



**Alameda County Fire Department
Fire Prevention Bureau**

INFORMATIONAL BULLETIN

How to Apply For A Permit For High-Piled Combustible Storage

The California Fire Code requires a permit for the interior storage of high-piled combustible materials when the floor area of the storage exceeds 500 square feet. High-piled combustible storage is defined by the Fire Code as the “storage of combustible materials in closely packed piles or combustible materials on pallets, in racks or on shelves where the top of storage is greater than 12 feet in height.” “High-piled combustible storage also includes certain high-hazard commodities, such as rubber tires, Group A plastics, flammable liquids, idle pallets and similar commodities, where the top of storage is greater than 6 feet in height.” The Fire Code definition of combustible storage includes non-combustible materials in combustible packaging or on combustible pallets.

Any Portion of the building in excess of 500 square feet used for storage of high piled combustible stock shall comply with requirements of Chapter 23 CFC for the installation of **draft curtains, automatic fire extinguishing system, automatic smoke vents, and building access**. This type of storage may require significant modification to the building and its fire protection systems.

A completed permit application and scale drawing shall be submitted to the Fire Department for review and approval. The basic permit fee must be paid in the form of a check at the time of permit application. This fee covers the cost of up to two hours of staff time for review of the application and performance of required inspections. Staff time in excess of two hours will be billed separately.

Permit Application: Permit applications are available from the Fire Department offices noted below. All information requested on the application accompanied by a scale drawing of the building and storage area must be provided. Incomplete information may significantly delay processing of the permit application and may result in increased fees.

Permit Requirements: A completed permit application accompanied by a scale drawing indicating, method and height of storage as well as commodity to be stored will be required. The drawing should also indicate the fire-resistive rating of any interior walls abutting the warehouse and any activities occurring adjacent to the storage area. The information provided shall at a minimum include the following.

- 1) The method and height of storage.
- 2) Ceiling height
- 3) A detailed description of the commodities to be stored.
- 4) A detailed description of the types of packaging and pallets to be used.

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- 5) If the materials to be stored or their packaging contain plastics, the percentage by weight for non-expanded plastics and/or the percentage by volume for expanded plastics shall be provided. The percentage needed is for an entire pallet load, including the weight of the pallet.
- 6) The design criteria used for each sprinkler system.
- 7) Presence and type (smoke or heat detectors) of automatic fire detection system.
- 8) The Location and size of smoke vents (if provided).
- 9) The location and depth of draft curtains (if provided).
- 10) The location and rating of all fire extinguishers.
- 11) The location of and water supply for small hose outlets (if provided).

The Permit Process: After you have submitted your completed Permit Application, Scale Drawing, and Basic Permit Fee, you will be contacted by the Fire Department and an inspection will be scheduled. During the inspection, the use of your facility for high-piled combustible storage will be evaluated for compliance with State and City regulations relating to fire and life safety.

If you have any questions, please contact the Fire Prevention Division for your area.

City of Dublin	City of Emeryville	City of Newark	City of San Leandro	Unincorporated Alameda County	City of Union City
(925) 833-6606	(510) 596-3759	(510) 578-4281	(510) 577-3317	(510) 670-5853	(510) 675-5470