

8. WHOLE BODY VIBRATION – COST EFFECTIVE MEASURES TO MEET LEGISLATION

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The Physical Agents Directive (Vibration) 2002/44/EC, becomes effective in the UK from July 2005. The Directive provides action and limit levels and places a variety of requirements on employers in respect of the vibration levels which their employees are subjected to. Whilst employers are directed to manufacturers for information on vibration emission, the reality is that no common test methods are established. Whilst for some agricultural and construction products suspension technologies have been developed, these are only suited to certain product types, and the benefits are often negated by the influence of the operator who finds themselves able to travel faster or work the machine harder before his comfort level is reached. Nevertheless a range of simple yet effective measures can be implemented to reduce the level of vibration experienced by an operator. The correct adjustment and maintenance of suspension seats is a major part of this. The contribution of other work site based initiatives, such as the maintenance of roadways, are also reviewed.