



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
State Fire Marshal Division
STATEMENT OF POLICY**

Policy #: INS-10 (2007)	Subject of Policy: Storage within Boiler and Mechanical Rooms in Non-Sprinkled Buildings		
Reviewed and Approved By: Jerry Rosendahl	Title: State Fire Marshal	Effective Date: July 10, 2007	Revised Date: July 10, 2007

APPLIES TO:

All Inspection Personnel, Inspection Supervisors, Code/Plans Specialists.

PURPOSE:

To ensure consistent enforcement of MSFC Section 315.2.3.

POLICY:

SECTION 1

Storage within Multi-Use Furnace, Mechanical, and Electrical Equipment Rooms

1.1 General

It is the intent of MSFC Section 315.2.3 that the combustible storage requirements within boiler, mechanical and electrical equipment rooms are applicable to those rooms specifically designed as single-use areas where due to the nature of the equipment, potential ignition sources exist. Because many utility rooms or areas are designed and constructed for multiple-uses, this policy describes acceptable storage arrangements within multi-use rooms where the area and layout allows for the safe storage of combustible materials.

State Fire Marshal Inspectors may withdraw the storage allowances described in this policy when the clearances or area do not allow for safe storage or when combustible materials are of an unusually hazardous nature.

1.2 Multi-Use Rooms Containing Boilers and Furnaces within Non-Sprinkled Buildings

The orderly storage of combustible materials is allowed within multi-use rooms containing boiler and furnace equipment at or below 400,000 BTU/hour input when at least 6 feet of clearance is provided between the equipment and combustible storage.

The orderly storage of combustible materials is allowed within multi-use rooms containing boiler and furnace equipment above 400,000 BTU/hour input when at least 10 feet of clearance is provided between the equipment and combustible storage, and the equipment is protected with approved fire sprinkler heads. Such sprinkler heads may be connected to a domestic water supply in accordance with SFMD Policy.

1.3 Multi-Use Rooms Containing Mechanical Equipment within Non-Sprinkled Buildings

The orderly storage of combustible materials is allowed within multi-use rooms containing mechanical equipment when at least 6 feet of clearance is provided between fuel-fired equipment and combustible storage. A minimum access aisle width of 3 feet shall be maintained to all mechanical equipment.

1.4 Multi-Use Rooms Containing Primary Electrical Distribution Equipment

The orderly storage of combustible materials is allowed within multi-use rooms containing primary electrical distribution equipment when at least 10 feet of clearance is provided between the electrical distribution equipment and combustible storage.

1.5 Elevator Equipment Rooms

No storage of any kind is permitted within Elevator Equipment Rooms.

RATIONALE: It is the intent of MSFC Section 315.2.3 that the combustible storage requirements within boiler, mechanical and electrical equipment rooms are applicable to those rooms specifically designed as single-use areas where due to the nature of the equipment, potential ignition sources exist. It is unreasonable to prohibit combustible storage within rooms that have been designed and constructed for multiple-use where the area and layout allows for the safe storage of combustible materials.