Life-Saving Rule

Hot Work

Control flammables and ignition sources



- I identify and control ignition sources
- Before starting any hot work:
 I confirm flammable material
 - I command a material has been removed or isolated
 I obtain authorisation
- Before starting hot work in a
 - hazardous area I confirm:
 - a gas test has been completed
 - gas will be monitored continually

Additional Guidance & References

Hot work includes any work that creates an ignition source performed in an area which potentially contains hydrocarbons or flammable materials.

Ignition sources are open flames or sources of heat that could ignite materials in the work area such as welding, grinding, smoking, torching, (un)loading of hazardous materials, internal combustion engines, chemical reactions, batteries, etc.

Hazardous areas are defined in the UK Dangerous Substances and Explosive Atmospheres Regulations 2002 (DSEAR) as "any place in which an explosive atmosphere may occur in quantities such as to require special precautions to protect the safety of workers".

Further reading:

- Energy Institute: Model code of safe practice Part 15: Area classification for installations handling flammable fluids
- NFPA 70: National Electrical Code