**University of Würzburg**



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

# Safety Guidelines

**Centrifuges**

Last update:

Workplace/activity:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **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. |
| 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. |
| 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. |
| **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. |
| **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. |

……………………………………. ……………………………………………….

Date Signature

June 2021