A flammable/combustible is any substance that is easily ignited, burns intensely, or has a rapid rate of flame spread. For regulatory convenience, flammable and combustible liquids are defined together as any liquid with a flash point below 140° F. This procedure applies to all WHOI shore-side personnel that use and store flammable/combustible liquids. Based on criteria from various standards and codes, including the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and National Fire Protection Association (NFPA), some key flammable/combustible liquid requirements for shore-side locations and operations are listed below.

- Gasoline containers, diesel fuel containers, and propane tanks for BBQ grills shall not be stored or used in occupied buildings. Gasoline and diesel fuel shall only be stored in approved containers.
- Minimize the amount of flammable liquids that are in use, being stored, and that are generated as wastes.
  - Flammable/combustible liquid storage containers shall be as small as possible and comply with NFPA criteria (contact EH&S for assistance).
  - Glass containers shall not be stored on the floor, unless protected with secondary containment.
- Due to the presence of possible unprotected ignition sources (e.g., light bulbs and electrical switches in an enclosed space), standard household refrigerators and freezers shall not be used to store flammables.
  - Only refrigerators and freezers that are approved and rated for flammables shall be used to store flammables.
- Storage of flammable liquids greater than 10 gallons, including the working inventory, within a laboratory/space fire control area must be in an approved and labeled flammable storage cabinet.
  - Flammable storage cabinets must be listed by Factory Mutual, Underwriters Laboratory or other equivalent testing agency.
  - The flammable storage cabinets should be labeled: Flammables - Keep Fire Away.
  - If a flammable storage cabinet is required for a lab/space, all flammable/combustible liquids must be returned to the cabinet at the end of the work shift.
- Incompatible materials (e.g., oxidizers) shall not be stored adjacent to flammables. Secondary containment bins may be needed to isolate incompatible chemicals.
- Flammable storage cabinets should not be stored near doors, hallways, common egress points, near hot work locations (welding, burning, cutting areas), or near other potential ignition sources.
- The flammable storage cabinets should not be altered (e.g., vented), unless approved by the EH&S office.
- An individual lab/space fire control area shall not store more than 30 gallons of flammable liquids without authorization from the EH&S Office. This limit drops to 10 gallons for lower hazard occupancies.
- Additional requirements and limitations on the use and storage of flammables/combustibles may be necessary, e.g., material-specific requirements for highly hazardous materials, bonding/grounding, etc. The Safety Data Sheet (SDS) shall be reviewed by the user of the materials for additional safety requirements.
- Flammable/combustible solids may require special handling and storage precautions that are described in the SDS.
- The use of flammable gasses (e.g., hydrogen, methane) may require additional controls - contact EH&S to evaluate.