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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, [in] 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-^{[98] :43} 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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