

Occupations Prohibited to Minors

Under 16 Years of Age

Child Labor

DWD 270.12 – Occupations Prohibited to All Minors

(1) Adult Bookstores.

(2) Amusement Parks, Ski Hills, Street Carnivals, and Traveling Shows. Operating, assisting to operate, erecting, dismantling, setting up, adjusting, repairing, oiling, or cleaning of any rides or machinery, or the loading or unloading of passengers, in the operation of amusement park rides, ski hills, street carnivals, or traveling shows.

(3) Asbestos, Chrysotile, Crocidolite, Amosite, Termolite, Anthophyllite, and Actinolite. Occupations involving exposure to these substances.

(4) Bakery Machines.

(5) Bingo. Conducting or assisting in the operation of a bingo game. **Note:** See s. 563.51 (13)(b), Stats.

(6) Brick, Tile, and Similar Products. 1. All work in or about establishments in which clay construction products are manufactured, except work in storage and shipping; work in offices, laboratories, and storerooms; and work in the drying departments of plants manufacturing sewer pipe.
2. All work in or about establishments in which silica brick or other silica refractories are manufactured, except work in offices.

(7) Confined Spaces. No minor may be employed in any occupation or have duties in an environment which by design or construction has limited openings for entry and egress, has unfavorable natural ventilation, could reasonably be believed by the employer to have dangerous air contaminants or contain materials that may produce dangerous air contaminants, and is not intended for human occupancy. This includes storage tanks, compartments of ships, boilers, ventilation and exhaust ducts, and the like.

(8) Coal Mine. Occupations in or about a coal mine, except the occupation of refuse picking at a picking table or picking chute in a tippie or breaker and occupations requiring the performance of duties solely in offices or in repair or maintenance shops located on the surface of a coal mining plant.

(9) Excavation Operations. Excavating, working in, or backfilling trenches, except manually excavating or manually backfilling trenches that do not exceed 4 feet in depth at any point, or working in trenches that do not exceed 4 feet in depth at any point. Excavating for buildings or other structures or working in such excavations, except manually excavating to a depth not exceeding 4 feet below any ground surface adjoining the excavation, or working in an excavation not exceeding such depth, or working in an excavation where the side walls are shored or sloped to the angle of repose. Working within tunnels prior to the completion of all driving and shoring operations. Working within shafts prior to the completion of all sinking and shoring operations.

(10) Exotic Dancers.

(11) Explosives. Occupations in or about plants or establishments manufacturing or storing explosives or articles containing explosive components except that a minor may be employed in a retail establishment in which explosives are sold.

(12) Hoists and Hoisting Apparatus. Operating an elevator, crane, derrick, hoist or high-lift truck, except operating an unattended automatic operation passenger elevator or an electric or air-operated hoist not exceeding one-ton capacity. Work which involves riding on a man lift or on a freight elevator, except a freight elevator operated by an assigned operator. Work of assisting in the operation of a crane, derrick, or hoist performed by crane hookers, crane chasers, hookers-on, riggers, rigger helpers, and like occupations.

(13) Infectious Agent. Occupations or duties involving exposure to infectious agents as defined in s. 101.58 (2) (f), Stats. and specified in ch. Comm 35.

(14) Lifeguards, Swimming Instructors and Aides. Minors 16 and 17 years of age may not be employed as lifeguards and swimming instructors and aides unless they have successfully completed a bona fide life saving course. Minors 14 and 15 years of age may not be employed as lifeguards and swimming instructors and aides.

(15) Liquor. Establishments where liquor is present, except minors 14 to 17 years old may be employed in occupations that do not involve serving, selling, dispensing, or giving away the liquor or acting as bouncers, crowd controllers, or identification checkers.

(16) Lead. Occupations involving exposure to lead, including radiator manufacture and repair, battery manufacture and recycling, removal of lead-based paint, soldering, and welding.

(17) Logging, Sawmill, Lath Mill, Shingle Mill, or Cooperage Stock Mill. All occupations with various exceptions for clerical work, straightening lumber, and piling stock.

(18) Meat Processing. Occupations in or about slaughtering and meat packing establishments; rendering plants; or wholesale, retail, or service establishments, including (a) all occupations on the killing floor, in curing cellars, and in hide cellars; (b) all occupations involved in the recovery of lard and oils, except packaging and shipping of such products and the operation of lard-roll machines; (c) all occupations involved in tannage or rendering of dead animals, animal offal, animal fats, scrap meats, blood, and bones into stock feeds, tallow, inedible greases, fertilizer ingredients, and similar products; (d) all occupations involved in setting-up, adjusting, operating, repairing, oiling, feeding, or cleaning power-driven meat-processing machines, regardless of the product being processed; (e) all boning occupations; (f) all occupations that involve the pushing or dropping of any suspended carcass, half carcass, or quarter carcass; and (g) all occupations involving hand-lifting or hand-carrying any carcass or half carcass of beef, pork, or horse, or any quarter carcass of beef or horse.

(19) Metal-Forming, Punching, and Shearing Power-Driven Machines. Occupations of operator or helper (including setting up, adjusting, repairing, oiling or cleaning (a) rolling machines, such as beading, straightening, corrugating, flanging, or bending rolls; and hot or cold rolling mills; (b) pressing or punching machines, such as punch presses, except those provided with full automatic feed and ejection and with a fixed barrier guard to prevent the hands or fingers of the operator from entering the area between the dies; power presses; and plate punches; (c) bending machines, such as apron brakes and press brakes; (d) hammering machines, such as drop hammers and power hammers; (e) shearing machines, such as guillotine or squaring shears; alligator shears; and rotary shears.

(20) Mining, Other Than Coal. With various exceptions for above-ground work ancillary to the process.

(21) Motor Vehicle Driver and Outside Helper. No minor may be employed as a motor vehicle driver or outside helper on any public road; highway; in or about a mine, including an open pit mine or quarry; in a place where logging or sawmill operations are in progress; or in any excavation of the type identified in sub. (9). Incidental and occasional driving by minors who are at least 17 years of age is allowed if driving is restricted to daylight hours, takes place within a 30-mile radius of the minor's place of employment, and if the vehicle does not exceed 6,000 pounds gross vehicle weight. The minor must also have completed a state-approved driver education course and hold a state license, with no moving violations, valid for the type of driving involved in the job that the minor performs. The motor vehicle must have a seat belt for the driver and for each passenger, and the minor's employer must instruct each minor that the seat belts must be used when driving or riding in the motor vehicle. Moreover, the driving cannot involve towing of vehicles, route deliveries or route sales, transportation of property, goods, or passengers, or urgent, time-sensitive deliveries.

(22) Paper-Products Machines. Occupations involved in the operating, assisting to operate, setting up, adjusting, repairing, oiling, or cleaning any of the following power-driven paper-products machines:

1. Arm-type wire stitcher or stapler, circular or band saw, corner cutter or mitering machine, corrugating and single- or double-facing machine, envelope die-cutting press, guillotine paper cutter or shear, horizontal bar scorer, laminating or combing machine, sheeting machine, scrap paper baler, paper box compactor, or vertical slotter;
2. Platen die-cutting press, platen printing press, or punch press that involves hand feeding of the machine.

(23) Radioactive Substances and Ionizing Radiations. Occupations involving exposure to radioactive substances and to ionizing radiations.

(24) Roofing or Work On or About a Roof.

(25) Saws and Guillotine Shears. Occupations of operator or helper, including setting up, adjusting repairing, oiling, or cleaning the following power-driven fixed or portable machines, except machines equipped with full automatic feed and ejection:

- a. Circular saws.
- b. Band saws.
- c. Guillotine shears.
- d. Chain saws.

(26) Strikes or Lockouts. Any occupations or activities, including picketing, performed in or on the premises of any establishment where a strike or lockout is in active progress.

(27) Woodworking Power-Driven Machines. Operating power-driven woodworking machines, including supervising or controlling the operation of these machines, feeding material into these machines, and helping the operator to feed material into these machines but not including the placing of material on a moving chain or in a hopper or slide for automatic feeding. Also prohibited is the setting up, adjusting, repairing, oiling, or cleaning of these machine and off-bearing from circular saws and guillotine-action veneer clippers.

(28) Wrecking, Demolition, and Shipbreaking.

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(1) Airports, in or about a landing strip or taxi or maintenance apron.

(2) Boiler and Engine Rooms.

(3) Cars and Trucks. No employment in connection with cars and trucks, including work involving the use of pits, racks or lifting apparatus, or involving the inflation of any tire mounted on a rim equipped with a removable retaining ring, and excluding work by a minor 14 years of age or over in dispensing gasoline and oil, courtesy service, car cleaning, and washing and polishing.

(4) Communications and Public Utilities. Occupations in connection with communications and public utilities, except office or sales work.

(5) Construction. No minor under 16 years of age may be employed in an occupation in connection with construction, including demolition and repair, except for office or sales work not at the actual construction site.

(6) Farming. Operating or assisting in the operation of machinery, including, but not limited to, farm type tractors and other self-propelled vehicles, except those minors trained under either the 4-H federal extension service or the U.S. office of education vocational agriculture training programs may work on equipment permitted by their certificate of training.

(7) Freezers and Meat Coolers. Occupations in a freezer or meat cooler or any work in the preparation of meats for sale, except minors 14 years of age and over may be employed in wrapping, sealing, labeling, weighing, pricing, and stocking goods when performed in areas separate from a freezer or meat cooler or other work preparing meats for sale.

(8) Gun Clubs, as skeet and trap loaders.

(9) Hospitals and Nursing Homes. Occupations that involve the personal care of patients in hospitals or nursing homes.

(10) Kitchen Work. Cooking, except with direct adult supervision. Minors 14 years of age and over may be employed in kitchen work involved in preparing and serving food and beverages without adult supervision, including the use of dishwashers, toasters, dumbwaiters, microwaves, popcorn poppers, blenders, automatic coffee machines, and devices used to maintain the temperature of prepared foods such as warmers, steam tables, and heat lamps.

(11) Ladders. Work on a ladder, scaffold, or similar device more than 6 feet high.

(12) Loading and Unloading goods to and from trucks, railroad cars, or conveyors.

(13) Manufacturing, Mining, or Processing Operations.

(14) Motor Vehicle Lift. Operation of a motor vehicle lifts of any type or work in a pit underneath a motor vehicle.

(15) Power-Driven Machinery. Occupations that involve operating or assisting in the operation of any light power-driven machinery including:

1. Drill presses; grinder wheels; lathes; portable power-driven machinery, such as drills and sanders; and floor maintenance equipment, such as polishers and scrubbers.
2. Welding, including spot welding in manufacturing operations.
3. Tending of hoisting apparatus.
4. Lawn and garden equipment, including power-driven mowers or cutters and sidewalk-type snow blowers.

This subsection does not apply to any of the following:

1. Lawn and garden equipment used in and around the private home of the employer that is not in connection with the employer's trade or business.
2. Lawn and garden equipment used by students in a bona fide student learner program.
3. Office machines.
4. Operating, but not cleaning or repairing, a photo-processing machine with an automatic feed.
5. For minors 14 years of age and over, vacuum cleaners and floor waxers.
6. For minors 14 years of age and over, machines and devices used in the performance of kitchen work as provided in sub. (10).

(16) Public Messenger Service.

(17) Racetracks and Fairs with Pari-Mutuel Betting.

(18) Street Carnivals and Traveling Shows.

(19) Transportation. Occupations in connection with transportation of persons or property by rail, highway, air, water, pipeline, or other means, except office or sales work that does not involve the performance of any duties on trains, motor vehicles, aircraft, vessels, or other forms of transportation.

(20) Warehousing and Storage. Occupation in connection with warehousing and storage, except office or sales work.

(21) Window Washing. Outside window washing working from window sills or requiring the use of a ladder more than 6 feet high, any scaffold, or their substitutes.