Chapter 296-303 WAC
SAFETY STANDARDS FOR LAUNDRY MACHINERY AND OPERATIONS

WAC 296-303-010 Laundry machinery and operations—Scope and application. This chapter applies to moving parts of equipment used in laundries and to conditions peculiar to this industry, with special reference to the point of operation of laundry machines. This chapter does not apply to dry-cleaning operations.

WAC 296-303-01001 General industrial safety standards. (1) General. These standards shall be augmented by the Washington state general safety and health standards, and any other regulations of general application which are or will be made applicable to all industries.

(2) Additional requirements. The employer shall comply with the provisions of the standards referenced in this section. In the event of any conflict between this section and WAC 296-303-015 through 296-303-040, the requirements of WAC 296-303-015 through 296-303-040 shall apply. The provisions of this chapter shall prevail in the event of conflict with, or duplication of, provisions contained in chapters 296-24, 296-62, and 296-800 WAC.


(b) Floor and wall openings, railings, and toeboards. American National Standard Safety Requirements for Floor and Wall Openings, Railings, and Toeboards, ANSI 12.1-1956.


(2) "Ironer" means a hand- or power-operated machine, excluding printing, bleaching, dry cleaning, or dyeing of clothes or other textiles.

(3) "Marking machine" means a power-driven machine used for marking clothes or other textiles.

(4) "Washing machine" means a power-driven machine used for washing clothes or other textiles. It generally consists of a stationary casing or shell inside of which is a revolving perforated cylinder.

(5) "Extractor" means a power-driven centrifugal machine used for removing surplus moisture from clothes or other textiles by centrifugal action.

(6) "Wringing" machine used for removing surplus moisture from clothes or other textiles.

(7) "Starch mixer" means a power-driven machine used for mixing or processing starch.

(8) "Starching machine" means a power-driven machine used for the starching of clothes or other textiles.

(9) "Shaker" (clothes tumbler) means a revolving cylinder.

(10) "Drying room" means an enclosure used for drying clothes or other textiles, and containing any power-driven mechanism.

(11) "Dampening machine" means a machine used for dampening clothes or other textiles.

(12) "Irons" means a hand- or power-operated machine, with one or more rolls or heated surfaces in contact, used for ironing or smoothing clothes or other textiles.
"inching device." Prevent the movement of the inner cylinder under the action of power when the outer door on the case or shell is in motion.

(b) Each washing machine shall be provided with means for holding open the doors or covers of inner and outer cylinders or shells while being loaded or unloaded. Spring loaded devices are an acceptable means.

(3) Extractor.
(a) Each extractor shall be equipped with a metal cover.
(b) Each extractor shall be equipped with an interlocking device that will prevent the cover from being opened while the basket is in motion, and will also prevent the power operation of the basket while the cover is not fully closed and secured. This device should not prevent the movement of the basket by hand to ensure an even loading.

(c) Each extractor shall also be effectively secured in position on the floor or foundation so as to eliminate unnecessary vibrations, and shall not be operated at a speed greater than that given in the manufacturer's rating, which shall be stamped on the inside of the basket where it is easily visible, in letters not less than one-fourth inch in height. The maximum permissible speed shall be given in revolutions per minute.

(d) Each engine individually driving an extractor shall be provided with an approved engine stop and a speed-limit governor. It is suggested that where an extractor is driven by a direct-current motor a "no field" release be installed to prevent overspeed, which may result from an open or broken field.

(4) Power wringer. Each power wringer shall be equipped with a safety bar or other guard across the entire front of the feed or first pressure rolls, so arranged that the striking of the bar or guard by the hand of the operator or other person will stop the machine.

WAC 296-303-02003 Starching and drying machines. (1) Starching machine (cylinder or box type).
Each starching machine, cylinder or box type, shall be enclosed or guarded so as to prevent the operator or other person from coming into accidental contact with the cylinder or box while the machine is in motion.

(2) Drying-room fan. Each drying-room fan, any part of which is within 7 feet of the floor or working platform, shall be guarded with wire mesh or screen of not less than No. 16 gauge, the openings of which will reject a ball one-half inch in diameter.

(3) Drying tumbler.
(a) Each drying tumbler shall be equipped with an interlocking device that will prevent the inside cylinder from moving under power when the outer door on the case or shell is open, and also prevent the door from being opened while the inside cylinder is in motion. This device should not prevent the movement of the inner cylinder under the action of a hand-operated mechanism or under the operation of an "inching device."

(b) Each drying tumbler shall be provided with means for holding open the doors or covers of inner and outer cylinders or shells while being loaded or unloaded.
WAC 296-303-02005 Finishing machines. (1) Dampening machine. Each roll-dampening machine shall be so equipped that the rolls will be entirely enclosed and so arranged as to prevent the fingers of the operator or other person from being caught between the rolls. This may be accomplished by:

(a) A slot or hopper;

(b) A rod or strip located directly in front of the feed and extending the full length of the rolls.

(2) Ironer.

(a) Each flat-work or collar ironer shall be equipped with a safety bar or other guard across the entire front of the feed or first pressure rolls, so arranged that the striking of the bar or guard by the hand of the operator or other person will stop the machine. The pressure rolls shall be covered or guarded so that the operator or other person cannot reach into the rolls without removing the guard. This may be either a vertical guard on all sides or a complete cover. If a vertical guard is used, the distance from the floor or working platform to the top of guard shall be not less than six feet.

(b) Each body-type ironer, roll or shoe type, including sleeve and band ironers, shall be equipped with a safety bar or other guard across the entire length of the feed roll or shoe, so arranged that the striking of the bar or guard by the hand of the operator or other person will stop the machine. The hot roll or shoe shall also be covered in such a way that the operator or other person cannot come into contact with the heated surfaces.

(c) Each combined rotary-bosom and coat ironer shall be equipped with a safety bar or other guard across the entire length of the feed roll or shoe, so arranged that the striking of the bar or guard by the hand of the operator or other person will stop the machine. The hot roll or shoe shall also be covered in such a way that the operator or other person cannot come into contact with the heated surfaces.

(b) The tumbler shall also be enclosed or guarded so as to prevent accidental contact by the operator or other person while the machine is in motion.

(c) Each shaker or clothes tumbler of the double-cylinder type shall be equipped with an interlocking device that will prevent the inside cylinder from moving when the outer door on the case or shell is open and will also prevent the door from being opened while the inside cylinder is in motion. This device should not prevent the movement of the inner cylinder under the action of a hand-operated mechanism or under the operation of an inching device.

(d) Each shaker or clothes tumbler of the double-cylinder type shall be provided with means for holding open the doors or covers of inner and outer cylinders or shells while being loaded or unloaded.

(5) Exception. Provisions of (3), (4)(a), (c) and (d) of this section shall not apply to shakeout or conditioning tumblers where the clothes are loaded into the open end of the revolving cylinder and are automatically discharged out of the opposite end.

WAC 296-303-02007 Miscellaneous machines and equipment. (1) Sewing machine. Each sewing machine shall be equipped with a guard permanently attached to the machine, so that the operator’s fingers cannot pass under the needle. It shall be of such form that the needle can be conveniently threaded without removing the guard. This requirement will not apply to domestic-type sewing machines having a presser-foot which is in the “down” position during operation of the machine.

(a) Each shaker or clothes tumbler of the single-cylinder type shall be covered or guarded so that the operator's fingers cannot pass under the inner cylinder. The pressure or first pressure rolls, so arranged that the striking of the bar or guard by the hand of the operator or other person will stop the machine. The hot roll or shoe shall also be covered in such a way that the operator or other person cannot come into contact with the heated surfaces.

(d) Each ironing press (excluding hand or foot powered ones) shall be equipped with a guard or means that will prevent the fingers of the operator or other person from being caught between the ironing surfaces.

WAC 296-303-02501 General. (1) Floors.

(a) The floors of every room in a laundry that are used for washing purposes shall be properly constructed of cement, tile, or similar material. The floors shall be watertight, free from projections, crevices, or dangerous gradients. They shall be maintained in good repair and so drained that no water may accumulate.

(b) The floors of every room except washrooms shall be constructed of hardwood or any impervious material, free
from protruding nails, splinters, or loose boards, and shall be so maintained.

(2) Table tops, shelves, and machine woodwork. Table tops, shelves, and machine woodwork shall be constructed of materials properly surfaced, finished free from splinters, and so maintained.

(3) Markers. Markers and others handling soiled clothes shall be warned against touching the eyes, mouth, or any part of the body on which the skin has been broken by a scratch or abrasion; and they shall be cautioned not to touch or eat food until their hands have been thoroughly washed.

(4) Ventilation. Where artificial ventilation is necessary to the maintenance of comfortable working conditions, an adequate ventilating system shall be installed as specified in WAC 296-62-110 of the general occupational health standards.

(5) Instruction of employees. Employees shall be properly instructed as to the hazards of their work and be instructed in safe practices, by bulletins, printed rules, and verbal instructions.

[Order 74-18, § 296-303-02501, filed 5/6/74.]

296-303-02503 Mechanical. (1) Safety guards.

(a) No safeguard, safety appliance, or device attached to, or forming an integral part of any machinery shall be removed or made ineffective except for the purpose of making immediate repairs or adjustments. Any such safeguard, safety appliance, or device removed or made ineffective during the repair or adjustment of such machinery shall be replaced immediately upon the completion of such repairs or adjustments.

(b) No machine shall be operated until such repairs and adjustments have been made and the machine is in good working condition.

(2) Steam-pressure apparatus. Steam machines shall not be operated at a pressure above that given by the manufacturer's pressure rating as shown on name plate. If the steam source is at a pressure higher than that given by the manufacturer's rating, a stop valve, reducing valve, pressure gauge, and safety valve shall be installed, in the order named, from the source. The safety valve shall be located in a nonhazardous place.

(3) Machine adjustments. No moving parts of any machine shall be oiled, cleaned, adjusted, or repaired while said machine is in operation or in motion except that the rolls of adjusting machines not equipped with hand-power means shall be operated at the slowest speed possible with an operator constantly at the starting mechanism.

(4) Extractors. Each extractor shall be dismantled and inspected at least once a year and, if necessary, repaired. Overdriven extractors, if provided with handholes through which basket and rings can be inspected, need not be dismantled.

[Order 74-18, § 296-303-02503, filed 5/6/74.]

296-303-030 Moving parts. (1) Machine guarding (other than point of operation). Moving parts of machines, such as gears, sprockets, belts, pulleys, and shafts, shall be guarded in accordance with the requirements of chapter 296-806 WAC, Machine safety.

(2) Prime-mover guarding. Moving parts of prime movers such as fly-wheels, cranks and connecting rods, tail rods or extension piston rods, and governor balls, shall be guarded in accordance with the requirements of chapter 296-806 WAC, Machine safety.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17-060. 04-14-028, § 296-303-030, filed 6/29/04, effective 1/1/05; Order 74-18, § 296-303-030, filed 5/6/74.]

WAC 296-303-040 Starting and stopping devices. (1) Each power-driven machine shall be provided with means for disconnecting from the source of power. Starting and stopping devices for machines shall be so located as to be operable from the front of the machine, and so constructed as to allow proper guarding of belts and pulleys.

(2) Doors of washing machines, extractors, and tumbler/shaker dryer machines, shall have a cut-off micro switch or other method to shut off power when loading doors are opened, making inner cylinder, tumbler, or shaker mechanisms inoperative while the door is open. In those situations where the cylinder or mechanism continues to rotate/move, and present a hazard after the power is off, an interlocking device, breaking switch, or a time-delay switch is additionally required to prevent injury.

[Statutory Authority: Chapter 49.17 RCW. 89-11-035 (Order 89-03), § 296-303-040, filed 5/15/89, effective 6/30/89; Order 74-18, § 296-303-040, filed 5/6/74.]