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General

Requirements for front opening doors have been added to both AS/NZS 60335.2.7:2024 clause 20.106 and AS/NZS 60335.2.7:2020 amendment 1 clause 20.106 to address issues to prevent inadvertent entrapment of child in the washing machine drum.

Requirement

For certification of washing machines with front opening doors, irrespective of the different wording in the two editions of AS/NZS 60335.2.7 the following applies (and test report to have details to be able to verify compliance):

Applies to front loading washing machines, combo front loading washer/dryers and to any cycle of the machine.

Compliance with the clause 20.106 in relation to actions before start or restart of operation / door opening is met if the following combinations are met:

- Drum size is $>60\text{dm}^3$ and main door size is $>200\text{mm}$
 - 1) For initial start of washing machine after door has been closed
 - two independent actions are required to start the cycle
 - the two independent means are physically separated from each other located on different parts of control panel (e.g. two different controls to operate or if machine has a single touch panel then two distinct areas of the control panel)
 - after the door is closed, the two independent means must occur within 60 seconds of each other otherwise the machine will not start (if more than 60 seconds occurs between the independent actions the two actions are reapplied to enable start)
 - 2) Restart after a pause in machines cycle and main door has been opened (or machine cannot verify if door has been opened or not)
 - two independent actions are required to restart as per 1.
 - 3) Restart after a pause in machine cycle but main door has not been opened (and machine can monitor and verify that)
 - two independent actions are NOT required to restart
 - single action to restart is permissible

note: if door is 'locked' and that is reason door has not been opened then that is only a suitable means for this criteria to apply if the door will not unlock (will only unlock with operator intervention) and if it does unlock then point 1 applies.
 - 4) Restart after a pause in machine cycle and main door has not been opened but after small ancillary door / secondary hatch (a door that is not the main door and is smaller than 200mm and is intended for putting small items of clothes into wash) is opened and closed
 - - two independent actions are NOT required to restart
 - - single action to restart is permissible

NOTE: any door, irrespective of designation as main door/ancillary door/secondary hatch is required to meet clause 20.106 where the opening dimension exceeding $>200\text{mm}$ diameter and the Drum size is $>60\text{dm}^3$.

- Drum size is 60dm^3 and / or main door size is 200mm and/or ancillary door is not 'small'
Noting clause 20.106 does not apply if drum size is 60dm^3 and / or main door size is 200mm
 - 1) Responsible Supplier and Certifier should apply engineering principles and safe design considerations and consider the actual size of drum and door opening and safety risk. If the Responsible Supplier and Certifier do not apply the same criteria of 20.106 as explained above, they should document reasons why the size of door/drum is suitable to prevent access by a child (documented decision of 'is 60dm^3 and / or main door size is 200mm' alone would not be sufficient).
- Drum size measurement method and values shall be reported in test report.

For washing machine with remote operation, the door must be closed before the washing machine is manually adjusted to go into remote operation mode. As per clause 22.51 the door lock or interlock must operate if the washing machine is in remote operation mode (so door is locked). The manual setting of remote operation is one operation of point 1 above, and the second operation (that must occur within 60 second of the first operation) may be the remote operation to start the wash cycle or drying cycle. If the remote operation is not initiated within 60 second of being set to remote operation the washing machine must not start by remote operation as it does not comply with point 1 above. If the wash cycle or drying cycle is started by remote operation within 60 seconds and then paused, the washing machine can restart by remote operation so long as the door has not unlocked/opened as per point 3 above.

Background

The two standards have slightly different wording, but intent is for same outcome – reduce risk of washing machine operating with child trapped inside washing machine.

On that basis, the requirements in the standard are for drum sizes exceeding 60dm^3 :

- If door size is $>200\text{mm}$ diameter there is no hazard if machine is stopped and door is not opened and machine is restarted without two operations required
- If door size is $>200\text{mm}$ diameter there is no hazard if machine is stopped and door is locked and so cannot be opened and machine is restarted without two operations required
- If door size is a small ancillary door (and is $<200\text{mm}$ diameter) there is no hazard if the washing machine is subject to a pause in operation, and that door is able to be opened and closed without two separate actions to restart machine

Noting that irrespective of drum size or door opening size sound engineering principles of safe design should be followed.