**University of Würzburg**



Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection

# Safety Guidelines

**Centrifuges**

Last update:

Workplace/activity:

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| **Safety, health, and environmental risks** |
|  | * Bursting of drum or rotor.
* Fire or explosion.
* Accidental flyaways.
* Hazards arising from lack of machine stability.
* Hazards arising from failure of automatic lid locking mechanism.
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| Safety practices |
|  | * Inspect centrifuge for visible signs of damage before use.
* Always ensure that lid locking mechanism is functioning correctly and lid is properly secured.
* Individuals operating centrifuges or performing maintenance work must be 18 or over (for exceptions see Section 17 VBG 7z regulations).
* Never fill tubes above the maximum recommended by manufacturer, and never exceed maximum stated speed for any rotor.
* Always ensure that rotor loads are evenly balanced.
* Turn off centrifuge if machine is excessively out of balance (Section 19 VBG 7z regulations).
* When operating centrifuges that are loaded with flammable or highly flammable samples and in which a potentially explosive atmosphere may form, always ensure that there is no fire or explosion hazard in the centrifuge (Section 21 VBG 7z regulations).
* Do not open or remove housing cover for any purpose other than routine cleaning, and never open or remove cover during operation.
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| What to do in the event of malfunction |
|  | * If lid locking mechanism is not functioning correctly or machine is excessively out of balance, immediately discontinue operation and notify supervisor.
* In the event of explosions or drum/rotor bursts, immediately notify **Office of Occupational Health and Safety, Animal Welfare and Environmental Protection (phone: 31-82684)**.
* All repairs and maintenance work must be performed by qualified contractors.
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| **What to do after an accident** |
|   | * Turn off centrifuge.
* Move injured persons to a safe area.
* Call **112** to alert emergency responders.
* Render first aid.
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| **Maintenance, waste disposal** |
|  | Centrifuges must be inspected once a year in an assembled state and every three years in a disassembled state. All inspections must be carried out by qualified technicians. The inspection record must be kept with the machine. |

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Date Signature

June 2021