

❖ Electrical safety:

- ✓ Careful maintenance of the earthing/grounding arrangement of equipments
- ✓ No overloading of electrical sockets
- ✓ Use equipments of good quality
- ✓ Replace electrical cords if wires are exposed
- ✓ Switch off all appliances at the end of the work day

❖ Fire Prevention

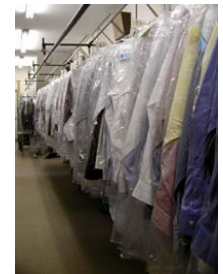
- ✓ Adequate fire extinguishers and alarms, training in fire procedures and designated emergency assembly points

❖ Provision of adequate and appropriate safety signs e.g. NO SMOKING

❖ Good housekeeping helps to prevent accidents caused by blocked passageways, slips and trips

❖ Learn first aid and ensure first aid boxes are available

LAUNDERING AND DRY CLEANING BUSINESS



**OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH SERVICES**

*FACTS ON THE HEALTH
AND SAFETY RISKS*

1. INTRODUCTION

- ❖ Dry cleaning and laundering involves the removal of soils or stains from garments and other fabrics

2. HEALTH AND SAFETY HAZARDS

❖ Physical Hazards

- Heat stress and heat exhaustion is common due to high temperature and humidity
- Noise from machines which can lead to hearing loss

❖ Biological hazards

- Risk of contracting contagious diseases from soiled clothes worn by sick people

❖ Chemical Hazards

- Exposure to various chemicals including:
 - Solvents e.g. perchloroethylene
 - lightheadedness, confusion, nausea
 - Skin irritation, blistering and burns (acute exposure) or dry and cracked skin (chronic exposure)
 - Irritation of eyes, nose and throat
 - Reproductive disorders
 - Liver and kidney damage

- Detergents
 - Asthma caused by hypersensitivity to enzymes in detergents

❖ Ergonomic Hazards

- Cumulative trauma disorders as a result of repetitive motions, awkward posture, prolonged standing and handling of heavy/bulky loads e.g. sorting laundry, loading and unloading machines
- Can give rise to low back ache, hand problems and leg discomfort

❖ Psychosocial Hazards

- Stress due to nuisance noise, boredom, monotony, working alone
- Fatigue

❖ Safety Hazards

- Risk of injury due to:
 - Burns from steamer or iron
 - Slips and trips from spills, obstructed passage or vision
 - Electrical shocks from improperly grounded equipment
- Risk of fires from solvent

3. PREVENTION AND CONTROL

❖ General environmental conditions:

- ✓ Ensure adequate ventilation to reduce heat stress as well as odors, gases, humidity and vapors
- ✓ Adequate illumination and comfortable temperature
- ✓ Floors constructed of non-slip material

❖ Noise control

- ✓ Enclose noisy machines, maintain machines regularly and provide hearing protectors

❖ Ergonomics

- ✓ Proper manual handling/correct lifting techniques-use lifting aids

❖ Protect hands with chemical-resistant gloves; if impractical use a barrier cream

❖ Wear appropriate personal protective equipment e.g. safety shoes with non-skid soles

❖ Job rotation-to change repetitive patterns of work to reduce monotony and slows down development of fatigue