RM Insight®

Issue 151 Checklist – Risk control for combustible insulated sandwich panels

Self-assess your business risk

We have pulled together a handy checklist so you can self-assess risks to your business. It's just for your own information purposes – so you don't need to send it back to us.

The risk

Expanded or extruded polystyrene (EPS) sandwich panels will generally consist of metal face sheeting with polystyrene foam core. It's easy to ignite, particularly if the core is exposed and it burns rapidly. During a fire; the core melts and becomes a flammable liquid, it gives off toxic smoke and the whole panel becomes structurally unsound.

The panelling is in good condition without any exposed core.

There is a procedure to report damage to the panelling and immediately repair (The exposed combustible core of any panel should be covered with steel sheet at least 0.5 mm thick and fixed to the panel facing with self-tapping screws or blind rivets).

A sample insulated sandwich panel (ISP) 'Permit to Work' document has been provided for use on the site and should be used when panels are repaired.

Combustibles are not stored within 2 m of panelling.

Ignition sources (e.g. battery chargers) are not stored within 2 m of panelling.

Hot work or any other work on or near panelling is not performed.

Signs depicting 'combustible core, danger, no hot work, do not cut or penetrate' etc. are clearly displayed upon panelling.

Staff are familiar with the hazards of this material.

Steel barriers or bollards are installed to protect the ISP walls from vehicle impact damage

Contractors are inducted into the hazards and safe work procedures.

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For more information



