

COVID-19 PANDEMIC: PROPERTY LOSS PREVENTION

Glass Furnaces

At FM Global we remain committed to providing our clients with the best property loss prevention advice to keep your facilities resilient and safe, particularly during these challenging times. Industry is adapting rapidly to the new demands caused by these challenges. These can have an impact on property risks and resulting business interruption for the glass industry. Trends we are observing include:

- Some glass plants are continuing to run at normal rates but with less on-site personnel. This could cause less maintenance, inspection and testing of critical glass furnace systems such as refractories and cooling water utilities. It could also create conditions where less emergency response personnel are on-site if an event such as glass leak were to occur.
- Other plants may completely shut down due to civil or voluntary action. Turning off a glass melting furnace is not a simple task and must be well managed. Should the decision be made to completely empty and cool a furnace for an extended period there may be challenges in restarting a furnace.
- Conversely, some glass furnaces may be left full of molten glass in a steady state condition whereby raw material feed is stopped and glass is not pulled. This condition will require reliable energy and utilities like cooling water and air and will require an operator presence to monitor conditions.

PROPERTY LOSS PREVENTION ADVICE

To assist you in your efforts to mitigate the potential impact of these risks, the following loss prevention advice will help keep your properties resilient and safe.

- Enact a management of change (MOC) process when a glass plant or glass furnaces in particular will be run with reduced personnel, when completely shut down cold, or when placed in hot standby condition. This will ensure that any new potential risks are properly analyzed using modern process hazard reviews, and that operating procedures are developed and documented for both safe shut down and restart.
- Assure adequate and skilled operator and maintenance resources are present on-site for operating plants and for those on hot standby.
- Clean forming machines and buildings of accumulated oil deposits that represent a fire risk. Ensure that fixed fire suppression systems are in service and inspected and maintained during any outage.

USEFUL RESOURCES

These FM Global resources can provide you with additional information:

- FM Global Data Sheet 7-26, *Glass Manufacturing*, was recently revised and has significant loss prevention advice on furnaces and other glass risks

For more information and methods for addressing loss prevention concerns at your facility, refer to the free resources on FM Global's website at [fmglobal.com](https://www.fmglobal.com). FM Global and AFM clients can contact their account engineer.



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