



## U. S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board RECOMMENDATION STATUS CHANGE SUMMARY

<b>Report:</b>	Didion Milling Company Explosion and Fire
<b>Recommendation Number:</b>	2017-07-I-WI-R12
<b>Date Issued:</b>	December 6, 2023
<b>Recipient:</b>	Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA)
<b>New Status:</b>	Open – Awaiting Response or Evaluation/Approval of Response
<b>Date of Status Change:</b>	Not Applicable – Initial Status

### Recommendation Text:

*Develop a program to trigger follow-up inspections when hazard alert letters are issued for combustible dust hazards and there is insufficient evidence to demonstrate that those hazards have been abated.*

### Board Status Change Decision:

#### A. Rationale for Recommendation

On May 31, 2017, an explosion and fire occurred at the Didion Milling, Inc. (Didion) facility in Cambria, Wisconsin. The fire spread throughout the facility resulting in multiple combustible dust explosions both within and external to the production equipment.

Five employees of Didion were fatally injured as the result of the incident. An additional 14 employees were injured. Several of the fatalities and injuries were caused by exposure to the flames generated by the combustible dust explosions and flash fires, while others can be attributed to the collapse of the buildings. The incident resulted in an estimated \$15.37 million in property damage.

The U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board (CSB) investigated the incident and found several safety issues including ineffective combustible dust safety management, ineffective process safety leadership, and a lack of regulatory coverage for combustible dusts. As a result of these findings, the CSB issued three recommendations to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). This status change summary addresses CSB Recommendation No. 2017-07-I-WI-R12.