

(English version)

**Question for written answer E-002583/24
to the Commission
Johan Danielsson (S&D)
(19 November 2024)**

Subject: Review of action and limit values for vibration injuries at work

On 15 October 2024, the Swedish trade union Byggnads published a study which showed that three out of four Swedish building workers have symptoms of vibration injuries.

Byggnads asked around 4 500 members about their use of vibrating tools, their knowledge of the risks and their own symptoms.

The survey showed that it wasn't just older workers who were affected: fully 58% of building workers aged 18-29 replied that they had symptoms of vibration injuries.

In addition, just 22% said they had received information on how long they should be working with the tools provided. 36% replied that they had received information or training from their employer on the risks of vibrating tools. 22% were aware of the vibration value of the tool they used most frequently.

Byggnads also pointed out that research shows that one in ten workers suffer from vibration injuries after just five years, even if the action values — as expressed in Swedish and EU law — are followed.

With that in mind:

1. Will the Commission raise this issue in the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work to ensure that the EU action and limit values for daily exposure to vibrations are in line with the latest research?
2. Has the Commission considered also restricting the sale within the EU of tools and machinery with unreasonably high vibration values?

Submitted: 19.11.2024

**Answer given by Ms Executive Vice-President Mînzatu on behalf of the European Commission
(14 January 2025)**

At EU level, Directive 2002/44/EC ⁽¹⁾ lays down minimum requirements for workers when they are exposed, in the course of their work, to risks arising from vibration.

In particular, it sets exposure limit values above which workers shall not be exposed. In case that the exposure limit value is exceeded, the employer shall take immediate action to reduce exposure below such limit value.

Sweden has transposed Directive 2002/44/EC and it is now primarily for the competent national authorities to enforce the national provisions transposing the directive.

Therefore, the Commission is currently not planning to raise the issue in the Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work.

At EU level, the Machinery Directive ⁽²⁾ already requires that machinery must be designed and constructed in such a way that risks resulting from vibrations produced by the machinery are reduced to the lowest level, taking account of technical progress and the availability of means of reducing vibration.

As from 20 January 2027, the new Machinery Regulation ⁽³⁾ will require that specific information on the vibration values is made available to users.

⁽¹⁾ Directive 2002/44/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 25 June 2002 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (vibration) (OJ L 177, 6.7.2002, p. 13, ELI: <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/eli/dir/2002/44/oj>).

⁽²⁾ Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (OJ L 157, 9.6.2006, p. 24, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/dir/2006/42/oj>).

⁽³⁾ Regulation (EU) 2023/1230 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 14 June 2023 on machinery and repealing Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council and Council Directive 73/361/EEC (OJ L 165, 29.6.2023, p. 1, ELI: <http://data.europa.eu/eli/reg/2023/1230/oj>).