

**HAND ARM  
VIBRATION**



# Using an Impact Wrench in Different Postures—An Analysis of Awkward Hand–Arm Posture and Vibration

International conference  
**6-9 JUNE 2023**  
Espace Prouvé,  
Nancy, France

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IFA

Institute for Occupational Safety and Health of the German Social Accident Insurance



# Background

## Occupational disease by hand-Arm vibration

BK 2103  
2113



© WavebreakmediaMicro

Bone and joint disease

BK 2104

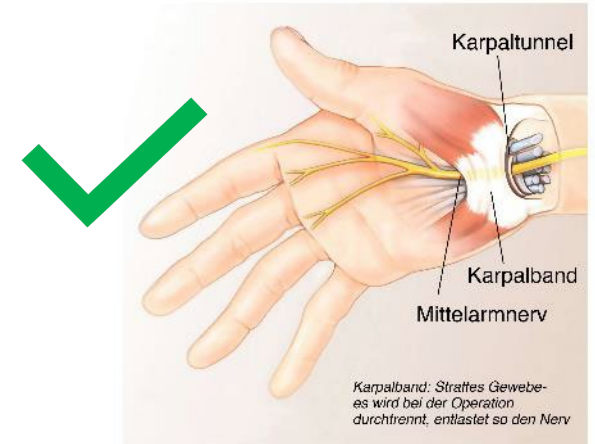


© Petra Richli

Circulatory and nerve dysfunction

Influence of posture???

BK



Pressure damage to the median nerve in the carpal tunnel

# ISO TR 10687 WBV and posture

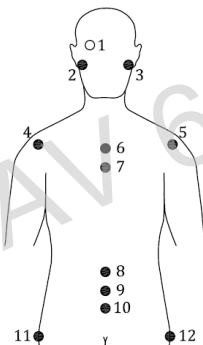
TECHNICAL  
REPORT

ISO/TR  
10687

Second edition  
2022-02

## Mechanical vibration — Description and determination of seated postures with reference to whole-body vibration

*Vibrations mécaniques — Description et détermination des postures assises en référence à des vibrations transmises à l'ensemble du corps*



- Key
- 1 left lateral canthus
  - 2 left tragus
  - 3 right tragus
  - 4 left acromion
  - 5 right acromion
  - 6 C<sub>7</sub> (spinous process)
  - 7 T<sub>3</sub> (spinous process)
  - 8 L<sub>1</sub> (spinous process)
  - 9 L<sub>2</sub> (spinous process)
  - 10 L<sub>5</sub> (spinous process)
  - 11 left greater trochanter
  - 12 right greater trochanter

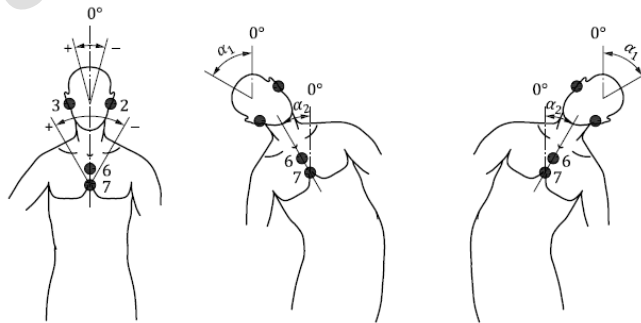


Figure 13 — Lateral flexion of the neck

## ISO PWI 3153 Mechanical vibration — Posture in whole-body vibration environments


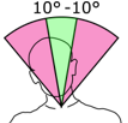
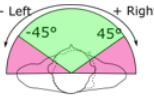
Category	Head inclination sagittal	Head inclination lateral	Neck torsion
			
Neutral	0° to 25° <0° Full head support	-10° to 10°	-45° to 45°
Moderate	25° - 85°		
Awkward	<0° no head support or >85°	<-10° or >10°	<-45° or >45°

Figure B.1 Assessment categories for the head and neck

# Setup

## working in three directions

- identical conditions for the subjects
- height adjustable setup
- defined posture of arm (90° angle)
- 12 Screwing operations in oak wood (pre-drilled)
- scheduled breaks between directions
- Impact wrench 1.2 kg, 18 V and torque 200 Nm

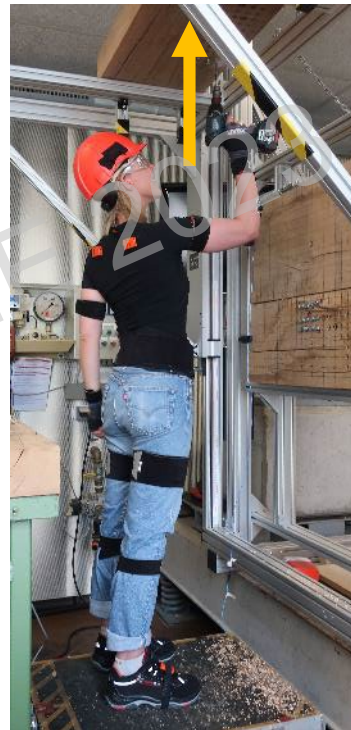


# Population

11 subjects (4 female, 7 male)

Age [years]	Size [cm]	Weight [kg]
$36 \pm 11$	$178 \pm 8$	$76 \pm 15$

upwards



forwards



downwards



# Measurement posture

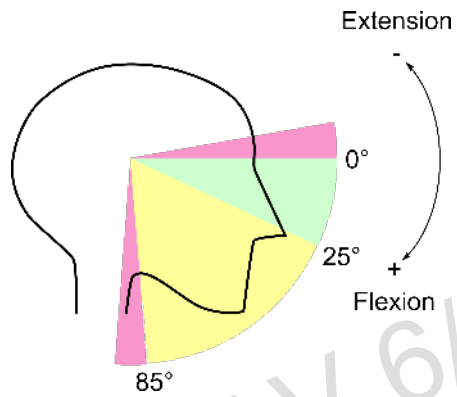
inertial sensors:

- Head
- Shoulders
- Upper arm
- Lower arm
- Hands
- Pelvis
- Sternum

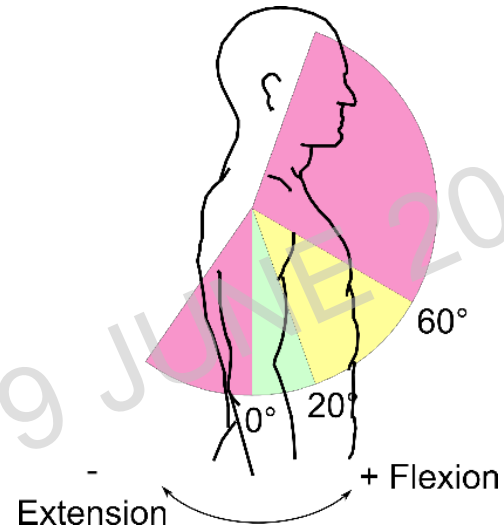


# Assessment of body angles

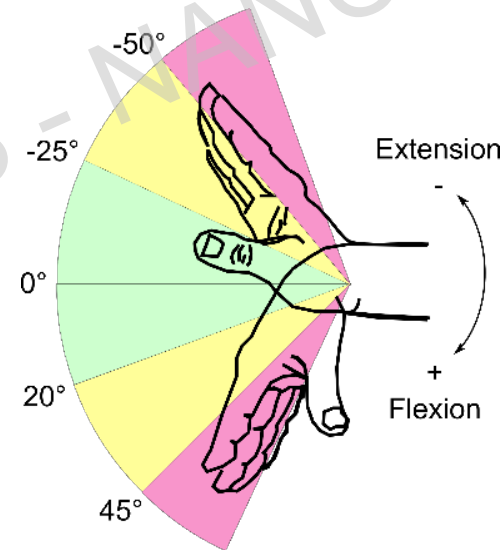
Head Inclination (sagittal)



Upper Inclination (sagittal)

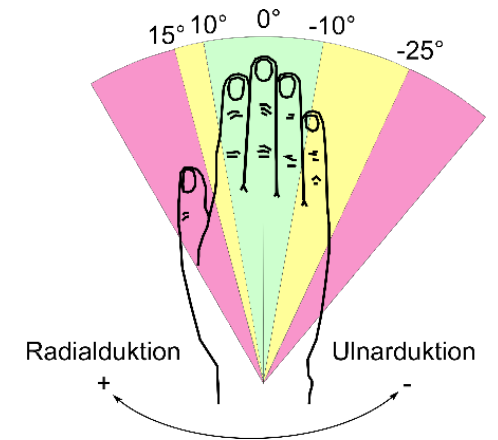


Wrist Flexion



Wrist

Adduktion/  
Abduktion



# Measurement vibration

- Hand-arm vibration  
(ISO 28927-5:2009)
- $a_{hv}$  Vibration total value

$$a_{hv} = \sqrt{a_{hwx}^2 + a_{hwy}^2 + a_{hwz}^2}$$



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# Measurement muscle activity

- Elektromyography
  - Muscle activity
    - Trapezius
    - Biceps brachii
    - Extensor digitorum
    - Flexor capri ulnaris
  - Maximal Voluntary Contraction (MVC)



# Subjective perception

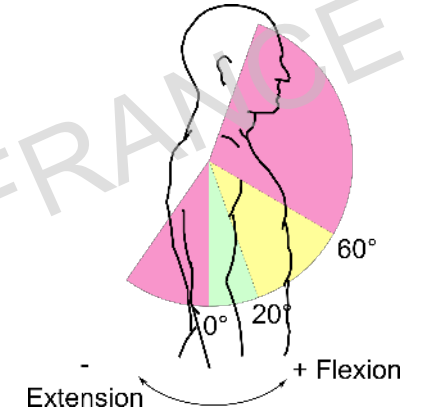
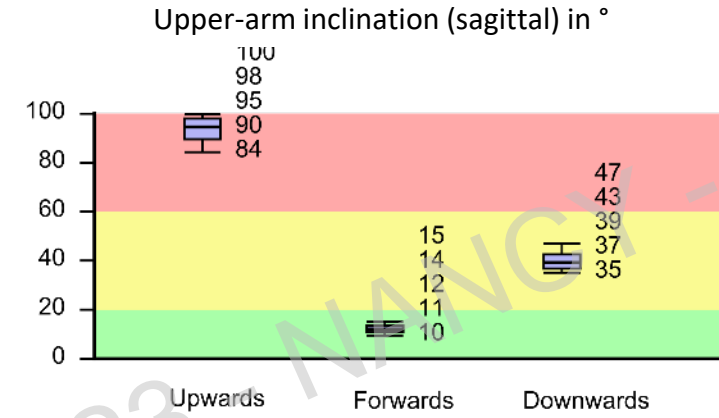
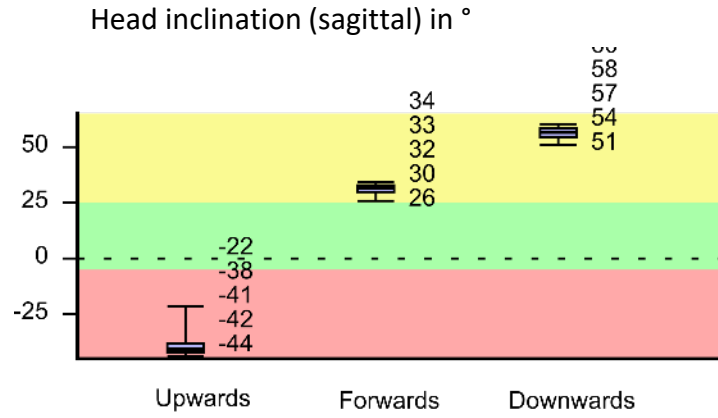
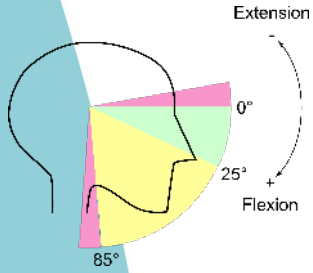
- Subjective perception
  - Borg scale



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Bewertung		
0	Absolut Nichts	😊
0,3		
0,5	Extrem Schwach	
0,7		
1	Sehr Schwach	😐
1,5		
2	Schwach	
2,5		
3	Mittelmäßig	
4		😞
5	Stark	
6		
7	Sehr Stark	
8		
9		😞
10	Extrem Stark	

# Results . Exposures



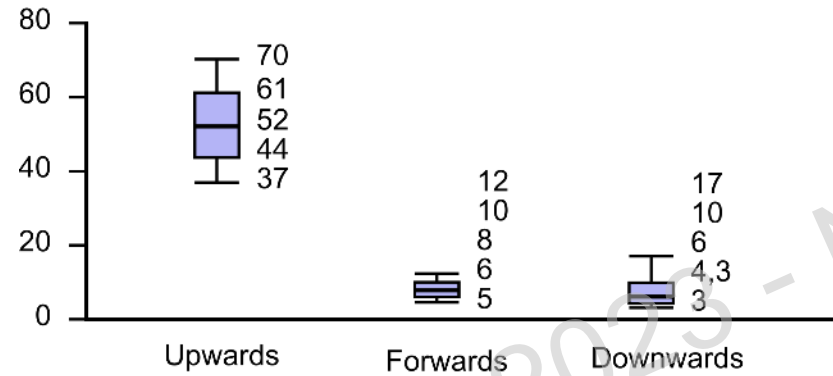
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# Results: Muscle activity

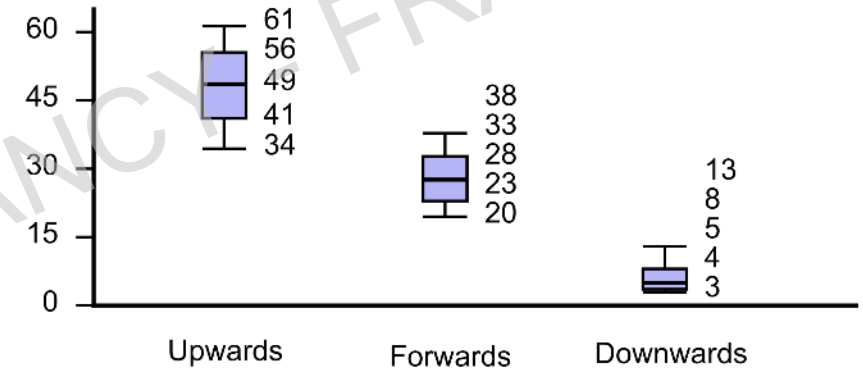
Muscle activity as percentage of maximum voluntary contraction in %



Trapezius descendens



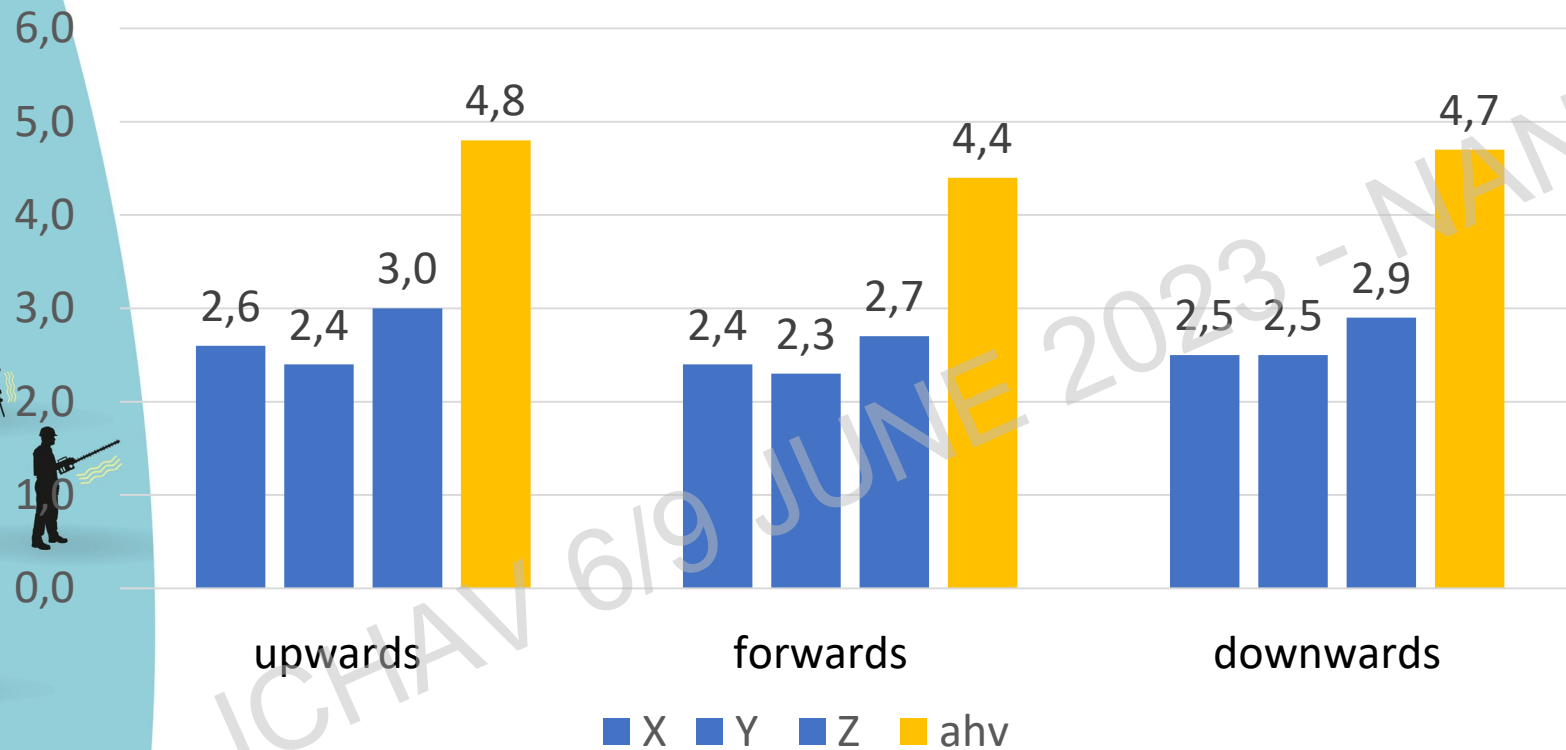
Biceps\_brachii



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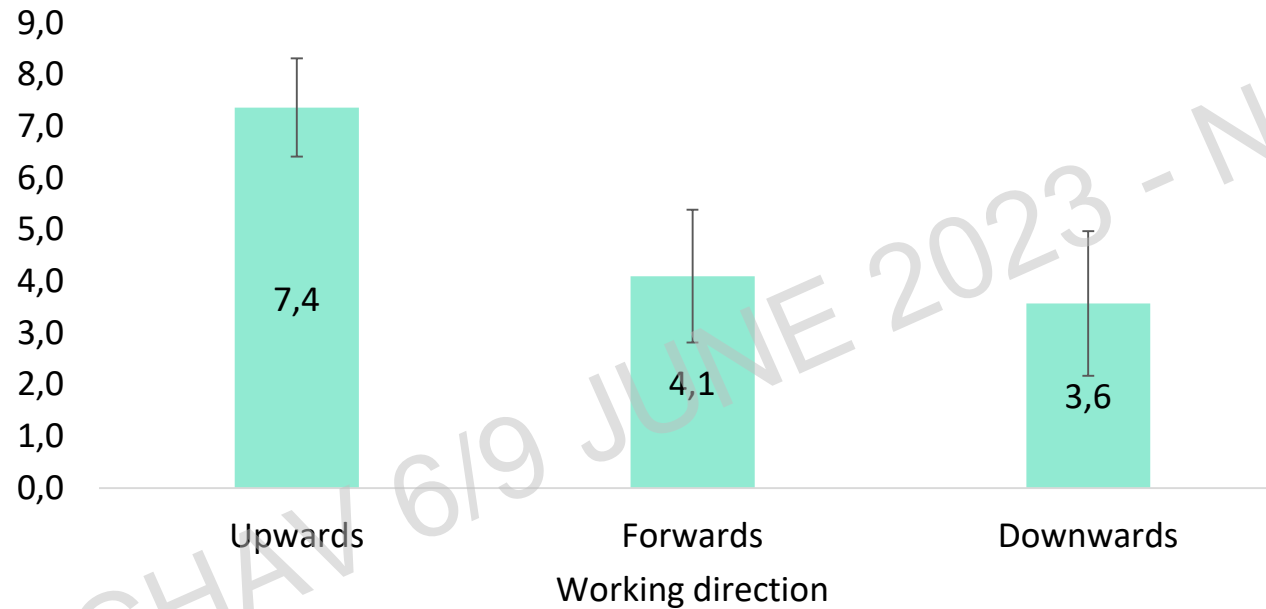
# Results: Hand-arm vibration

Vibration exposure in  $m/s^2$



# Results: Subjective perception

Subjective perception for total exposures  
(0-10 Borg scale)



Bewertung		
0	Absolut Nichts	😊
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2	Schwach	
2,5		
3	Mittelmäßig	
4		😞
5	Stark	
6		
7	Sehr Stark	
8		😡
9		
10	Extrem Stark	

## Summary

Different postures:

Vibration – **no differences following ISO-Standards**

Posture – overhead and also downwards working notably **higher exposures**

EMG - overhead and also downwards working notably **higher muscle activity**

Subjective perception– **highly unpleasant** during overhead working



Vibration **x Posture x Forces**

**Misinterpretation of vibration exposure!**

- Thank you for your attention!



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