



Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority
Office of Public Safety
Fire and Rescue Department
Fire Code Enforcement Division
Welding/Cutting Permit

MINIMUM REQUIREMENTS

1. Welding/cutting work must be in compliance with the Virginia Statewide Fire Prevention Code and other requirements established by the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority (MWAA).
2. An approved Welding/Cutting Permit shall be posted where any welding/cutting operation is conducted and must be immediately available to the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division if requested. Welding or cutting operations shall be performed by, and under the supervision of, individuals capable of performing such operations safely and in accordance with applicable regulatory requirements. Welding or cutting operations shall only be conducted in areas approved for that purpose by the Fire Code Enforcement Division.
3. A Fire watch is required during operations and for 30 minutes after completion of welding/cutting operations. A firewatcher shall be in attendance to watch for fires, operate portable fire extinguishers or fire hose when necessary and perform similar fire prevention duties. In some cases, additional firewatchers may be required in other areas around or below the immediate work area. The person assigned as firewatcher shall be capable of immediately reporting an emergency, via telephone or radio, to the MWAA Fire/Rescue Department Emergency Communication Center.
4. At least one (2)A:(20)B:C rated fire extinguisher is required where work is being performed. At least one (2)A:(10)B:C rated fire extinguisher shall be attached to all portable welding carts.
5. No combustible materials shall be within 35 feet of welding operations without approved shields/covers. Floors, ceilings, and wall openings shall be protected by non-combustible shields or covers.
6. No welding/cutting or other potentially spark producing work shall be done within 100 feet of flammable /combustible liquids, gases, solids or aircraft unless authorized by the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division. The need to operate in such a manner must be communicated to the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division at least 48 hours before such operations take place for consideration. Welding/cutting or other potentially spark producing work shall not be performed in or near rooms or locations where flammable gases, liquids or vapors, lint, dust, or loose combustible stocks are present and where sparks or hot metal are capable of causing ignition or explosion of such materials. In areas where the potential for such hazards exist, continuous monitoring shall be performed using the appropriate type instrumentation. Prior to starting work, instrument readings shall be taken to verify the level of hazard present. Continuous monitoring with instrumentation shall be performed for a minimum of 30 minutes after the work is completed. Welding and cutting shall not be performed on containers and equipment containing or having contained flammable liquids, gases or solids until the containers and equipment have been thoroughly cleaned, inerted or purged. Specific approval shall be required for all "hot tapping" on tanks and pipelines.



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7. Welding/cutting shall be performed by qualified personnel only.
8. Compressed gas cylinders shall not be stored inside buildings, and shall be removed from the site each day unless a designated on site outside storage area has been approved by the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division.
9. Automatic sprinkler protection shall not be shut off during welding/cutting operations. Where welding or cutting is performed close to automatic sprinklers, noncombustible barriers or damp cloth guards shall shield the individual sprinklers, but shall be removed immediately when the work is completed.
10. A Utility Outage shall be obtained when the possibility exists that a welding/cutting operation could cause the activation of a fire alarm/detection or fire protection system. A copy of the approved Utility Outage Request form shall be maintained on site with this welding/cutting permit document.
11. No fire alarm, detection, suppression, or other fire protection device or system shall be impaired or removed from service without a Utility Outage which includes approval from the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division and other appropriate MWAA Divisions.
12. Any unsafe practice or condition noted by the MWAA Fire Code Enforcement Division may result in the temporary or indefinite suspension of a welding/cutting permit and the immediate cessation of operations.

NOTE: These requirements are not all inclusive.

Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport

Fire Code Enforcement Division 703-417-8248
Fire Station (Non-Emergency) 703-417-8250
FIRE-MEDICAL EMERGENCY 911

Washington Dulles International Airport

Fire Code Enforcement Division 703-572-2975
Fire Station (Non-Emergency) 703-572-2970
FIRE-MEDICAL EMERGENCY 911