

INFORMATION SHEET – PN3-02/November 2013 (replaces January 2011)

Noise and vibration information published in tool instruction manuals as required by the EU Machinery Directive (2006/42/EC)

This Information Sheet provides guidance to PNEUROP members on adopting a common approach to publishing noise and vibration information in the instruction manuals of power tools and similar equipment.

1 Noise and vibration declaration

The recommended Noise and Vibration Declaration Statement comprises two parts:

- a data section;
- a statement about how that data should and should not be used, plus information about where to seek further advice.

The “Data section” sets out the noise and vibration data which, according to the EU Machinery Directive, has to be declared for each hand-held or hand-guided power tool and which must accompany it, when it is placed on the market in the European Economic Area.

The “Statement section” is optional, but is recommended, since it delineates the responsibilities of the tool manufacturer from those of the persons responsible for the safety of workplaces in which tools are used.

Noise & Vibration Declaration Statement						
Sound pressure level	_____	^{1), 2)} dB(A),	uncertainty _____	³⁾ dB(A)	in accordance with _____ ⁴⁾	Data section
Sound power level	_____	⁵⁾ dB(A),	uncertainty _____	³⁾ dB(A)	in accordance with _____ ⁴⁾	
Vibration value	_____	¹⁾ m/s ² ,	uncertainty _____	³⁾ m/s ²	in accordance with _____ ⁶⁾	
<p>These declared values were obtained by laboratory type testing in accordance with the stated standards and are suitable for comparison with the declared values of other tools tested in accordance with the same standards. These declared values are not adequate for use in risk assessments and values measured in individual work places may be higher. The actual exposure values and risk of harm experienced by an individual user are unique and depend upon the way the user works, the workpiece and the workstation design, as well as upon the exposure time and the physical condition of the user.</p> <p>We, _____ ⁷⁾, cannot be held liable for the consequences of using the declared values, instead of values reflecting the actual exposure, in an individual risk assessment in a work place situation over which we have no control.</p> <p>This tool may cause hand-arm vibration syndrome if its use is not adequately managed. An EU guide to managing hand-arm vibration can be found by accessing http://www.pneurop.eu/index.php and selecting 'Tools' then 'Legislation'.</p> <p>We recommend a programme of health surveillance to detect early symptoms which may relate to noise or vibration exposure, so that management procedures can be modified to help prevent future impairment.</p>						Statement section

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NOTES

1. Insert values, as appropriate.
2. The peak C-weighted instantaneous sound pressure value at the workstation shall also be stated if it exceeds 63 Pa (130 dB in relation to 20 μ Pa)
3. Insert values, according to the guidance given in the relevant noise or vibration measurement standard.
4. State the test standards to which the noise is measured.
5. Insert values. N.B. Sound power level values are only necessary when the noise level at the operator's position exceeds 80dB(A) (ref. Directive 2006/42/EC – Annex I.7.4.2 (u)).
6. State the test standard to which the vibration is measured.
7. Insert the name of company responsible for placing the product on the market.

2 Noise and vibration – 'additional information'

Additional information about noise and vibration emission can be helpful to employers or self-employed end-users wishing to assess the risks from exposure to noise and vibration. The provision of additional information by power tool manufacturers is entirely voluntary. However, it is encouraged by tool safety standards, such as ISO 11148, in cases where the values obtained using the appropriate standard tests do not adequately represent the emissions during the intended use of the power tool. This can arise if the expected use is not based on a standard application and / or it uses special accessories.

It is recommended that any statement giving additional information is published in product instruction manuals, immediately following the noise and vibration declaration statement.

3 Additional vibration information

3.1 Information about in-use vibration values

This statement may be used if the declared vibration value does not adequately represent the likely in-use vibration emission because the expected use of the power tool is not based on a standard application and / or it utilises special accessories.

This information is provided to assist in making rough estimates of the vibration value in the workplace.

The vibration emission varies greatly with task and operator technique. The declared vibration value relates to the main handle(s) and much higher vibration levels may occur at other hand positions. We believe that normal intended use of the tool will usually produce vibration emissions in the range ¹⁾ to ²⁾ m/s^2 (vibration total values, as defined in ISO 5349-1:2001) depending on the details of the task, but emissions outside this range may occur for some applications. A figure of ³⁾ m/s^2 is probably a useful average emission value when, for example, roughly estimating the likely average exposures of users performing a wide range of tasks within the intended use of the tool.

We point out that application of the tool to a sole specialist task may produce a different average emission and in such cases we strongly recommend a specific evaluation of the vibration emission.

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NOTES

1. Insert value representative of the lower quartile of the range of values obtained under expected working conditions.
2. Insert value representative of the upper quartile of the range of values obtained under expected working conditions.
3. Insert value equal to the average of (1) and (2).

3.2 Information about CEN/TR 15350

CEN/TR 15350 provides guidance on how to make rough estimates of workers' daily vibration exposure, using the vibration information provided by manufacturers of hand-held and hand-guided equipment.

The following statement may included in power tool instruction manuals to refer readers to CEN/TR 15350.

Rough estimates

For making rough estimates of daily vibration exposures, useful information may be found in CEN/TR 15350: 2013, "Mechanical vibration – Guideline for the assessment of exposure to hand transmitted vibration using available information including that provided by manufacturers of machinery."