



U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

Report:	Combustible Dust Hazard Investigation
Recommendation Number:	2006-1-H-R1
Date Issued:	November 9, 2006
Recipient:	Occupational Safety and Health Administration
New Status:	Closed – Reconsidered/Superseded <i>(Superseded by 2017-04-I-WI-R10)</i>
Date of Status Change:	November 30, 2023

Recommendation Text:

Issue a standard designed to prevent combustible dust fires and explosions in general industry. Base the standard on current National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) dust explosion standards (including NFPA 654 and NFPA 484), and include at least - hazard assessment, - engineering controls, - housekeeping, - building design, - explosion protection, - operating procedures, and - worker training.

Board Status Change Decision:

A. Rationale for Recommendation

After investigating three catastrophic dust explosions that claimed the lives of 14 workers in 2003, the CSB conducted a comprehensive combustible dust hazard study. The study identified 281 combustible dust incidents having occurred between 1980 and 2005 that collectively resulted in 119 worked deaths and 718 injuries to workers along with extensive property damage. These incidents occurred in 44 states, across many different industries, and involving a variety of different materials.

The study concluded that current practices relying on voluntary consensus standards and enhanced regulatory enforcement efforts are insufficient to prevent dust fires and explosions. Despite the seriousness of the combustible dust hazards across the country, no comprehensive federal standard exists to control these hazards. The CSB therefore recommended that OSHA issue a combustible dust general industry standard. This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation Nos. 2006-1-H-R1.

B. Response to the Recommendation

On October 18, 2007, OSHA launched a Combustible Dust National Emphasis Program for inspecting workplaces that handle combustible dusts and that may have dust explosion hazards. On April 29, 2009, OSHA announced that it was initiating rulemaking on combustible dust. OSHA undertook many noteworthy and important regulatory enforcement and educational efforts to prevent and control combustible dust hazards in the workplace, but never issued a standard as required by the recommendations. During the summer of 2017 OSHA abandoned its combustible dust rulemaking effort citing resource constraints and other priorities. There is no

rulemaking on combustible dust on OSHA's current regulatory agenda or its list of long-term actions. OSHA has updated its emphasis program as recently as January of 2023, but there is no indication that they are working on a combustible dust standard as required by the recommendation.

This recommendation was superseded by CSB Recommendation No. 2017-04-I-WI-R10, a new, more appropriate recommendations from the CSB's [Didion Milling Company Explosion and Fire Investigation Report \(2023\)](#).

C. Board Analysis and Decision

CSB policy allows a recommendation to be superseded when it is replaced by a new more appropriate recommendation to the same recipient and covering the same or similar issues. CSB Recommendation No. 2006-1-H-R1 directed OSHA to issue a standard addressing combustible dust in general industry and included a list of minimum topics to be covered. The new recommendation covers all industries that handle combustible dust and has expanded the list of minimum topics to be covered. CSB Recommendation No. 2017-04-I-WI-R10 is a more appropriate recommendation because if implemented will result in a standard providing more comprehensive protection than envisioned by previous recommendations.

Based upon the information above, the Board voted to change CSB Recommendation No. 2006-1-H-R1 to: "Closed – Reconsidered/Superseded."