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## British Factory Acts (Laws passed in Parliament)

### Factory Act of 1833

- no child workers under nine years of age
- employers must have an age certificate for their child workers
- children of 9-13 years to work no more than nine hours a day
- children of 13-18 years to work no more than 12 hours a day
- children are not to work at night
- two hours schooling each day for children
- four factory inspectors appointed to enforce the law
- Applied only to textile mills

### Factory Act of 1844:

- Children 9–13 years could work for 9 hours a day with a lunch break.
- Ages must be verified by surgeons.
- Women and young people now worked the same number of hours. They could work for no more than 12 hours a day during the week, including one and a half hours for meals, and 9 hours on Sundays. They must all take their meals at the same time and could not do so in the workroom
- Time-keeping to be by a public clock approved by an inspector
- Some classes of machinery: *every fly-wheel directly connected with the steam engine or water-wheel or other mechanical power, whether in the engine-house or not, and every part of a steam engine and water-wheel, and every hoist or teagle, <sup>[m]</sup> near to which children or young persons are liable to pass or be employed, and all parts of the mill-gearing (this included power shafts) in a factory were to be "securely fenced."*
- Children and women were not to clean moving machinery.
- Accidental death must be reported to a surgeon and investigated; the result of the investigation to be reported to a Factory Inspector.
- Factory owners must wash factories with lime every fourteen months.
- Thorough records must be kept regarding the provisions of the Act and shown to the inspector on demand.
- An abstract of the amended Act must be hung up in the factory *so as to be easily read*, and show (amongst other things) names and addresses of the inspector and sub-inspector of the district, the certifying surgeon, the times for beginning and ending work, the amount of time and time of day for meals.
- Factory Inspectors no longer had the powers of JPs but (as before 1833) mill owners, their fathers, brothers and sons were all debarred (if magistrates) from hearing Factory Act cases.

### Factory Act of 1847 (Ten Hours Act)

- Women and children 13–18 could work only 58 hours per week, the equivalent of 10 hours per day.
- Applied only to textile mills

#### Factory Act of 1850

- Women and young persons could only work from 6 a.m. to 6 p.m. or - in winter, and subject to approval by a factory inspector-<sup>[98]</sup>:<sup>43</sup> 7 a.m. to 7 p.m.: since they were to be allowed 90 minutes total breaks during the day, the maximum hours worked per day increased to 10.5
- All work would end on Saturday at 2 p.m.
- The workweek was extended from 58 hours to 60 hours.
- Effectively extended Ten Hours Act to all textile workers

#### Factory Act of 1867

- Extended other factory acts to all industries, and all factories with more than 50 employees



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