

Welding Safety Pre-Operation Inspection Checklist

Site / Project	_____	Address	_____
Inspector name	_____	Company	_____
Date	_____	Time	_____

Documentation aid only. Adapt this resource to the site, manufacturer instructions, and applicable local requirements. It does not replace a competent person, professional judgment, legal advice, or a required statutory form.

Jurisdiction: Adaptable. Covers OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252 (US fire prevention) and UK HSE COSHH fume extraction. Adaptable to other jurisdictions with hot work regulations. Apply only the section and thresholds for the governing jurisdiction; do not combine US and UK requirements as if they were one code.

Inspection checklist

Work area preparation

☐ All movable combustibles relocated 35 feet (10 meters) from welding arc	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Immovable combustibles protected by fire-resistant guards, barriers, or blankets	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Floor and wall openings within 35-foot zone sealed	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Fire extinguisher (appropriate type) present and accessible at work site	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Fire watch

☐ Fire watch assigned: name and location	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Fire watch has sole responsibility (no other duties)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Fire watch has access to fire extinguisher and communication (radio / alarm)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Post-work fire watch duration: minimum 30 minutes (NFPA 51B: 60 minutes)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Atmospheric testing

☐ Flammable vapors / dust: below 10% LEL	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Confined space: continuous mechanical ventilation and atmospheric monitoring in place	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Empty drums / tanks: verified of flammable vapor residues	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Fume extraction (UK COSHH)

☐ Local Exhaust Ventilation (LEV): operational, adequate suction, not blocked	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ If LEV insufficient: Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) with minimum APF 20	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ RPE seal check: operator clean-shaven for tight-fitting respirators	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Cylinder security

☐ Cylinders stored upright, chained or strapped to wall or cart	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Protective caps in place when regulators not attached	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____
☐ Cylinders outside confined space (if welding inside tanks / vessels)	☐ Pass	☐ Fail	☐ N/A	Notes: _____

Findings

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
1				
2				
3				
4				
5				
6				
7				

#	Item	Location	Severity	Action required
8				

Signature

Inspector signature _____

Name _____

Date _____

References consulted

OSHA 29 CFR 1910.252 – Welding, cutting, and heating

UK HSE – Welding fume and dust (HSG258)

NFPA 51B: Standard for Fire Prevention During Welding, Cutting, and Other Hot Work (2021)

UK HSE – COSHH Regulations 2002

Verify the current edition and local adoption before use.