Academic Affairs Laboratory Safety
National Fire Protection 51B
Hot Work* Permit Decision Tree

Purpose: Use to determine if a hot work permit is necessary.

Is there an acceptable alternative to hot work?

Yes
Complete job with cold work. No hot work permit is needed.

No

Can hot work be performed in a designated area (e.g., maintenance shop)?

Yes
Examine the designated area, then complete hot work there. No hot work permit is needed.

No

Is the proposed work to be performed in a nondesignated area (e.g., NOT in a maintenance shop or welding designated area of a laboratory)?

Yes
Obtain a written hot work permit.

No

Is the proposed work to be performed in a nonpermissible area?

Yes
Hot work and permit are not authorized.

No

Obtain a written hot work permit.

*Hot work, as defined by NFPA 51B, is any work that involves burning, welding, or a similar operation that is capable of initiating fires or explosions. Activities such as drilling, soldering, brazing, tapping, grinding, heat treating, chipping, thawing pipes, and abrasive blasting (sand blasting) - are all considered hot work.