

Welding Area Checklist

Here is a checklist of requirements for authorized welding areas to be used in concert with our Authorization Form, which requires coordination with Bioenvironmental (552-3985 for ventilation evaluation) and Ground Safety (552-6850). Your welding area's Supervisor and all those who will be working in the area need to sign on page 2 (and page 3 if needed) to acknowledge understanding of requirements. Contact the Fire Prevention office (384-5555) once your area is in compliance with all the checklist items for us to evaluate the area and complete the welding area authorization letter.

Welding Area requirements in accordance with AFI 91-203, Chapter 27

- Area must be of noncombustible or fire resistive construction and segregated from adjacent areas.
- Warning signs are posted at all personnel entry ways of the area.
- Welding booth walls, screens, and non-rigid heat and spark barriers, shall be used to isolate the welding activity, reflectivity, and contain sparks.
- An adequate ventilation system must be installed and approved by Bioenvironmental (Industrial Hygienist).
- Combustible floors shall be protected with fire resistive shields.
- Welding area shall be free of combustible materials for a minimum of 35ft.
- Welding area shall be free of flammable liquids for a minimum of 50ft. (i.e. flashpoint below 100° F).
- No welding shall be conducted outside a designated welding area unless a valid hot-work permit is issued by a certified individual. Hot-work certification for personnel can be obtained through the Fire Prevention Office. Contact us at 384-5555 for more information. Re-certification is required annually.
- A fully charged and operable fire extinguisher rated for the task (a minimum rating 2A:20B:C [typically 5 lb.]) shall be located in the immediate work area unless otherwise specified by the JBER Fire Prevention office. Additional extinguishing requirements apply to specialized metals (magnesium, titanium, etc.).
- Fire watch procedures shall be implemented whenever welding activities are within 35 feet of combustible materials, regardless of protection provided.
- A fire watch is required throughout operations and for a minimum of 30 minutes after completion of welding activity outside a designated welding area to extinguish possible smoldering fires (a hot-work permit is required anywhere outside designated welding areas).
- Shop supervisors shall accept full responsibility for welding, cutting, or brazing operations under their supervision.
- Where flammable vapors or dust may exist, the area must be evaluated by the JBER Fire Department and Bioenvironmental (an Industrial Hygienist) prior to welding. The operator is responsible to provide and utilize appropriate, and properly calibrated, detection equipment throughout the operation.
- All certified individuals shall comply with AFI 91-203, OSHA 1910.252(a), and National Fire Protection Association Standard 51B.