STANDARD 2631-1

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Mechanical vibration and shock — Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration —

Part 1: General requirements

Vibrations et chocs mécaniques — Évaluation de l'exposition des individus à des vibrations globales du corps —

Partie 1: Exigences générales

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Contents

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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.

Draft International Standards adopted by the technical committees are circulated to the member bodies for voting. Publication as an International Standard requires approval by at least 75 % of the member bodies casting a vote.

International Standard ISO 2631-1 was prepared by Technical Committee ISO/TC 108, *Mechanical vibration and shock*, Subcommittee SC 4, *Human exposure to mechanical vibration and shock*.

This second edition cancels and replaces the first edition (ISO 2631-1:1985) and ISO 2631-3:1985.

ISO 2631 consists of the following parts, under the general title *Mechanical vibration and shock — Evaluation of human exposure to whole-body vibration*:

— *Part 1: General requirements*

— *Part 2: Continuous and shock-induced vibration in buildings* (1 to 80 Hz)

Annex A forms an integral part of this part of ISO 2631. Annexes B to E are for information only.

The revision of this part of ISO 2631 incorporates new experience and research results reported in the literature which made it desirable to

— reorganize the parts of this International Standard;

— change the method of measurement and analysis of the vibration environment;

— change the approach to the application of the results.

Increasing awareness of the complexity of human physiological/pathological response as well as behavioral response to vibration and the lack of clear, universally recognized dose-response relationships made it desirable to give more quantitative guidance on the effects of vibration on health and comfort as well as on perception and the incidence of motion sickness (see annexes B to D).

evaluation is based on frequency weighting of the r.m.s. acceleration rather than the rating method. Different frequency weightings are given for the evaluation of different effects.

Based on practical experience, r.m.s. methods continue to be the basis for measurements for crest factors less than 9 and consequently the integrity of existing databases is maintained. Studies in recent years have pointed to the importance of the peak values of acceleration in the vibration exposure, particularly in health effects. The r.m.s. method of assessing vibration has been shown by several laboratories to underestimate the effects for vibration with substantial peaks. Additional and/or alternative measurement procedures are presented for vibration with such high peaks and particularly for crest factors greater than 9, while the r.m.s. method is extended to crest factors less than or equal to 9.

For simplicity, the dependency on exposure duration of the various effects on people had been assumed in ISO 2631-1:1985 to be the same for the different effects (health, working proficiency and comfort). This concept was not supported by research results in the laboratory and consequently has been removed. New approaches are outlined in the annexes. Exposure boundaries or limits are not included and the concept of "fatigue-decreased proficiency" due to vibration exposure has been deleted.

In spite of these substantial changes, improvements and refinements in this part of ISO 2631, the majority of reports or research studies indicate that the guidance and exposure boundaries recommended in ISO 2631-1:1985 were safe and preventive of undesired effects. This revision of ISO 2631 should not affect the integrity and continuity of existing databases and should support the collection of better data as the basis for the various dose-effect relationships.

Introduction

The primary purpose of this part of ISO 2631 is to define methods of quantifying whole-body vibration in relation to

— human health and comfort;

— the probability of vibration perception;

— the incidence of motion sickness.

This part of ISO 2631 is concerned with whole-body vibration and excludes hazardous effects of vibration transmitted directly to the limbs (e.g. by power tools).

Vehicles (air, land and water), machinery (for example, those used in industry and agriculture) and industrial activities (such as piling and blasting), expose people to periodic, random and transient mechanical vibration which can interfere with comfort, activities and health.

This part of ISO 2631 does not contain vibration exposure limits. However, evaluation methods have been defined so that they may be used as the basis for limits which may be prepared separately. It contains methods for the evaluation of vibration containing occasional high peak values (having high crest factors).

Three annexes provide current information on the possible effects of vibration on health (annex B), comfort and perception (annex C) and on the incidence of motion sickness (annex D). This guidance is intended to take into account all the available data and to satisfy the need for recommendations which are simple and suitable for general application. The guidance is given in numerical terms to avoid ambiguity and to encourage precise measurements. However, when using these recommendations it is important to bear in mind the restrictions placed on their application. More information may be obtained from the scientific literature, a part of which is listed in annex E.

This part of ISO 2631 does not cover the potential effects of intense vibration on human performance and task capability since such guidance depends critically on ergonomic details related to the operator, the situation and the task design.

Vibration is often complex, contains many frequencies, occurs in several directions and changes over time. The effects of vibration may be manifold. Exposure to whole-body vibration causes a complex distribution of oscillatory motions and forces within the body. There can be large variations between subjects with respect to biological effects. Whole-body vibration may cause sensations (e.g. discomfort or annoyance), influence human performance capability or present a health and safety risk (e.g. pathological damage or physiological change). The presence of oscillatory force with little motion may cause similar effects.