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# Mechanical vibration — Evaluation of machine vibration by measurements on non-rotating parts —

## Part 8: Reciprocating compressor systems

*Vibrations mécaniques — Évaluation des vibrations des machines par  
mesurages sur les parties non tournantes —*

*Partie 8: Systèmes de compresseurs alternatifs*



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## Foreword

ISO (the International Organization for Standardization) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies (ISO member bodies). The work of preparing International Standards is normally carried out through ISO technical committees. Each member body interested in a subject for which a technical committee has been established has the right to be represented on that committee. International organizations, governmental and non-governmental, in liaison with ISO, also take part in the work. ISO collaborates closely with the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC) on all matters of electrotechnical standardization.

The procedures used to develop this document and those intended for its further maintenance are described in the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 1. In particular the different approval criteria needed for the different types of ISO documents should be noted. This document was drafted in accordance with the editorial rules of the ISO/IEC Directives, Part 2 (see [www.iso.org/directives](http://www.iso.org/directives)).

Attention is drawn to the possibility that some of the elements of this document may be the subject of patent rights. ISO shall not be held responsible for identifying any or all such patent rights. Details of any patent rights identified during the development of the document will be in the Introduction and/or on the ISO list of patent declarations received (see [www.iso.org/patents](http://www.iso.org/patents)).

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For an explanation on the meaning of ISO specific terms and expressions related to conformity assessment, as well as information about ISO's adherence to the WTO principles in the Technical Barriers to Trade (TBT) see the following URL: [Foreword - Supplementary information](#)

The committee responsible for this document is ISO/TC 108, *Mechanical vibration, shock and condition monitoring*, Subcommittee SC 2, *Measurement and evaluation of mechanical vibration and shock as applied to machines, vehicles and structures* in collaboration with ISO/TC 118, *Compressors and pneumatic tools, machines and equipment*.

ISO 10816 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Mechanical vibration — Evaluation of machine vibration by measurements on non-rotating parts*:

- *Part 1: General guidelines*
- *Part 2: Land-based steam turbines and generators in excess of 50 MW with normal operating speeds of 1500 r/min, 1800 r/min, 3000 r/min and 3600 r/min*
- *Part 3: Industrial machines with nominal power above 15 kW and nominal speeds between 120 r/min and 15 000 r/min when measured in situ*
- *Part 4: Gas turbine sets with fluid-film bearings*
- *Part 5: Machine sets in hydraulic power generating and pumping plants*
- *Part 6: Reciprocating machines with power ratings above 100 kW*
- *Part 7: Rotodynamic pumps for industrial applications, including measurements on rotating shafts*
- *Part 8: Reciprocating compressor systems*
- *Part 21: Horizontal axis wind turbines with gearbox*

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## Introduction

ISO 10816-1 gives general guidelines for the evaluation of machine vibration by measurements on non-rotating parts. This part of ISO 10816, however, establishes special procedures and guidelines for the measurement and classification of mechanical vibration of reciprocating compressors. In general, it refers to vibration of the main structure of the compressor, including the foundation, pulsation dampers, and attached pipe system. The guidance values given for these vibrations are defined primarily to classify the vibration and to avoid problems with auxiliary equipment mounted on these structures. Recommendations for measurements and evaluation criteria are provided in this part of ISO 10816.

Typical features of reciprocating compressors are the oscillating masses, the cyclically varying torques, cylinder stretch and the pulsating forces in the cylinders, pulsation dampers, and the pipe system. All these features cause alternating loads on the main supports and vibration of the compressor system. The vibration values of reciprocating compressor systems are generally larger than for rotating compressors but, since they are largely determined by the design features of the compressor, they tend to remain more constant over the life of the system than for rotating machinery.

In the case of reciprocating compressor systems, the vibration measured on the main structure of the compressor (including the foundation, pulsation dampers and piping) and quantified according to this part of ISO 10816 can only give a rough idea of the vibratory states of the components within the machine itself.

The damage, which can occur when exceeding the guidance values based on experience with similar compressor systems, is sustained predominantly by machine-mounted components (e.g. instrumentation, heat exchangers, filters, pumps), connecting elements of the compressor with its peripheral parts (e.g. pipelines) or monitoring instruments (e.g. pressure gauges, thermometers). The question as to which vibration values damage is to be expected largely depends on the design of these components and their fastenings. In some cases, special measurements on certain compressor system components can be required to ascertain that the vibration values do not cause damage. It also happens that even if measured values are within the guidance values of this part of ISO 10816, problems can occur owing to the great variety of components which can be attached.

Local vibration problems as described above can be, and have to be, rectified by specific "local measures" (e.g. by elimination of resonances). Experience has shown, however, that it is possible in the majority of cases to state measurable quantities characterizing the vibratory state and to give guidance values for these. This shows that the measurable variables and the guidance values for acceptable vibration in most cases permit a reliable evaluation.

If the measured vibration values as given in this part of ISO 10816 do not exceed the guidance values, abnormal wear of internal compressor components caused by vibration is unlikely to occur.

The vibration values of reciprocating compressor systems are not only affected by the properties of the compressor itself but also to a large degree by the foundation. Since a reciprocating compressor can act as a vibration generator, vibration isolation between the compressor and its foundation can be necessary. The vibration response of the foundation and the vibration from adjacent equipment can have considerable effect on the vibration of the compressor system.