



FIRE SAFETY MANAGEMENT

LAUNDRY EQUIPMENT

GOOD PRACTICE GUIDANCE

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INTRODUCTION

There are several key controls to reduce the risk of fires associated to laundry equipment. This document summarises the common laundry equipment checks and good practices that businesses should implement to lower the risk of fires. Specific sections also highlight crucial end-of-day inspections that should be considered.

WASHER EXTRACTORS / CONTINUOUS BATCH WASHERS (CBW)

1. A list of programme numbers indicating which products to be washed on which programmes should be displayed on the machine(s).
2. The dosing of chemicals ought to be validated on a regular basis to ensure that the contaminants are being removed from textiles.
3. Cable management underneath washer extractors and CBW should be well maintained with cables fed through proper conduit.
4. Washer Extractors and CBW's should have regular planned preventative maintenance conducted.
5. Control panels and electrical panels should remain closed and secure.

SHRINK WRAP OVENS

1. Shrink wrap ovens should have regular planned preventive maintenance conducted.
2. Shrink wrap ovens should have a means of fire detection directly above the unit for rapid fire detection and warning.
3. All debris should be removed from shrink-wrap ovens, particularly plastic debris, as part of the daily and weekly housekeeping routines.
4. *End Of Day Inspection:*
 - Shrink wrap oven/s – switched to “cool down” for a period prior to switching off.
 - Shrink wrap oven/s – check to ensure no items are inside the oven.

DRYERS

1. A list of programme numbers indicating which products to be dried on which programmes should be displayed on the machine(s).
2. Tumble dryers (i.e. manual or automatic) should operate a “cool down” process at the end of each load. In addition, where possible, tumble dryers should be fitted with infrared controls.
3. Staff should be trained to avoid manually initiating the dryer unload before the end of the cool-down cycle.
4. Where extraction ducts for dryers run through the roof/walls and are identified as being in contact with combustible materials, then they should be surrounded with a mineral wool insulation layer (or a double-skinned non-combustible sleeve), in order to prevent any fire spreading to the roof/walls.

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5. Flue liners should have an inspection hatch fitted which can aid cleaning on a regular basis. If there is no hatch or method of cleaning, then the entire flue should be limited to 5 years before replacement.
6. Careful consideration should be given the outlet of any flue to avoid any lint debris build up on roofs.
7. Roofs should be subject to regular inspection and cleaning to avoid lint build up especially at the exit of dryer flues.
8. *End Of Day Inspection:*
 - Tumble dryers – filters are cleaned and doors left open.
 - Tumble dryers - Shut off all gas feeds at the equipment
 - Has all dried linen not yet folded left on conveyors, and in barrows been temperature checked (inside stack), and are they at or below 55°C?

GARMENT TUNNEL FINISHERS

1. Motors & impellers should be subject to a maintenance cleaning regime.
2. Extraction & feeder chambers and ducts should be subject to a maintenance cleaning regime.
3. Burner area should be subject to a maintenance cleaning regime.
4. All accessible filters (blowers, burners etc) should be subject to a cleaning each shift.
5. Electrical cables and connections should be subject to a maintenance cleaning and inspection regime.
6. Diffusion hood and fins & recirculation ducts should be subject to a maintenance cleaning regime.
7. Ground filter and below filter – twice per shift.
8. Fallen linen should be removed once per shift as a minimum.
9. *End Of Day Inspection:*
 - a. Garment Tunnel Finisher - shut off all gas feeds at the equipment.
 - b. Garment Tunnel Finisher - check and remove any fallen linen.

COMPRESSORS AND BOILERS

1. Maintain the cleanliness of boilers and compressors.
2. Ensure that the boilers and compressors are serviced in line with the manufacturer's recommendations.
3. Compressors and boilers should be subject to any statutory inspection and written scheme of examination by a competent person.
4. *End Of Day Inspection:*
 - a. Air compressor/s and Air dryers – switched off.
 - b. Boiler/s – shut down & switched off.
 - c. Shut off all gas feeds at the equipment

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IRONERS

1. Where extraction ducts from ironers run through the roof/walls and are identified as being in contact with combustible materials, then they must be surrounded with a mineral wool insulation layer (or a double skinned non-combustible sleeve), to prevent any fire spreading to the roof/walls
2. *End Of Day Inspection:*
 - a. Ironer (under, on top, in & around). Completed once per week as a minimum
 - b. All motors on ironers to be cleaned once per week
 - c. All rotative cylinders edges & bearing blocks – Once per week
 - d. Full cleaning inside (dust & wax/grease residues) – Once per week
 - e. Fix any leakage inside
 - f. Cylinder bearing blocks – Oiling & visual check if remote oiling unit – Once per week
 - g. Ironer chimneys to be internally cleaned every 3 months to remove lint/wax if fitted with access hatches
 - h. Shut off all gas feeds at the equipment
 - i. Ironer/s – no work within the ironer.

ELECTRICAL CABINETS

1. Electrical panels/cabinets and IT equipment within production areas, including all cable trays and piping, should never exceed a level of 3mm of lint and should be subject to regular cleaning.

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Questions or comments to:

Shyju Skariah

Director Programmes and Projects

E: shyju.skariah@tsa-uk.org

Textile Services Association

Venture House, 2 Arlington Square

Downshire Way, Bracknell

RG12 1WA

E: tsa@tsa-uk.org

T: 020 3151 5600



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