WEST SIDE SALVAGE

Flour Silo Explosion Prevention Checklist

A quick self-check for flour mills, bakeries, and food plants that store flour in silos.

Facility: _____ **Date:** _____ **Completed by:** _____

1 Control dust buildup

- ☐ Written housekeeping program in place*
- ☐ Settled dust removed from floors, ledges, beams, and equipment on a set schedule
- ☐ Dust leaks at spouts, transfer points, and seals fixed at the source
- ☐ Compressed air used to blow down dust only when ignition sources are shut down or controlled*

2 Keep silos clean

- ☐ Silo cleaning schedule set and followed
- ☐ Caked flour, buildup, and out-of-condition product removed
- ☐ Flow problems like bridging and ratholing addressed promptly

3 Control ignition sources

- ☐ Motors, bearings, belts, and bucket elevators inspected on a regular schedule*
- ☐ Bearing temperature or vibration monitoring on bucket elevators
- ☐ Magnets or other means remove metal before grinders and hammer mills*
- ☐ Equipment grounded and bonded to control static
- ☐ Hot work permits issued for welding, cutting, and grinding*
- ☐ Electrical equipment rated for dusty (hazardous) locations

4 Maintain dust collection

- ☐ Dust collection systems inspected on schedule*
- ☐ Dust collector malfunctions corrected promptly*

5 Plan for the worst case

- ☐ Explosion venting, suppression, or isolation evaluated for silos, elevators, and dust collectors
- ☐ Emergency action plan in place and practiced

6 Complete a dust hazard analysis (DHA)

- ☐ DHA completed and documented
- ☐ DHA reviewed against NFPA 660 and updated when processes change

7 Train employees

- ☐ Training at least once a year on dust hazards and ignition sources*
- ☐ Job-specific training for cleaning, hot work, lockout/tagout, and bin entry*

** Required for flour mills under OSHA 29 CFR 1910.272 (Grain Handling Facilities). Other items are recommended practice.*

Need a flour silo cleaned, or help after an emergency?

West Side Salvage provides scheduled flour silo cleaning and 24/7 emergency response.

24/7: 844-246-2234 | westsidesalvage.com

General guidance only, not a substitute for a dust hazard analysis or a compliance review. Sources: OSHA 29 CFR 1910.272; OSHA SHIB 07-31-2005; NFPA 660 (2025).