Types of Airlocks

- Conveyors, dust collectors, ducting & transfer points where combustible wood dust may be handled or processed
- Use raw combustible wood dust materials to produce a product, such as a pellet mill

Look for the following:

- What is the source of the dust? (Dust not captured at the point of generation?)
- Is any machine or processing equipment making unusual noises, vibrating, or overheating? Is there a sign of an ignition source?
- Are there any structural hazards, such as rough, flat, sloped, or vertical building and interior structure surfaces?
- Are there any conduits, electrical wiring, or electrical equipment that can serve as an ignition source?
- Does the dust collector's venting system have a deflagration index greater than 25% of MEC and is it configured as a balanced system?

EQUIPMENT ON THE DUST COLLECTION SYSTEM

- Properly designed enclosures, makeup air, and exhaust systems are critical components for effective dust control.

IGNITION HAZARDS – ASSESSING

- Determine dust collector venting requirements and maintenance.
- Establish safety equipment requirements based on hazard assessment & lab sample dust analysis.
- Design system piping using balanced junctions.
- Do not use blast gates unless necessary.

PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE

- Schedule & record regular maintenance & document.
- Retain all documentation of the system for its operating life.

HAZARDS PRESENT

- Combustible dust concentration must be monitored and controlled.
- If the dust concentration exceeds the MEC, fire extinguishers and other safety equipment should be installed.

MILL LIFE SAFETY SYSTEMS MAINTENANCE

-Sprinkler system properly designed & installed.
- Fire alarm systems daily and monthly inspections can be completed by mill staff.
- Weekly and annual tests can be completed by a certified technician.
- Fire extinguishers must be checked for pressure & maintained at least monthly.
- While on the emergency power supply, inspect and test the following to confirm:
  - Fire alarm system:
    - Daily signaling devices and annunciator tests. A report will be issued.
    - Annually:
      - Maintenance of sprinkler systems.
      - Quarterly and annual inspection and testing should be completed by a manufacturers trained technician.
  - Water extinguishers:
    - Maintain system balance according to original design.
    - Sprinkler system properly designed & installed.
    - Fire alarm systems daily and monthly inspections can be completed by mill staff.
    - Weekly and annual tests can be completed by a certified technician.
    - Fire extinguishers must be checked for pressure & maintained at least monthly.
    - While on the emergency power supply, inspect and test the following to confirm:
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