

WAC 296-45-17540 Release from lockout/tagout. Before lockout or tagout devices are removed and energy is restored to the machine or equipment, procedures must be followed and actions taken by the authorized/designated employees to ensure the following:

(1) The work area must be inspected to ensure that nonessential items have been removed and that machine or equipment components are operationally intact.

(2) The work area must be checked to ensure that all employees have been safely positioned or removed.

(3) After lockout or tagout devices have been removed and before a machine or equipment is started, affected employees must be notified that the lockout or tagout devices have been removed.

(4) Each lockout or tagout device must be removed from each energy isolating device by the authorized/designated employee who applied the lockout or tagout device. However, if that employee is not available to remove it, the device may be removed under the direction of the employer, provided that specific procedures and training for such removal have been developed, documented, and incorporated into the employer's energy control program. The employer must demonstrate that the specific procedure provides a degree of safety equivalent to that provided by the removal of the device by the authorized/designated employee who applied it. The specific procedure must include at least the following elements:

(a) Verification by the employer that the authorized/designated employee who applied the device is not at the facility;

(b) Making all reasonable efforts to contact the authorized/designated employee to inform him or her that his or her lockout or tagout device has been removed; and

(c) Ensuring that the authorized/designated employee has this knowledge before he or she resumes work at that facility.

[Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, 49.17.040, 49.17.050, 49.17.060 and chapter 49.17 RCW. WSR 19-13-083, § 296-45-17540, filed 6/18/19, effective 8/1/19; WSR 16-10-082, § 296-45-17540, filed 5/3/16, effective 7/1/16. Statutory Authority: RCW 49.17.010, [49.17].040, [49.17].050 and [49.17].060. WSR 98-07-009, § 296-45-17540, filed 3/6/98, effective 5/6/98.]