



# Chattanooga Fire Department

## Fire Code Requirements for Automobile Paint and Body Occupancies

This checklist provides some of the basic regulations governing the operation of **Automobile Paint and Body Occupancies**. It is not possible to cover all regulations. If you have a particular question of concern, please telephone or FAX the Chattanooga Fire Department at (423) 643-5611.

### 1. Permits

A. A valid certificate of occupancy from Building Inspection is required. Certificate of occupancy must be appropriate for the type of work the occupancy is conducting.

B. Permit from Building Inspection to install a spray booth or room with an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system is required. Spray booth or room and fire-extinguishing system must be tested and approved by Building Inspection and the Fire Marshal.

C. Permit is required for welding and cutting operations, spraying or dipping operations, and storage or use of flammable and combustible liquids. Other permits may be required. Contact the Chattanooga Fire Department for more information.

### 2. Exit Ways

A. Doors must be unlocked and unblocked.

B. Required width of an exit way must be unobstructed.

C. Signs must be illuminated.

### 3. Fire Lanes and Access

A. Properly marked and clear of obstructions.

B. Limited access control gates installed across fire lanes must meet requirements of the Chattanooga Fire Code.

### 4. Fire Extinguishers

A. Typically, one 4A-40BC rated extinguisher required for every 1,000 sq. ft. Special hazards may have additional requirements.

B. Mounted in conspicuous accessible locations.

C. Inspected for proper maintenance annually by licensed individuals.

D. Must be recharged following use.

## **5. Fire Alarm/Detection Systems**

A. Installed in accordance with NFPA 72.

B. Systems installed, maintained, and approved prior to July 1, 2004 are considered to be in compliance with the Chattanooga Fire Code.

C. Maintained in an operative condition at all times, and replaced or repaired when defective. Notify the Chattanooga Fire Department immediately at 643-5604 if fire alarm system becomes non-operational.

D. Written operating instructions provided and maintained at an approved location.

E. Manual alarms and smoke alarms should be tested at least annually, and/or after modification.

## **6. Sprinkler Systems**

A. Maintained in approved working condition. Notify the Chattanooga Fire Department immediately at 643-5604 if sprinkler system becomes non-operational.

B. Identify controls, drains, and test control valves with approved signage.

C. Access to valves and/or fire department connections cannot be obstructed.

D. A sprinkler wrench is required. Spare sprinkler heads of the same types and ratings in the building system are required as follows:

(1) Less than 300 system heads, a minimum of 6 spare heads.

(2) 300 to 1000 system heads, a minimum of 12 spare heads.

(3) Over 1,000 system heads, a minimum of 24 spare heads.

E. Maintain an 18-inch clearance between sprinkler heads and storage.

F. Test at least annually.

## **7. Flammable Liquids**

A. Liquids with a flashpoint below 100 degrees Fahrenheit are prohibited for general cleaning purposes.

B. Store quantities in excess of 10 gallons in approved containers:

(1) Listed flammable liquid storage cabinets, or

(2) Wooden cabinets constructed of at least 1 inch exterior plywood, with rabbeted joints fastened with screws in two directions, steel door hinges and painted with intumescent-type paint, or

(3) Flammable liquid storage rooms must be constructed with self-closing fire rated doors and walls. Floor must be equipped with at least 4-inch noncombustible sills and a drainage system to direct the flow of liquids to an approved location. Rooms must be equipped with an automatic fire-extinguishing system, approved light fixtures and wiring. Construction of this room will require a permit from Building Inspection.

C. Shall not be stored near exit doorways, stairways, or other locations that would impede egress.

D. Prohibit dispensing by gravity flow.

E. Prohibit sources of ignition.

F. Flammable spray finishes may not be applied outside of an approved spray booth or room.

## **8. Spray Booth Requirements**

A. Constructed of steel not less than 18 gauge or other approved noncombustible materials.

B. Area not exceeding 1500 sq. ft.

C. Smooth and continuous interior surfaces.

D. Noncombustible floors.

E. Be separated from other operations by not less than 3 feet, or by a wall or partition.

F. All portions of the booth readily available for cleaning by an obstructed space of not less than 3 feet.

G. Light fixtures which transmit light into the booth through heat-treated or hammered wire glass.

H. Exit doors not less than 2 feet 6 inches by 6 feet 8 inches.

I. Draft gauge that indicates by visible or audible alarms when the air velocity in the booth is less than 100 lineal feet per minute.

J. Approved noncombustible filters. (HVAC filters are not approved.)

- K. Approved mechanical ventilation system designed to produce an average air velocity not less than 100 lineal feet per minute.
- L. Fan motors and belts which are placed outside the booth or ducts. Fan blades shall be non-ferrous or non-sparking.
- M. Ducts which exhaust to the building's exterior and are constructed of approved materials.
- N. Equipped with an approved automatic fire-extinguishing system (required for new and existing spray booths).

## **9. Signage**

- A. Post "No Smoking" signs in spray-finishing areas and in the vicinity of dip tanks.
- B. Post the following warning signs in the vicinity of spraying areas, dipping operations and paint storage rooms:  
"NO WELDING  
THE USE OF WELDING OR CUTTING EQUIPMENT IN OR NEAR THIS AREA IS  
DANGEROUS BECAUSE  
OF FIRE AND EXPLOSION HAZARDS. WELDING AND CUTTING SHALL BE DONE  
ONLY UNDER  
THE SUPERVISION OF THE PERSON IN CHARGE."

## **10. Miscellaneous**

- A. Provide metal cans for oily rags and waste. Empty cans at least once daily.
- B. Maintain a 24-inch clearance between storage and ceiling.
- C. Provide metal covers for all electrical panels, outlets, boxes, and junctions.
- D. Extension cords shall not be utilized in place of permanent wiring.
- E. Post a correct address visible from the street. In complexes with multiple buildings, each building must be designated.
- F. Secure compressed gas cylinders in an upright position.
- G. Gas powered appliances must be properly vented to the outside, have approved flex-type connections, and cut-off valves near the wall.
- H. Portable electric lamps, kerosene heaters, other heating devices in the spraying area must be approved for hazardous locations.
- I. Keep spray area free of accumulations of combustible residues. Cleaning tools should be constructed of non-sparking materials.