

What's the Risk?

Vacuum Pump Exhausts

Introduction

Vacuum pumps create heat, vapours and noise which need to be vented. Vacuum pumps on farms are used to create vacuum needed to milk the animals. A vacuum exhaust pipe installed directly in contact with combustible materials such as foam insulation or wood can increase the potential for a fire.

What's the Risk?

The vacuum pump exhaust must be vented to the outside and can reach temperatures hot enough to create pyrolysis of combustible materials that may be in contact with the exhaust pipe. Pyrolysis of combustible material increases the potential for a fire when the temperature of the exhaust pipe is greater than 90°C for long periods of time. Vacuum pump exhaust can be greater than 90°C as described in one pump manufacturer's installation warning indicating the vacuum pump exhausts can reach temperatures of 149°C (300°F).



What can be done?

- Ensure the exhaust is installed with proper clearances to combustibles
- Route exhaust components away from areas easily accessible to humans and animals
- Ensure proper wall pass throughs are used when venting through combustible walls
- Do not use combustible material for the vacuum exhaust unless specified by the manufacturer.

