Need-to-Know Updates to NFPA 660

The Safety Standard for Combustible Dusts and Particulate Solids

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S-T-A: Following Dust Through the Plant

Source	Where does dust originate?
Transport	How does it move?
Accumulation	Where does it settle?

Six Standards in One Document



- NFPA 61 Agriculture and food
- NFPA 484 Combustible metals
- NFPA 652 Fundamentals
- NFPA 654 Other combustible particles
- NFPA 655 Sulfur
- NFPA 664 Wood

The Navigation That Matters Here

Chapters 1-10	Fundamental requirements
Chapter 22	Combustible metals
Chapter 23	Sulfur
Chapter 25	Combustible particulates not otherwise specified

Material-specific provisions can modify the fundamentals. Chapters 11-20 are reserved.

Representative Dust Data

What enters the plant

- Feedstock specification
- Supplier information
- Historical test data



What the process creates

- Fine fractions
- Collector dust
- Changed blends or moisture

Continuing obligation: establish whether the available data represent current conditions.

Thermal and Reactivity Hazards

An explosion test does not answer every material-hazard question.

Update highlight: broader attention to self-heating, thermal instability, water reactivity and chemical reactivity.

The DHA and the People Leading It

Relevant expertise needs a documented basis.

Update highlight: clearer qualification information for the person performing or leading the DHA.

Readiness Before Startup

A completed installation still needs a readiness decision.

Update highlight: added operational readiness review requirements.

Housekeeping and Equipment Training

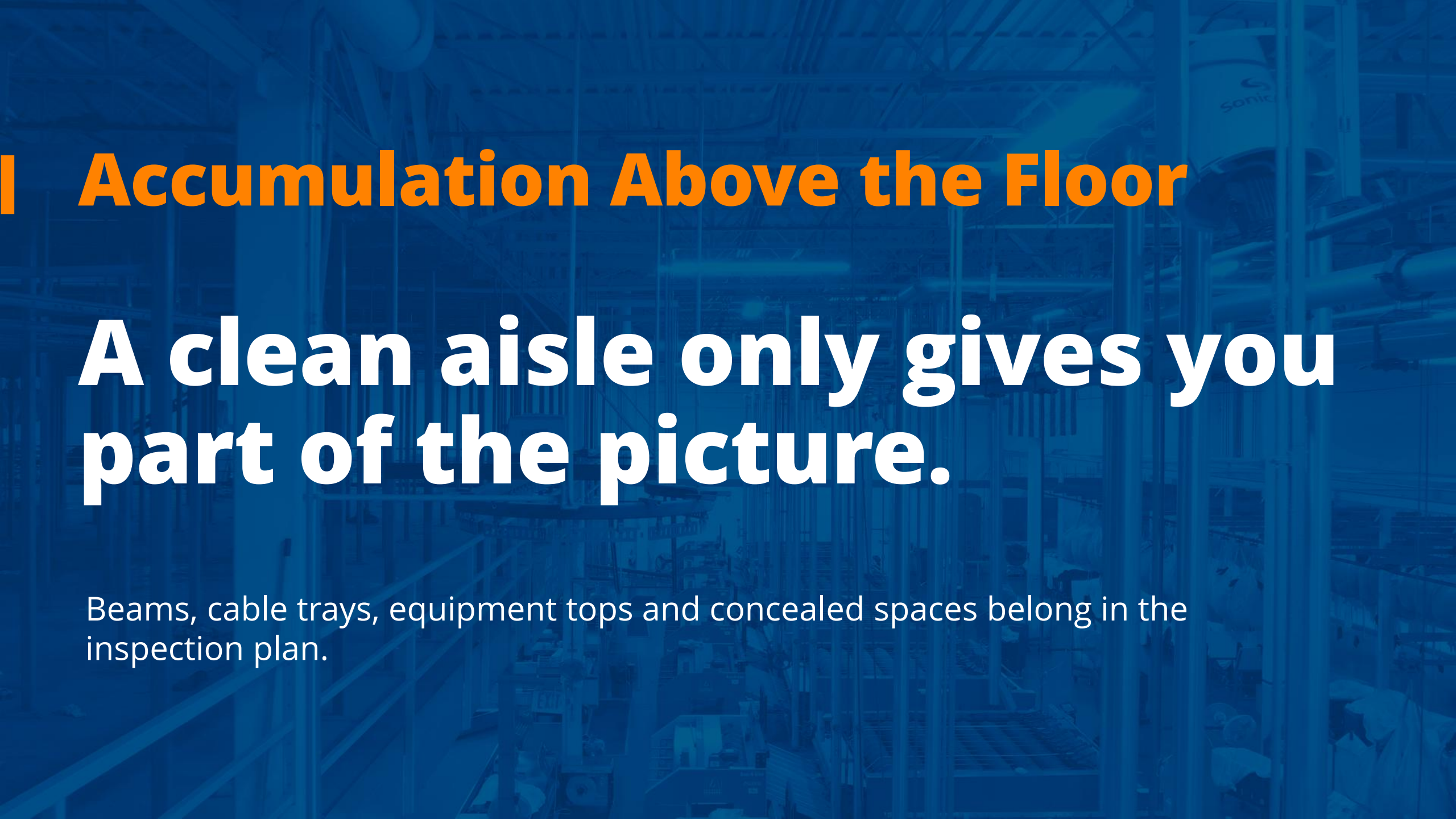
Equipment

- Clarified bonding and grounding
- Metal-dust vacuum test standards

People

- Specified training elements
- Refresher training frequency

Update highlights: the method and equipment deserve the same attention as the cleaning schedule.



Accumulation Above the Floor

A clean aisle only gives you part of the picture.

Beams, cable trays, equipment tops and concealed spaces belong in the inspection plan.

S-T-A Applied to Dust Controls

Source	Contain releases and capture at source
Transport	Manage dust movement and migration
Accumulation	Prevent buildup and remove dust

Ignition control, required fire and explosion protection, and emergency planning support the complete program.

SonicAire's Role in the Plan

Prevent overhead dust accumulation.

NFPA 660 §9.5.3 addresses fans for continuous dust control.
Material-specific provisions and application conditions still apply.



Five Actions After This Session

1. Source: identify dust streams and representative data
2. Transport: trace intended and unintended pathways
3. Accumulation: inspect buildup and removal practices
4. Review NFPA 660 updates and open DHA actions
5. Assign owners and verify safeguards in practice

Source. Transport. Accumulation. One practical next action with an accountable owner.

Questions

Where does your dust go?

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Q&A Reference: Continuing Obligations

- DHA review and update at least every five years
- Changes handled through management of change
- Accumulation criteria depend on the applicable provisions
- Existing facilities require an applicability and retroactivity review

A new standard number does not reset prior obligations or create one universal deadline.

Continuous Dust Control

- Material and location suitability
- Coverage, runtime and suppression interlocks
- No explosible cloud or hazardous relocation
- Initial cleanup, ongoing removal and inspection



Section 9.5.3 is conditional permission. The complete requirements and commodity provisions govern.

Sources and Scope

NFPA 660, 2025 edition
Origin and Development, Chapters 1–10, applicable commodity chapters

NFPA standard development and free access
nfpa.org / link.nfpa.org

OSHA combustible dust resources
osha.gov/combustible-dust

U.S. Chemical Safety Board
West Pharmaceutical Services investigation

SonicAire
Official product and application information

Selected update highlights and recommended plant actions. Facility-specific applicability requires review of the current standard.