



ADCO-Machinery open Workshop on the NOMAD survey 2nd announcement

It is a recognized fact that quieter machines result in –

- fewer cases of hearing damage,
- easier communications in factories,
- improved hearing of warning signals,
- a more motivated workforce,
- improved concentration over longer periods,
- fewer days lost to sickness from noise related stress and, consequently,
- lower noise-related costs for companies and for society.

When assessing the suitability of a machine, performance parameters like power output, speed and production rate come high in the list of selling/purchase parameters. These parameters are nowadays often widened to sustainability, energy consumption, recyclability, etc. **Is noise emission considered?**

The NOMAD survey was carried out jointly by 14 member states under the auspices of ADCO-Machines. NOMAD found that 80 % out of the noise declarations reviewed in 1500 instruction manuals do not satisfy the requirements of the European “Machinery” and “Outdoor Noise” Directives. **Is low noise emission a design objective of manufacturers?**

Employers have legal duties to manage the noise exposure of workers and to consider low noise emission when purchasing or hiring equipment. They seldom use the noise emission data or ask manufacturers for this data. Doing so they miss out the social and economic benefits they can get from buying quieter machines. **Is noise emission taken into account by users before buying a machine?**

Manufacturers of machines and employers have clear legal duties to reduce and manage risks from noise but they are not the only players. Professional buyers, occupational health and safety experts, national authorities (labour inspectors and market surveillance bodies), Notified Bodies, standardisers and others also bear some responsibility.

In order to raise awareness and improve this unsatisfactory situation, the European Commission and ADCO-Machines kindly invite all stakeholders to gather for a Workshop. It will take place in Brussels on 18 June 2013 at Hotel Le Plaza, Bd Adolphe Max, 118-126, Brussels 1000. Participation is free of charge. Simultaneous translation in English, French, German and Spanish will be provided.

An advanced draft programme of the Workshop and a registration form are attached.

For further technical information about the Workshop, please contact:

pascal.etienne@dgt.travail.gouv.fr or jean.jacques@inrs.fr or NOMAD@inrs.fr