

## HR 849

Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act of 2009

**Congress:** 111 (2009–2011, Ended)

**Chamber:** House

**Policy Area:** Labor and Employment

**Introduced:** Feb 4, 2009

**Current Status:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.

**Latest Action:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. (Mar 23, 2009)

**Official Text:** <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-bill/849>

### Sponsor

**Name:** Rep. Miller, George [D-CA-7]

**Party:** Democratic • **State:** CA • **Chamber:** House

### Cosponsors (2 total)

Cosponsor	Party / State	Role	Date Joined
Rep. Barrow, John [D-GA-12]	D · GA		Feb 4, 2009
Rep. Woolsey, Lynn C. [D-CA-6]	D · CA		Feb 4, 2009

### Committee Activity

Committee	Chamber	Activity	Date
Education and Workforce Committee	House	Referred to	Mar 23, 2009

### Subjects & Policy Tags

**Policy Area:**

Labor and Employment

### Related Bills

*No related bills are listed.*

Worker Protection Against Combustible Dust Explosions and Fires Act of 2009 - Requires the Secretary of Labor to promulgate an interim final standard regulating combustible dusts, which shall apply to manufacturing, processing, blending, conveying, repackaging, and handling of combustible particulate solids and their dusts (including organic dusts, plastics, sulfur, wood, rubber, furniture, textiles, pesticides, pharmaceuticals, fibers, dyes, coal, metals, and fossil fuels), but shall not apply to processes already covered by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) standard on grain facilities.

Requires such standard to provide requirements for: (1) a hazard assessment to identify, evaluate, and control combustible dust hazards; (2) a written program that includes provisions for hazardous dust inspection, testing, hot work, ignition control, and housekeeping; (3) engineering controls, administrative controls, and operating procedures; (4) housekeeping to prevent accumulation of combustible dust in places of employment in depths that can present explosion, deflagration, or other fire hazards, including safe methods of dust removal; (5) employee participation in hazard assessment, development of and compliance with the written program, and other elements of hazard management; and (6) providing safety and health information and annual training to employees.

Provides an exemption from otherwise applicable rulemaking requirements for the interim standard but not for the final standard.

Provides that such interim standard shall have the legal effect of an occupational safety and health standard and shall apply until a final standard becomes effective.

Requires the Secretary of Labor to promulgate a final occupational safety and health standard regulating combustible dust explosions that has the same scope and worker protection provisions as the interim rule and provides requirements for: (1) managing change of dust producing materials, technology, equipment, staffing, and procedures; (2) building design, such as explosion venting, ducting, and sprinklers; and (3) explosion protection, including separation and segregation of the hazard. Requires the final rule to include relevant and appropriate provisions of the National Fire Protection Association combustible dust standards.

Requires the Secretary to revise the hazard communications standard to amend the definition of "physical hazard" to include "a combustible dust" as an additional example of such a hazard.

## **Actions Timeline**

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- **Mar 23, 2009:** Referred to the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections.
- **Feb 4, 2009:** Introduced in House
- **Feb 4, 2009:** Referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor.