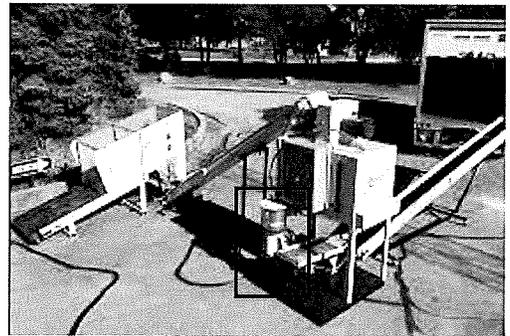




Baler



Pelletizer



Pelletizer Mill



Dean Wick <wick.outsource@gmail.com>

Fwd: PM1220

Eric Sannerud <eric@mightyaxehops.com>
To: Dean Wick <wick.outsource@gmail.com>
Cc: ben@mightyaxehops.com

Thu, Sep 8, 2016 at 5:41 PM

Hi Dean - here are the photos!

Eric

Eric R. Sannerud
952.201.4227

CEO
Mighty Axe Hops

MSPBJ 40 Under 40

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ty Stoppenhagen" <ty@buskirkeng.com>
Date: Sep 8, 2016 17:04
Subject: PM1220
To: "Eric Sannerud" <eric@mightyaxehops.com>
Cc:

Eric.

Get these pictures to Dean. We had a conversation this afternoon that was quite funny. The building inspector is comparing this equipment to the equipment out in Yakima, after he made a call out there. I think that's why he feels you guys need fire protection.

Also... note that this a conveyer fed system meaning that there is no air involved in handling of the hops, deeming it less likely for combustion to occur.

Let me know what else you need.

Ty Stoppenhagen

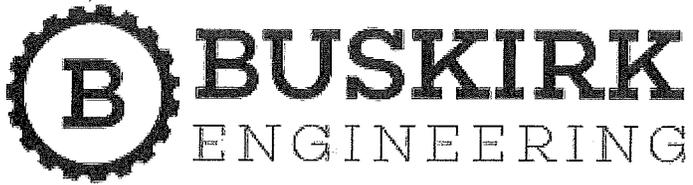
Sales Manager

Buskirk Engineering

260.622.5550 Ext 1

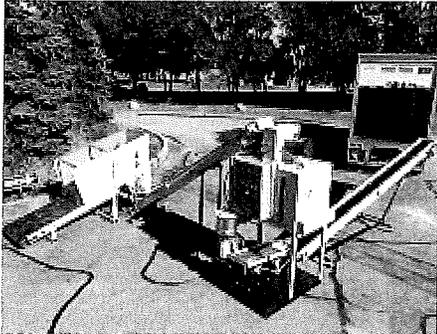
ty@buskirkeng.com

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2 attachments



Single PM1220 Hops System.JPG
3279K

 **1220 SINGLE HOPS SYSTEM.pdf**
205K

Eric Sannerud

Sep
9

to me

FYI!

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Ty Stoppenhagen** <ty@buskirkeng.com>

Date: Thu, Sep 8, 2016 at 5:23 PM

Subject: Re: Single PM1220 System

To: Eric Sannerud <eric@mightyaxehops.com>

Cc: "ben@mightyaxehops.com" <ben@mightyaxehops.com>

[They're not flammable would be my answer. If the mill was running at like 220 then we may have an issue. I have never come across this topic for hops.

Ty Stoppenhagen
Sales Manager
Buskirk Engineering
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On Sep 8, 2016, at 5:09 PM, Eric Sannerud <eric@mightyaxehops.com> wrote:

Here is his one question! How flammable are the hops as they pellet?

Eric R. Sannerud
[952.201.4227](tel:952.201.4227)

CEO
Mighty Axe Hops

MSPBJ 40 Under 40

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Dean Wick" <wick.outsource@gmail.com>

Date: Sep 8, 2016 16:05

Subject: Re: Single PM1220 System

Eric Sannerud

Sep
9

to me

More fire risk information.

Eric R. Sannerud
[952.201.4227](tel:952.201.4227)

CEO
Mighty Axe Hops

MSPBJ 40 Under 40

----- Forwarded message -----

From: "Ty Stoppenhagen" <ty@buskirkeng.com>
Date: Sep 9, 2016 08:56
Subject: RE: Single PM1220 System
To: "Eric Sannerud" <eric@mightyaxehops.com>
Cc: "ben@mightyaxehops.com" <ben@mightyaxehops.com>

Yep on the quote.

Talked to a couple of bigger growers. Zero chance of hops catching fire during the pelletizing process. They said if anything, you would be more likely to have combustion while packing the hops into bale form, although they've never heard of a bale blowing up.

FYI. I tried to start a really dry hop bale on fire here in the shop. No luck.

Appendix

Ignitability and Explosibility Data for Dusts from Laboratory Tests

A.1

TABLES A.1, A.2, AND A.3 AND COMMENTS FROM THE BIA (1987)

A.1.1

LIMITATIONS TO THE APPLICABILITY OF THE DATA

A.1.1.1

Particle Size and Moisture Content

The applicability of the data in Tables A.1, A.2, and A.3 to other dusts of apparently identical materials is limited. In practice, dusts of a given overall chemistry may differ widely in particle size, particle shape, and sometimes also in particle surface reactivity. Furthermore, most ignitability and explosibility parameters are influenced by inherent features of the test method. Therefore, as a general rule, the tabulated data should be used only as indications and not as the ultimate basis for design of actual safety measures in industry. On the other hand, data obtained using the same test method allows relative comparison of ignitability and explosibility of various dusts. It is always necessary, however, to account for any significant differences between the particle size distributions and particle shape of the actual dust of interest and those in Tables A.1, A.2, and A.3.

For a given dust material, the maximum explosion pressure (P_{max}) and the maximum rate of pressure rise (K_{St}) increase systematically with decreasing particle size and moisture content. The minimum ignition energy (MIE) generally decreases with decreasing particle size and moisture content. Decreasing the moisture content and particle size can also cause a decrease in both the minimum explosible dust concentration (C_{min}) and the minimum ignition temperature of a dust cloud (T_{min}). The dusts were tested "as received," and general lack of information on the moisture content presents a further uncertainty concerning the specific applicability of the data. This applies, in particular, to the data for wood and cellulose and food and feedstuffs. Such dusts often contain considerable fractions of moisture in the "as received" state.

It is generally advisable to have the actual dust of interest tested in a professional laboratory.

A.1.1.2

Initial State and Composition of the Gas in Which the Dust Is Dispersed or Deposited

The data in Table A.1 apply to

- Atmospheric pressure (from -0.2 to $+0.2$ bar(g)).
- Oxygen content of air (from 18 to 22 vol% O₂).
- Normal ambient temperature (from 0 to 40°C).

In general, P_{\max} , and under certain conditions also $(dP/dt)_{\max}$ or K_{St} , increase proportionally with the absolute initial pressure. Increased oxygen fraction in the atmosphere increases both the ignitability and the explosibility, whereas a lower oxygen content than in air reduces the hazard correspondingly. Increased initial temperature increases the ignition sensitivity (reduces MIE). Normally, data for conditions that deviate significantly from the standard test conditions have to be determined specifically in each case.

If the gas phase contains some combustible gas or vapor, even in concentrations considerably below the lower explosibility limit for the gas or vapor, hybrid effects can give rise to considerable increase of both ignition sensitivity and explosibility. In such cases, specific tests definitely have to be conducted.

A.1.2

COMMENTS ON THE VARIOUS ITEMS IN TABLE A.1

A.1.2.1

Selection and Identification of Dusts

The original table, published in German by the BIA (1987), contains nearly 1900 dusts. Therefore, the selection of about 375 dusts in Table A.1 constitutes about 20% of those in the original tables. When making the selection, the samples of a given dust material that gave the most severe test data were normally preferred. In addition, sequences for some given dust materials showing systematic effects of, for example, moisture content or particle size were included. Examples of this are data for peat and aluminum.

In the original German table, the dusts are identified by a code number, which has been omitted here. However, the sequence of the dusts in the condensed table is identical to that in the original table. If required, the dusts in the condensed table can be easily identified in the original German table by means of the particle size data and the ignitability and explosibility data.

A.1.2.2

Particle Size Distribution

Most of the dusts were tested as received. However, in some cases, fractions passing a 63 μm sieve were tested.

A.1.2.3

Minimum Explosible Dust Concentration (C_{min})

Most of the tabulated data were determined in the standard closed 1 m³ ISO (1985) vessel or in the closed 20 liter Siwek sphere. Experience has shown that the latter apparatus tends to give lower values than the 1 m³ vessel, often by a factor of 2. (Note: Another standard small-scale method, approved by Nordtest, 1989, seems to give data in somewhat closer agreement with those from the 1 m³ ISO vessel.) The C_{min} values in brackets were determined in the modified 1.2 liter Hartmann apparatus in terms of the smallest dispersed dust quantity that propagated flame, divided by the vessel volume. These values are sometimes higher than the true C_{min} because of the comparatively weak ignition source used.

A.1.2.4

Maximum Explosion Pressure (P_{max})

The maximum explosion pressures were obtained either in the standard 1 m³ ISO vessel or in the 20 liter Siwek sphere. The data in brackets were obtained in the 20 liter sphere using a simplified test procedure due to limited amounts of dust for testing. The standard procedure requires at least three replicated tests at each dust concentration over a range of different concentrations.

A.1.2.5

Explosion Violence (K_{St} , St class)

K_{St} is defined as the maximum rate of pressure rise during a dust explosion in an equidimensional vessel, times the cube root of the vessel volume. K_{St} (bar m/s) is numerically equal to the maximum rate of pressure rise (bar/s) in the 1 m³ standard ISO (1985) test. The K_{St} data in the table were obtained either in the standard ISO test or in the 20 liter Siwek sphere, adopted by ASTM (1988), which has been calibrated to yield comparable K_{St} values.

The St class was determined using the modified Hartmann tube with a hinged lid at the top. Brackets indicate that this test method is not considered adequate in the Federal Republic of Germany for conclusive classification of St2 and St3 dusts (St2 means that $200 \text{ bar m/s} \leq K_{St} < 300 \text{ bar m/s}$, and St3 that $K_{St} \geq 300 \text{ bar m/s}$).

A.1.2.6

Minimum Ignition Temperature of Dust Clouds

These data were acquired using either the Godbert-Greenwald furnace or the BAM furnace. The data in brackets were obtained using a modified, elongated version of the Godbert-Greenwald furnace, yielding somewhat lower values than the version proposed as an IEC (International Electrotechnical Commission) standard.

A.1.2.7

Minimum Ignition Energy (MIE)

In the original BIA (1987) publication, the MIE values appear in a separate table. However, because the dusts could be identified by their reference numbers, it was possible to incorporate the MIE values in Table A.1. These values are determined using soft sparks (long discharge times) in agreement with the VDI method described by Berthold (1987). Down to net spark energies of about 1 mJ, this method is in complete accordance with the CMI method described by Eckhoff (1975). The VDI and the CMI methods are the basis of the method for measuring MIE that is being evaluated by the IEC. The VDI and CMI methods differ from the earlier U.S. Bureau of Mines (USBM) method, in which an appreciable fraction of the $\frac{1}{2}CV^2$ quoted as MIE was lost in a transformer and never got to the spark. Therefore, the USBM MIE values are generally higher than those determined by the new method. A tentative correlation for transforming USBM data to equivalent VDI/CMI data is given in Figure A.1 (see also Section A.2.4).

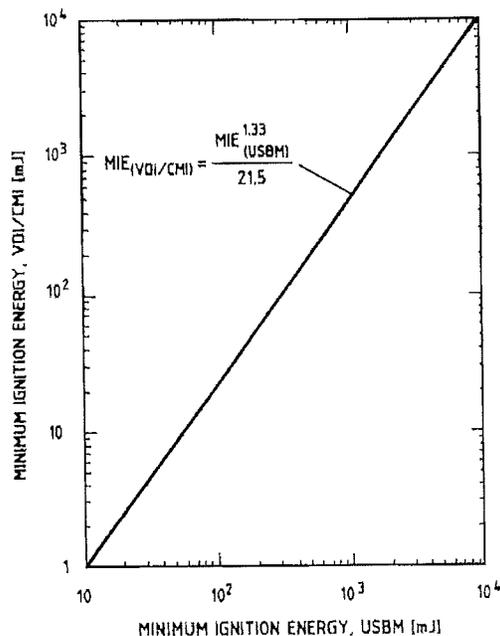


Figure A.1 *Approximate empirical correlation between the minimum ignition energies measured by the earlier USBM method described by Dorsett et al. (1960), and values generated by the more recent methods described by Eckhoff (1975) and Berthold (1987), and the method being evaluated by the IEC (see Chapter 7). Note: The correlation must be used as an indication only and must not be extrapolated*

A.1.2.8

Glow Temperature

These data were obtained with a 5 mm thick layer of dust resting on a hot plate of known, controllable temperature (equivalent to proposed standard IEC method for determining the minimum ignition temperature of a dust layer on a hot surface).

A.1.2.9 Flammability

The dusts are classified according to their ability to propagate a combustion wave when deposited in a layer. Ignition is accomplished using either a gas flame or a glowing platinum wire at 1000°C. The test sample is a 2 cm wide and 4 cm long dust ridge resting on a ceramic plate. Ignition is performed at one end. The classifications are

- Class 1. No self-sustained combustion.
- Class 2. Local combustion of short duration.
- Class 3. Local sustained combustion but no propagation.
- Class 4. Propagating smoldering combustion.
- Class 5. Propagating an open flame.
- Class 6. Explosive combustion.

The numbers in brackets refer to a modified test procedure according to which 20 weight% diatomaceous earth is mixed with the powder or dust to be tested. By this means, some materials that otherwise would not propagate a flame because they melt may show sustained flame propagation.

A.2 APPLICABILITY OF EARLIER USBM TEST DATA

A.2.1 BACKGROUND

The U.S. Bureau of Mines in Pittsburgh, PA, developed a comprehensive set of laboratory test methods for characterizing ignitability and explosibility of dusts, and published a large number of test data, which have been widely used throughout the world. The test apparatuses and procedures were described by Dorsett et al. (1960). Test data for 220 agricultural dusts were reported by Jacobson et al. (1961); for 314 dusts in the plastics industry, by Jacobson, Nagy, and Cooper (1962); for 314 metal powders, by Jacobson, Cooper, and Nagy (1964); for 241 carbonaceous dusts, by Nagy, Dorsett, and Cooper (1965); for 175 chemicals, drugs, dyes, and pesticides, by Dorsett and Nagy (1968); and for 181 miscellaneous dusts, by Nagy, Cooper, and Dorsett (1968); that is, for 1445 dusts altogether.

In more recent years, alternative test methods have been developed, and there is a need to indicate the extent to which the substantial amount of the earlier USBM data are compatible with more recent data, as for example those in Tables A.1, A.2, and A.3.

A.2.2 MINIMUM IGNITION TEMPERATURE OF THE DUST CLOUD

The apparatus used was the original Godbert-Greenwald furnace, which is essentially the same apparatus as the Godbert-Greenwald furnace used for determining the data in Table A.1. The earlier USBM data should therefore be compatible with those in Table A.1.

Table A.1 Ignitability and explosibility of dusts

Dust type	Particle size distribution										Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds				Dust layers										
	Weight % <Size (μm)										Mod. Fl.	Explos. <63 μm (Class)	T _{min} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	G.G. BAM	MIE (mJ)	VDI	DIN	Flam. <250 μm (Class)							
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (μm)																	
	1 m ³ or 20 L vessel										K _{st} (bar·m/s)	P _{max} (bar(g))	C _{min} (g/m ³)	K _{st} (bar·m/s)	T _{min} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	G.G. BAM	MIE (mJ)	VDI	DIN	Flam. <250 μm (Class)					
Cotton, wood, peat																									
Cotton			98	72		38	25	44												350	3				
Cellulose			92	71		20	3	51												250	380	5			
Wood dust				90		47	7	33												100	320				
Wood dust	58		57	55		43	39	80												7	310				
Wood dust (chipboard)				70		30		43														320	3		
Wood, cardboard, jute																						245	360	5	
Wood, cardboard, jute, resin																						3	350	5	
Lignin dust			96	85		66	57	18															>450	5	
Paper dust				91		83	73	<10															360		
Paper tissue dust			75	58				54															300	4	
Paper (phenolresin treated)				100		90	25	23															310		
Peat (15% moisture)			84	58		26	3	58															320	4	
Peat (22% moisture)			82	65		40	15	46															320	4	
Peat (31% moisture)			87	76		43	20	38															320		
Peat (41% moisture)			88	76		40	18	39															315		
Peat (from bottom of sieve)			78	48		22		74															310	4	
Peat (dust deposit)				66		33	11	49															295		
Paper pulp				93		76		29																	
Food, feedstuffs																									
Gravy powder (21% starch)					100																			500	>1000
Citrus pellets					100																			460	250
Dextrose, ground			100			94	71	22																	
Dextrose				38		5	4	80																570	3
Fat/whey mixture	76		11	3				330																180	410
Fat powder (48% fat)		100	75			24	7	92																	2
Dough					100																			430	>100

Table A.1 continued

Dust type	Particle size distribution											Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds					Dust layers				
	Weight % < Size (μm)											1 m ³ or 20 L vessel			Explos. <63 μm (Class)	Mod. H.	T _{min} (°C)	MIE (mJ)	VDI	DIN	Flam. <250 μm (Class)
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (μm)	C _{min} (g/m ³)	P _{max} (bar(g))	K _{St} (bar·m/s)										
Rice starch (hydrolyzed)				29		15		120	60	9.3	190	(St.2)	480					555		5	
Rice starch				99		74	54	18					470			90		390		3	
Rice starch				86		62	52	18		10.0	190	(St.2)	530					420		3	
Wheat starch						84	50	20	60	9.8	132	(St.2)	500					535		3	
Tobacco			81	64		29		49		4.8	12		470					280			
Tapioca pellets				61		42		44	125	9.0	53	St.1	(450)					290		4	
Tea (6% moisture)					100				30	8.1	68			510						≥3	
Tea (black, from dust collector)			64	48		26	16	76	125	8.2	59	St.1	510					300		4	
Meat flour			69	52		31	21	62	60	8.5	106	St.1	540					>450		2	
Wheat flour								50					500			540		>450			
Wheat flour			97	60		32	25	57	60	8.3	87		430					>450			
Dough					100									400				>100			
Wheat flour 550				60		34	25	56	60	7.4	42		470					>450			
Milk sugar				99		92	77	10	60	8.3	75		440					14		5	
Milk sugar				98		64	32	27	60	8.3	82	St.1	490					460		2	
Sugar (icing)				88		70	52	19					470					>450			
Coal, coal products																					
Activated carbon				99		80	55	18	60	8.8	44		790					>450			
Activated carbon				88		64		22				No ignition		670				335			
Activated carbon (16% moisture)			84	65		38		46	125	8.4	67		(630)								
Brown coal			83	69		40	20	41		9.1	123		420					160		4	
Brown coal (from electrostatic filter)				75	60	27		55	60	9.0	143	St.1	450					240		4	
Brown coal (dust from grinding)				71	56	38	30	60		8.9	107		420					230		3	
Brown coal/anthracite (80:20)				66		43	24	40	60	8.6	108		440					>4000			
Brown coal/anthracite (20:80)				91		85	80	<10		0.4	1		590					280			
Brown coal coke	93		18	13				290	250	8.4	115	St.1	560					>450		3	

Table A.1 continued

Dust type	Particle size distribution										Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds					Dust layers				
	Weight % <Size (µm)										1 m ³ or 20 L vessel					Explos. Mod. H.		VDI MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. (°C)	Flam. <250 µm (Class)
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (µm)	C _{min} (g/m ³)	P _{max} (bar(g))	K _{St} (bar·m/s)	Explos. <63 µm (Class)	T _{min} (°C)	G.G. BAM	VDI MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. (°C)	Flam. <250 µm (Class)			
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (µm)	C _{min} (g/m ³)	P _{max} (bar(g))	K _{St} (bar·m/s)	Explos. <63 µm (Class)	T _{min} (°C)	G.G. BAM	VDI MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. (°C)	Flam. <250 µm (Class)			
Epoxy resin				95		60	36	26	30	7.9	129	St.1	510			Melts	2			
Epoxy resin with Al				90		46		34		8.9	208		570			Melts				
Melamin resin				99		84	55	18	125	10.2	110	St.1	840			>450	2			
Melamin resin				66		24	13	57	60	10.5	172	St.1	470			>450	2			
Phenol resin				100		99	94	<10	15	9.3	129	(St.2)	610			>450	2			
Phenol formaldehyde resin	100	98	81		50	30		60	(100)			St.1		450		4	4			
Polyamid resin				95		84		64	15	3.0	8.9	105				Melts				
Polymethacrylate	56				100	33			15	8.0	199					(2)				
Silicon resin	91			59	39	20	13	100	60	7.2	80		480			Melts				
Caoutchouc				58	40	20		95	30	9.5	192		450			230				
Synthetical caoutchouc				66	46	18	9	80	15	8.6	145	(St.2)	450			240	5			
Methylmethacrylate-Butadiene-Styrene				45	18			135	30	8.6	120		470		11	Melts	5			
Methylmethacrylate-Butadiene-Styrene				34	11			150	30	8.4	114		480		30	Melts	5			
Polyacrylamide (from filter)				100		95	81	10	250	5.9	12	St.1	780			410	2			
Polyacrylate (from filter)				100	63	11	1	62	125	6.9	38		460		>1800	420	5			
Polyacrylonitrile (32% H ₂ O)				95	47	16		63	60	7.4	41									
Polyamide flock (3.3 ctex 0.5 mm)				100		25	3	37	30	9.8	93	St.1	520			Melts	2(3)			
Polyester								<10		10.1	194		570			Melts				
Polyethylene				91	51	10		72		7.5	67		440			Melts				
Polyethylene	82			8	2			280			6.2	20	470			Melts				
Polyethylene (high pressure)				98	93	65	10	26		8.7	104		490			>450				
Polyethylene (low pressure)						95	86	<10	(30)	8.0	156	(St.2)	420			Melts	2(5)			
Polyethylene (low pressure)				36	10			150	125	7.4	54	St.1	480			Melts	3(5)			
Polyethylene (low pressure)	90			20	9			245	125	7.5	46	St.1	460			Melts	3(5)			
Polymethacrylate (from filter)						70	48	21	30	9.4	269	(St.2)	550			Melts	5			
Polymethacrylimide				45	15			105	30	9.6	125	(St.2)	530			Melts	5			

Table A.1 continued

Dust type	Particle size distribution										Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds					Dust layers	
	Weight % <Size (μm)										Explos. <63 μm (Class)	Mod. H.	T_{min} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Flam. <250 μm (Class)	
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (μm)	C_{min} (g/m^3)	P_{max} (bar(g))							K_{st} (bar·m/s)
											Explos. <63 μm (Class)	Explos. <63 μm (Class)	T_{min} ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. ($^{\circ}\text{C}$)	Flam. <250 μm (Class)	
Digitalis leaves				59		42		46	250	8.5	73						
Dimethylaminophenazone					100	100		<10	15	10.0	337						
2-Ethoxybenzamide									15	8.6	214			490		Melts 2(5)	
Fungicide (Captan)		100			99	93		5	(500)							5	
Fungicide (org. zinc comp.)						99	96	<10	60	9.0	154					300	
Fungicide (Maneb)				98		97	93	<10	380						>2500	200	
Methionine				100		99	95	<10	30	9.4	143				9	Melts 5	
Methionine				100		99	87	<10	30	8.7	128				100	Melts 5	
Sodium - L (+) ascorbate				97		67	45	23	60	8.4	119					380	2
Paracetamol					100				15	7.9	156					Melts 2(5)	
Pesticide				99		98	95	<10	60	8.6	151					320	
Intermediate products, auxiliary materials																	
Adipic acid				98		92	86	<10	60	8.0	97					Melts 2(5)	
Aging protective					100	67		<32	15	8.2	256						2(3)
Anthracene	89		20	7				235	15	8.7	231						>450
Anthracinone						100		<10	10.6	364							
Anthracinone				100		90	75	12	30	9.1	91						
Azodicarbonamide						100		<10	12.3	176							
Benzolic acid									(30)								2(5)
Betaine hydrochloride				93		85	78	<10	60	9.8	114					>450	3
Betaine monohydrate	34		4					710	60	8.2	63					>450	5
Diphenol ketylene				98		80	60	15	9.0	270							
Calcium acetate			74	41		25	17	92	500	5.2	9					>460	2
Casein				99		65	40	24	30	8.5	115					>450	
Sodium caseinate (from filter)				100		99	77	17	60	8.8	117					740	>450
Carboxy methyl cellulose				97		89		<15	9.2	184							
Carboxy methyl cellulose				50		20	12	71	125	8.9	127					320	3

Table A.1 continued

Dust type	Particle size distribution										Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds						Dust layers		
	Weight % < Size (μm)										1 m ³ or 20 L vessel			Explos. <63 μm (Class) (St. 2)	Mod. H. T _{min} (°C) G.G. BAM	MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. (°C)	Flam. <250 μm (Class)	
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median (μm)	C _{min} (g/m ³) (200)	P _{max} (bar(g))	K _{St} (bar·m/s)								
Sodium amide													(200)						2
Sodium cyclamate	97	52	13		5	2		260						St. 1					5
Sodium hydrogen cyanamide			95	90		28	8	40		7.0	47				460			Melts	
Sodium ligno sulphonate			100		63	20		58	(200)					St. 1					2
Oil absorber (hydrophobic cellulose)			65	51		31	21	65		7.2	42				540			>450	
Paraformaldehyde				89		65	41	23		9.9	178			(St. 2)	460			>480	5
Paraformaldehyde				86		58	37	27		10.7	222				460			>450	
Pectin			86	61		21		59		9.5	162				460			300	
Pectinase				91		47	20	34		10.6	177				510			>450	3
Pentaerythrite				100		98	86	<10		30	120				470			<1	2(5)
Pentaerythrite (from filter)		90	33		6	3	85	30		188					490			6	5
Pentaerythrite		86	47		36		20	12		30	158							27	5
Phthalic acid anhydride										(100)				(St. 2)					5
Polyethylene oxide		99	83	53		29	14	115		(30)				(St. 2)					3(5)
Polysaccharide						100	78	23		(500)				St. 1					4
Propyleneglycol alginate			57	24				115		125	82				440				
Salicylic acid										(30)				(St. 2)					2(5)
Saponin				93			77	65	13		150			St. 1	440			>450	3
Lead stearate			99	96		90	80	<10							480			<1	
Lead stearate						90	12	90		9.2	152			(St. 2)	630			Melts	5
Calcium stearate				99		92	84	<10							520			9	
Calcium stearate						92	80	<10		30	99				580			16	>450
Calcium stearate	100		43	25				145		30	155				550			12	>450
Magnesium stearate										(100)				(St. 2)					2(2)
Sodium stearate				92		67	45	22		30	123			St. 1	670			Melts	2
Zinc stearate										(100)				(St. 2)					2(5)
Zinc stearate				95			86	72	13						520			5	Melts
Stearin/lead				99		95	75	15		60	111				600			3	>450

Table A.1 continued

Dust type	Particle size distribution										Ignitability and explosibility of dust clouds						Dust layers	
	Weight % <Size (μm)					Median (μm)					1 m ³ or 20 L vessel			Mod. H.			VDI	DIN
	500	250	125	71	63	32	20	Median	C _{min} (g/m ³)	P _{max} (bar(g))	K _{St} (bar·m/s)	Explos. <63 μm (Class)	T _{min} (°C) G.G.	BAM	MIE (mJ)	Glow temp. (°C)		
	71	63	32	20	Median	C _{min}	P _{max}	K _{St}	Explos.	T _{min}	BAM	MIE	Glow temp.	Flam.				
Sulfur				86		23		40					330		3	270		
Sulfur			53		7		120					(St.2)	370		5	270		
Titanium carbide												Sl. 1					4	
Titanium hydride												Sl. 1					2	
Titanium monoxide												(St.2)					4	
Other materials																		
Fly ash (from electrofilter)			100		99	92	6	125	1.9	35		No ignition					1	
Ash concentrate				87		61	21	60	8.6	91			580			260		
Bentonite/asphalt/coal/org. (15:45:35:5)	90				55		54	(100)				Sl. 1					2	
Bentonite/coal (50:50)	98	86			69	41	42	(100)				Sl. 1					2	
Bentonite der. + org. comp.				89		45	35	60	7.4	123		(St.2)					3	
Pb and Ca stearate mixture	98				70		35	(100)									2(2)	
Break liner (grinding dust)				98		95	<10	250	6.9	71			530			310		
Brush dust (Al brushes)				99		74	25	30	11.4	360			590			<1	450	
CaC/diamide lime/Mg (72:18:10)	99			93		87	8	125	5.8	30							4	
Mud from setting chamber		99		91		62	23	60	7.7	96			430			260	5	
Dust from polishing (Al)		44		26			150		5.0	18			440			320	5	
Dust from polishing (Zn)	60	35			15	2	190	(200)				Sl. 1		400		350	2	
Dust from polishing (brass)								(100)				Sl. 1					4	
Dust from grinding (Al)					100	85		(30)	(5.7)	(214)		(St.2)					4	
Dust from grinding (Zn)					100	67		(500)	(2.3)	(24)		Sl. 1		480			1	
Dust from grinding (cardboard)	70	64	44		25	10	160	(100)				Sl. 1					5	
Dust from grinding (polyester)			98		95	93	<10	30	9.5	153			500			>450	5	
Dust from grinding (polyester)			97	84		60	25		9.4	237			550			>450	5	
Dust from grinding (Ti)	89	64	37		18	4	170	(100)				(St.2)					2	
Dust from grinding + polish. (polyester)				99		96	<10						530			<1	>450	

Table A.2 Maximum permissible O₂ concentration for inerting dust clouds in atmospheres of O₂ + N₂

Dust type	Median particle diameter by mass (μm)	Maximum O ₂ concentration for inerting by N ₂ (vol%)
Cellulosic materials		
Cellulose	22	9
Cellulose	51	11
Waste from wood cutting	130	14
Wood	27	10
Food and feedstuffs		
Pea flour	25	15
Maize starch	17	9
Waste from malted barley	25	11
Rye flour 1150	29	13
Starch derivative	24	14
Wheat flour 550	60	11
Coals		
Brown coal	42	12
Brown coal	63	12
Brown coal	66	12
Brown coal briquette dust	51	15
Bituminous coal	17	14
Other materials		
Ground hops	500	17
Hops draff	490	18
Plastics, resins, rubber		
Resin	<63	10
Rubber powder	95	11
Polyacrylnitril	26	11
Polyacrylnitril	26	10
Polyethylene, h.p.	26	10
Pharmaceuticals, pesticides, etc.		
Aminopheenazone	<10	9
Herbizide	10	12
Methionine	<10	12
Intermediate products, additives		
Barium stearate	<63	13
Benzoyl peroxide	59	10
Bisphenol A	34	9
Cadmium laurate	<63	14
Cadmium stearate	<63	12
Calcium stearate	<63	12
Methyl cellulose	29	15
Methyl cellulose	49	14
Methyl cellulose	70	10
Dimethyl terephthalate	27	9
Ferrocene	95	7
Bis(trimethylsilyl)-urea	65	9
Naphthalic acid anhydride	16	12
2-Naphthol	<10	9

Table A.2 continued

Dust type	Median particle diameter by mass (μm)	Maximum O ₂ concentration for Inerting by N ₂ (vol%)
2-Naphthol	<30	9
Sodium methallyl sulphonate	280	15
Paraformaldehyde	23	6
Paraformaldehyde	27	7
Pentaerythrite	<10	11
Pentaerythrite	<10	11
Other technical and chemical products		
Blue dye	<10	13
Organic pigment	<10	12
Metals, alloys		
Aluminum	22	5
Aluminum	22	6
Calcium/aluminum alloy	22	6
Ferrosilicon	17	7
Ferrosilicon	21	12
Magnesium alloy	21	3
Other inorganic products		
Soot	<10	12
Soot	<10	12
Soot	13	12
Soot	16	12
Soot desorbed from acetylene	86	16
Soot desorbed from acetylene	120	16
Others		
Bentonite derivative	43	12

Source: BIA (1987).

Table A.3 Inerting of dust clouds by mixing the combustible dust with inert dust (1 m³ standard ISO (1985) vessel, 10 kJ chemical ignitor)

Combustible dust		Inert dust		Minimum mass% inert of total mass required for inerting
Type of dust	Median particle size by mass (μm)	Type of dust	Median particle size by mass (μm)	
Methyl cellulose	70	CaSO ₄	<15	70
Organic pigment	<10	NH ₄ H ₂ PO ₄	29	65
Bituminous coal	20	CaCO ₃	14	65
Bituminous coal	20	NaHCO ₃	35	65
Sugar	30	NaHCO ₃	35	50

Source: BIA (1987).

A.2.3

MINIMUM IGNITION TEMPERATURE OF THE DUST LAYER

The earlier USBM method differs significantly from the hot-plate method used to produce the data in Table A.1. The latter is illustrated in Figure 7.17 in Chapter 7. In the USBM method, 6 cm³ of the dust was placed in a small stainless steel mesh basket kept suspended at the center of the Godbert-Greenwald furnace (see Figure 7.24 in Chapter 7), while a controlled, small flow of air was passed through the furnace. The temperature of the furnace was controlled and maintained at a predetermined value, and the temperature inside the dust sample was monitored by a thermocouple. Ignition was defined as a distinct increase in the dust temperature beyond that of the furnace within 5 minutes. The minimum ignition temperature was defined as the lowest furnace temperature at which ignition occurred.

As would be expected, the USBM layer ignition temperatures are generally significantly lower, by 100° or more, than the “glow temperatures” of Table A.1 for similar dusts.

A.2.4

MINIMUM IGNITION ENERGY OF THE DUST CLOUD (MIE)

Due to the design of the electric spark generator used earlier by the USBM, part of the stored capacitor energy $\frac{1}{2}CV^2$ was lost in a high-voltage transformer, and therefore the net spark energy was smaller than the nominal $\frac{1}{2}CV^2$ quoted as the spark energy. However, when comparing MIE data for similar dusts, determined by the earlier USBM method and the more recent methods described by Eckhoff (1975) and Berthold (1987), an approximate empirical correlation is indicated, as shown in Figure A.1 in Section A.1.2.7. Note that the correlation should not be extrapolated beyond the range of Figure A.1.

A.2.5

MINIMUM EXPLOSIBLE DUST CONCENTRATION

The earlier USBM method was based on the 1.2 liter open Hartmann tube, with its top opening covered by a paper diaphragm. A comparatively weak continuous induction spark source was used for ignition. The dust concentration was defined as the quantity of dust dispersed, divided by the 1.2 liter volume of the tube. In spite of several probable sources of error, this method often yielded reasonable values as compared with more recent methods such as Nordtest (1989). This is probably because the effect of some of the sources of error partly cancel each other. However, data from the early USBM method must be regarded as indicative only.

A.2.6

MAXIMUM EXPLOSION PRESSURE

The early USBM data were determined in the original version of the closed 1.2 liter Hartmann bomb. Due to incomplete combustion and cooling by the walls, the maximum explosion overpressures in the Hartmann bomb are generally considerably lower, by up

to 50%, typically 25–30%, than those generated by the same dusts in larger vessels, such as the 1 m³ standard ISO (1985) vessel and the 20 liter Siwek sphere. It does not seem advisable to indicate any general relationship between P_{\max} from the early USBM tests and more recent data from larger vessels.

A.2.7 MAXIMUM RATE OF PRESSURE RISE

These data were determined in the same Hartmann bomb experiment as the maximum explosion pressures. However, there seems to be some justification for indicating the following tentative correlation between $(dP/dt)_{\max}$ in the closed Hartmann bomb and the K_{St} from the 1 m³ standard ISO (1985) method (see Table A.4).

Table A.4 Examples of correlation of rates of pressure rise

$(dP/dt)_{\max, \text{Hartm.}}$ (bar/s)	K_{St} (bar·m/s)
100	35
200	70
400	140
800	280
1600	560
3200	1120

Note: For quite coarse powders (nonhomogeneous dust concentration distribution in Hartmann bomb) and for very fine, cohesive powders (poor dust dispersion in Hartmann bomb), this correlation can be substantially in error.

A.2.8 MAXIMUM PERMISSIBLE O₂ CONCENTRATION FOR INERTING

USBM used two methods, an open glass tube with electric spark ignition and the Godbert-Greenwald furnace at 850°C. As would be expected, the latter method gave considerably lower limiting O₂ concentrations for inerting than the former.

Generally, the values of Table A.2 fall somewhere between the two USBM values for similar dusts. The arithmetic mean of the two USBM values then might be compatible with the data in Table A.2.

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