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New findings on noise exposure in the construction trades

Reimer Paulsen

BGIA - Institut für Arbeitsschutz, Alte Heerstr. 111, 53757 Sankt Augustin, Germany

The degree to which employees on construction sites are exposed to noise often depends on a variety of individual activities. The calculation of the average noise exposure for different construction trades in this sector calls for an enhanced level of work analysis and measurement. Recommended here are personal measurements with simultaneous recording of the various activities and machines employed. With the subsequent assignment of average sound pressure levels and activities, it is then possible to draw conclusions about part exposures and mean exposure. At euronoise 2006 in Tampere, findings for a series of construction trades were presented. In the meantime, this series of measurements has been extended to include further trades. Furthermore subsequent measurements have been performed for individual trades, this was considered necessary because certain machines and working methods have changed in these fields in the last 20 years. The findings show that technical progress does not necessarily result in a reduction in noise exposure.