

Government of Maharashtra
Directorate of Industrial Safety and Health

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Subject: GUIDELINES FOR SAFE OPERATION OF GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES

Introduction:

In the current situation of Covid-19 lockdown, the inspection of all the factories may not be possible by this directorate. Hence all such type of factories are hereby directed to follow the following safety measures in addition to the provisions of The Factories Act, 1948 and The Maharashtra Factories Rules, 1963.

The given guide lines are not exhaustive in nature; any additional precaution as may be necessary based on specific requirement should be adopted by the factory management for safe manufacturing operation of the factory based on the nature of manufacturing activity

GUIDELINES FOR SAFE OPERATION OF GINNING AND PRESSING FACTORIES

Without prejudice to provisions of factory act and rules made there under the following guidelines issued for safe operation of ginning and pressing factories

A. FROM THE MACHINE SAFETY POINT OF VIEW FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED

1. Guards shall be provided to pulleys and belts, couplings , motors and extended part of shaft of each DR machine.
2. Works like maintenance, inspection, adjusting lint cleaner or choke removing work shall not carried out until DR machine is stopped and movement of all rotating parts has stopped.
3. Before inspecting , cleaning or adjusting or maintaining any DR machine, switch of the machine power supply . Workers should not reach inside the machine until all the motion has stopped.
4. If screw conveyor mechanism is provided below floor to carry away cotton seeds . Such screw conveyors shall be substantially covered all the time when machine is working or in use.
5. Every Bale press machine shall provided with warning systems and it shall be ensured for proper working.

6. Bale Press machine shall only be operated by trained operator.
7. It should be ensured that worker should not put any part of the body inside the Bale press box unless the main switches locked.
8. It shall be ensured that worker should not place any part of body beneath the follow block while the arm of bale press machine is in motion.
9. It should be ensured that workers should not enter balepress pitwhile power is on.
10. It should be ensured that workers should stay away from rotating press circle and automatically opening doors. Stay at least five feet from freshly strapped bales before ram is released because of possibility of strap breaking.
11. If workers are manually strapping a bale or working close to a strapped bale , it shall be ensured that workers shall wear protective clothing and gloves in case a fresh tie or strap breaks. If strapping is automatic stay clear of heads and columns of press machine.
12. It should be ensured that workers shall stand clear as bales are ejected and conveyed through the factory.
13. Never attempt to make hydraulic system repairs with a bale in the press or with ram in any position other than lowest. Also depressurise and then use extreme caution when disconnecting flexible hose and other hydraulic fittings. Do not alter settings on the relief valves or pressure switches without consulting manufacturer.
14. Standard operating procedures and cautionary notices shall be displayed in the vicinity of machinery in local language.
15. Loose clothing shall not be permitted while working near machineries.
16. If Pressure plants like air receiver are used in premises of factory same shall got examined from competent person as per provisions of rule 65(4) ofMaharashtra Factories Rules 1963.
17. Pinch/ nip points of rollers and belts of conveyors shall be securely guarded and pull cord shall be provided to stop conveyor in case of emergency. Drives like chain and wheel or pulley and belts used for conveyor belts shall also be guarded to refrain access.
18. Workers working near machinery shall be provided with information, instruction, training and strict supervision.
19. Lock out tag out system shall be followed while maintenance and cleaning of machines.

B. FROM THE FIRE SAFETY POINT OF VIEW FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED

1. Provision shall be made to separate stones from raw cotton initially at hard box to prevent fire due to friction.
2. Cotton is carried in a factory premises in vehicles therefore before entering the vehicle in the premises anti spark device shall be installed on the silencers of vehicles so that chances of fire from heat and spark coming out of silencer can be avoided.

3. Fire extinguishers shall be examined, tested and discharge periodically in accordance with makers recommendation. Minimum 12 spare charges always kept in stock and readily available.
4. There shall be a trained officer in factory who shall be responsible for the proper maintenance and upkeep of all Fire fighting equipments.
5. Ginning factories are seasonal factories and run from November to April. Mock drills shall be carried out at the start of every season to ensure that fire systems are working properly.
6. Cutting, welding , grinding work shall not be carried out in close vicinity of cotton.
7. Heap of cotton or cotton bales shall be stored distant from electric boards, junction boxes and wires. If any guidelines are issued by electrical inspector regarding electrical safety, same shall be followed.

C. FROM THE HEALTH POINT OF VIEW FOLLOWING GUIDELINES SHALL BE FOLLOWED

1. PPEs like nose mask, hair cap, handgloves, aprons etc shall be provided especially nose mask for prevention against cotton dust nuisance. Use of PPEs shall be supervised.
2. Dust collection system shall always kept operational as per the guidelines of MPCB. Sufficient exhaust fans shall be provided in ginning and pressing room.
3. Well replenished First aid box shall be kept in factory. A notice containing the names of a person working within the precincts of the factory who are trained in first aid treatment and who are in charge of the first aid boxes or cupboards shall be pasted in factory at a conspicuous place and near each such box or cupboard. The notice shall also indicate work room where the said person shall be available. The name of the nearest hospital and its telephone number shall also be mentioned prominently in the said notice.

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