

Safe Usage of Flammable Liquids in Cleaning Operations



Nearly every place of business has occasion to use flammable or combustible liquids. Often times solvents are used in cleaning operations or at point-of-use in production lines. OSHA regulations require that flammable liquids be kept in covered containers. Fulfillment of this requirement is met in great part by the use of several types of Justrite FM approved specialty containers.

Plunger Cans for Moistening Cleaning Rags

FM approved plunger cans provide the safest method of wetting cloths with flammable liquids for cleaning parts and equipment. The cans are constructed with a spring-loaded pedestal on which a dispensing tray with a perforated metal flame arrester is mounted. A cloth placed in the tray is pressed down to pump liquid from the can into the tray, wetting the cloth. When the cloth is picked up, any excess liquid safely drains back into the can. Can bodies are galvanized steel or polyethylene, come in different sizes, and are offered in red or yellow to help differentiate liquids or for use by different work shifts.

Bench Cans for Cleaning

FM approved bench cans are recommended for dipping and rinsing

of small parts and also for wetting of large cloths with flammable liquids.

A perforated, spring-loaded dasher tray covers the opening of the wide, shallow can. Flammable liquid in the can is below the tray level and the tray itself serves as a flame arrester screen. Large cleaning cloths put onto the tray and pressed down are wetted with liquid, the excess of which will drain off safely when the dasher is allowed to return to its upper position above the liquid level.

Small parts put onto the dasher tray and lowered into the liquid are also drained automatically when the dasher is allowed to rise. For convenience in handling, a parts basket that fits into the dasher tray permits immersing small parts. A variety of sizes are available.

FM approved Rinse and Cleaning Tanks

Tanks for dipping or washing parts in flammable liquids are available in floor and bench styles. Justrite floor-type 11 gallon (42 Litre) and 22 gallon (84 Litre) rinse tanks have self-closing lids which are opened by a foot bar. A pneumatic check prevents lid banging and hand injuries when the lid opener is released.

Justrite bench-style wash and dip tanks are manufactured in round configurations up to 8 gallon (30 Litre) capacity. Both types have manually operated lids which remain open while the tank is in use. In the event of fire in the tank, a fusible link which melts at 165°F (74°C) causes the lid to close automatically to snuff out the flame.

Drain baskets facilitate washing quantities of small parts quickly. The operator simply places parts in the

drain basket, agitates the basket in the solvent to clean away dirt and grease and lifts the basket to the drain position.

All parts being cleaned in tanks of flammable liquids, whether small parts in drain baskets or larger workpieces that are individually washed, should be thoroughly drained before being taken away from the tanks.

Filling and draining of rinse and dip tanks must be done with safety containers. Regular safety cans may be used to fill and replenish tanks while safety drain cans should be used to empty contents.

Dispensing Containers

Dispensing containers are a convenient way to apply small amounts of flammables. A polyethylene dispensing bottle with a stainless steel wire allows the stem to be shaped to reach "hard-to-get-at" areas. A simple squeeze can target liquids directly onto parts or cleaning cloths.

FM approved nonmetallic dispenser cans permit easy, one-hand application of liquid onto work surface or into a small vessel such as a laboratory beaker. Brass dispenser valve is leakproof and self closes when released to minimize spills and control excess.

