



HIGH PILED COMBUSTIBLE STORAGE PERMIT REQUIREMENTS

In accordance with 2015 International Fire Code (IFC) Section 105.6.23, Austin Fire Department (AFD) requires a High Piled Combustible Storage (HPCS) operating permit for solid-pile, palletized, or rack storage inside of a building in an aggregate area of 2,000 Ft.² or more. When the aggregate storage area is \geq 2,000 Ft.² the requirements for an HPCS permit apply for storage of Class I-IV commodities over 12 feet in height or High-Hazard commodities over 6 feet in height. The IFC HPCS requirements are located in Chapter 32 and may be reviewed at:

<https://codes.iccsafe.org/public/document/IFC2015/chapter-32-high-piled-combustible-storage>

WHY DOES AFD REQUIRE A HPCS PERMIT?

The HPCS permit is AFD's mechanism for evaluating a building's automatic sprinkler system to determine if the system can control or extinguish a fire. The permit provides a method of identifying these buildings and performing inspections to confirm the stored commodities and storage methods have not changed.

I WAS EXPECTING A PERMIT APPLICATION AND I CAN'T FIND IT ON YOUR WEBSITE.

AFD doesn't have a HPCS permit application. Instead, we rely on the applicant providing sufficient commodity, storage method(s) and automatic sprinkler system information for new building construction or renovations. In existing buildings, our Inspectors survey the building and automatic sprinkler system in conjunction with our Engineers to determine the adequacy of the automatic sprinkler system in comparison to the stored commodities and storage methods.

WHAT INFORMATION DOES AFD REQUIRE FOR A HPCS PERMIT?

2015 IFC Section 3201.3 establishes the required information necessary to classify the stored commodities and evaluate the automatic sprinkler system. As part of the review AFD will require design information for the automatic sprinkler system. The building owner should have this information or it may be posted on the Hydraulic Design Placard at the sprinkler riser. If no records are available, initiate a records search from Austin FD for the automatic sprinkler shop drawings and hydraulic calculations:

http://www.austintexas.gov/sites/default/files/files/Fire/Prevention/Plans_Review/arc_order.pdf

If the HPCS includes hazardous materials, an Aboveground Hazardous Materials permit may be required. To evaluate the storage method(s) and automatic sprinkler system, an accurate classification of the hazardous materials and packaging is required. AFD suggests completing the Aboveground Hazardous Materials application and include it with the other required information:

<http://www.austintexas.gov/department/hazmat-permit>

WHO CAN I CONTACT FOR ASSISTANCE?

AFD has Inspectors who are assigned to administer the HPCS permit and Engineers who review the automatic sprinkler systems for compliance with the IFC Chapter 23 and NFPA 13 requirements. We can be reached at 512-974-0160 or via e-mail: fireprevention@austintexas.gov Please include the building address. AFD staff is available at the early stages of a design to provide a preliminary design review of the automatic sprinkler system, commodities and storage methods.