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 must 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. You must 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 must apply. The provisions of this chapter must 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.


(3) WAC 296-24-012 and 296-800-360 must apply where applicable to this industry.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-303-01001, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; WSR 07-03-163, § 296-303-01001, filed 1/24/07, effective 4/1/07. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, and 49.17.050. WSR 01-11-038, § 296-303-01001, filed 5/9/01, effective 9/1/01; Order 74-18, § 296-303-01001, filed 5/6/74.]
Point of operation. The point or points at which clothes or other textiles are inserted or manipulated in the operation of the machine.

Power transmission. Pertains to equipment such as shafting, gears, belts, pulleys, or other parts used for transmitting power to the machine, and shall include prime movers.

Prime movers. Includes steam, gas, oil, and air engines or motors, and steam and hydraulic turbines.

Safety interlock. A device that will prevent the operation of the machine while the cover or door is open or unlocked and will hold the cover or door closed and locked while the basket or cylinder is in motion.

Sewing machine. A machine used for sewing or stitching clothes or other textiles.

Shaker (clothes tumbler). A revolving cylinder used for shaking out clothes or other textiles.

Shaping machine. A power-driven machine used to shape, mold, or otherwise finish clothes or other textiles; this term shall also include shaping tables, stands, or shelves upon which the machine may be mounted.

Starching mixer. A power-driven machine used for mixing or processing starch.

Starching machine. A power-driven machine used for the starching of clothes or other textiles.

Washing machine. A power-driven machine used for washing clothes or other textiles. It generally consists of a stationary case or shell inside of which is a revolving perforated cylinder.

Wringer. One or more power-driven rolls used for removing surplus moisture from clothes or other textiles.

(b) Each washing machine must 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 must be equipped with a metal cover.
   (b) Each extractor must 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 must also be effectively secured in position on the floor or foundation so as to eliminate unnecessary vibrations, and must not be operated at a speed greater than that given in the manufacturer’s rating, which must 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 must be given in revolutions per minute.

(d) Each engine individually driving an extractor must 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 must 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.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-303-01003, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; Order 74-18, § 296-303-01003, filed 5/6/74.]

WAC 296-303-02003 Starching and drying machines. (1) Starching machine (cylinder or box type). Each starching machine, cylinder or box type, must 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, must 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 must 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 must 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 must 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 must 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 must 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 must not be less than six feet.

(b) Each body-type ironer, roll or shoe type, including sleeve and band ironers, must 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 must 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 must 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 must 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) must 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.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-303-02005, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; Order 74-18, § 296-303-02005, filed 5/6/74.]

WAC 296-303-02007 Miscellaneous machines and equipment. (1) Sewing machine. Each sewing machine must be equipped with a guard permanently attached to the machine, so that the operator's fingers cannot pass under the needle. It must 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.

(b) Where pressure-reducing valves are used, one or more relief or safety valves must be provided on the low-pressure side of the reducing valve, in case the piping or equipment on the low-pressure side does not meet the requirements for full initial pressure. The relief or safety valve must be located adjacent to, or as close as possible to, the reducing valve. Relief and safety valves vented to the atmosphere must be so constructed as to prevent injury or damage caused by fluid escaping from relief or safety valves. The vents must be of ample size and as short and direct as possible. The combined discharge capacity of the relief valves must be such that the pressure rating of the lower-pressure piping and equipment will not be exceeded if the reducing valve sticks or fails to open.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 89-11-035 (Order 89-03), § 296-303-02007, filed 5/6/74.]
They must be maintained in good repair and drained so that no water may accumulate.

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

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

(3) Markers. Markers and others handling soiled clothes must 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 must 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 must be installed as specified in chapter 296-62 WAC, Part L of the general occupational health standards.

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

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

(a) No safeguard, safety appliance, or device attached to, or forming an integral part of any machinery must 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 must be replaced immediately upon the completion of such repairs or adjustments.

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

(2) Steam-pressure apparatus. Steam machines must 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 must be installed, in the order named, from the source. The safety valve must be located in a nonhazardous place.

(3) Machine adjustments. No moving parts of any machine must 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 must be operated at the slowest speed possible with an operator constantly at the starting mechanism.

(4) Extractors. Each extractor must 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.

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

(2) Doors of washing machines, extractors, and tumbler/shaker dryer machines, must 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: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, and 49.17.060. WSR 17-18-075, § 296-303-02503, filed 9/5/17, effective 10/6/17; Order 74-14-028, § 296-303-040, filed 6/29/04, effective 1/1/05; Order 74-18, § 296-303-040, filed 5/6/74.]