
**Human response to vibration —
Guidance and terminology for
instrumentation and equipment for
the assessment of daily vibration
exposure at the workplace according to
the requirements of health and safety**

Réponse des individus aux vibrations — Lignes directrices et terminologie pour l'instrumentation et l'équipement d'évaluation de l'exposition journalière aux vibrations sur le lieu de travail selon les exigences de santé et de sécurité

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Contents

Page

Foreword	iv
Introduction	v
1 Scope	1
2 Normative references	1
3 Terms and definitions	1
4 Explanation of concepts used for the measurement process	2
5 Explanation of concepts used for instrumentation types	3
5.1 General	3
5.2 Vibration magnitude evaluation	3
5.3 Exposure time evaluation	4
5.3.1 Machine timer	4
5.3.2 Exposure timer	4
5.4 Exposure calculation based on external data	4
5.4.1 Vibration exposure calculator	4
5.4.2 Vibration meter with exposure calculation	4
5.4.3 Exposure timer with exposure calculation	5
5.5 Exposure evaluation by measurement	5
5.5.1 Personal vibration exposure meter (PVEM)	5
5.5.2 Vibration exposure meter (VEM)	5
6 Explanation of concepts used for the vibration magnitude source	5
6.1 General	5
6.2 Manufacturer emission value	5
6.3 Manufacturer supplementary values	5
6.4 Comparable machine values	6
6.5 Machine-specific vibration database values	6
6.6 Type-specific vibration database values	6
Annex A (informative) Examples of equipment for the evaluation of daily vibration exposure	7
Bibliography	10

Foreword

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Introduction

Several kinds of device can be used to measure or estimate the vibration magnitude and exposure duration needed for the assessment of daily vibration exposure at the workplace.

Measuring instrumentation conforming to the requirements of ISO 8041-1 allows the user to perform good quality repeatable measurements. Measurements using a general-purpose vibration meter are typically undertaken when equipment (like a hand-held machine or a fork-lift truck) is in operation allowing attended, direct readings to be taken providing information regarding possible errors and transient acceleration artefacts. Unattended measurements can be taken using a personal vibration exposure meter, logging readings taken, for example, over a full working day to provide information regarding work patterns including transient acceleration artefacts. Using such instrumentation, the result is always a vibration value or a vibration dose based on vibration readings as taken by the instrumentation.

In addition, there exists auxiliary equipment which can support risk assessment. Such equipment might measure the duration of exposure or estimate the instantaneous vibration dose, using, for example, the information given by the manufacturer on the vibration emission of the machinery used, and might give information when vibration limits are approached or exceeded. Even though such auxiliary equipment does not constitute measuring instrumentation conforming to ISO 8041-1, it is currently used and can be advantageous for keeping occupational vibration limits and for systematic health and safety monitoring. When using such equipment, usually vibration is not really measured.

However, the differences between the instrumentation and equipment features lead to results of varying reliability. By giving guidance and explaining terminology, this document provides clarity regarding the limitations that can be expected when using different instrumentation and equipment for the assessment of daily vibration exposure at the workplace.