CUTTING AND WELDING GUIDELINES

1. Welding or other hot work should be supervised by qualified individuals such as a welding superintendent, maintenance foreman, plant engineer, or master mechanic.

2. The supervisor and the welder should examine the location of any proposed work and make sure that the equipment used is in good condition. The person using the equipment should thoroughly check valves, regulators, hoses, and torches.

3. Before any cutting or welding operations begin, thoroughly sweep clean the welding work area and area within 35 feet (including the area beneath if work is done on the saw floor, and all chain troughs and other concealed spaces), and then thoroughly wet down all of these areas.

4. During the welding operation, both a water hose and at least a 20 lb. dry chemical fire extinguisher should be available for emergency use.

5. The welding contractor or individual welder should use a welding curtain to prevent sparks and hot slag from being spread outside the work area. Responsible persons should be assigned to watch for dangerous sparks and hot slag in the welding work area and on the floors above and below while the work is being performed.

6. When using electrical arc welding equipment, the ground clamp should be carefully connected. Since an improperly made ground can be a source of ignition, the ground clamp should be connected as close to the work as possible so that it can be easily observed.

7. The welders should use cooling rags (wet cloths) for all pipes and beams which they are cutting to prevent the transfer of thermal energy along the metal to an area which may be in contact with sawdust.

8. Once welding is completed, any welding work area (see No. 3 above) should again be thoroughly wet down, and then a watchman should be posted in the area for at least one hour. The area should be rechecked and wet down again 3 hours after the work has been completed. Very often, a welding fire will occur in the early morning hours after the welding has been completed during the afternoon shift. Hot slag dropping down into an area of combustible material can ignite dust, refuse, or other material after several hours have passed.

9. At the end of the work shift, if a night watchman is on duty, he should be notified of the welding location and surrounding areas (including the areas beneath the sawmill floor) so he can check these areas when making his rounds. A sign or marker system may also be established to mark the area. These signs or markers should be large, mobile and highly visible to allow easy identification of the area in which welding is performed. The watchman should be equipped with a flashlight so that he can better check any poorly visible area.

10. If hot work is performed, please sign and date below:

    Named Insured: _____ Accepted by: _____

    City & State: _____ Date: _____