

Appendix II to the General Laboratory and Workshop Regulations of the University of Vienna

Noise and Vibration

Anyone present in any of the University of Vienna's buildings must be protected from harm and damage caused by noise and vibration.

Noise = any sound in the acoustic domain

Vibration = mechanical oscillations or shocks that are transferred to the human body through direct contact

There are different types of vibration:

- *hand-arm vibration*: mechanical oscillations that enter the body at the fingers or the palm of the hands and pose health and safety hazards, particularly for developing vascular disorders, bone and joint disorders, neurological disorders and muscle disorders
- *whole-body vibration*: mechanical oscillations transferred to the human body that pose health and safety hazards, particularly for developing back pain and diseases of the spine.

Exposure action values

Insofar as the state of the art allows for it, measures must be taken to prevent that the following exposure action values are exceeded:

Hand-arm vibration:	2.5 m/s ²
Whole-body vibration:	0.5 m/s ²
Noise:	80 dB

Hearing protection must be made available to employees who are exposed to noise that exceeds the exposure action value.

Exposure limit values

The following exposure limit values may not be exceeded:

Hand-arm vibration:	5 m/s ² (2.5 m/s ² for teenagers)
Whole-body vibration:	1.15 m/s ² (0.5 m/s ² for teenagers)
Noise:	85 dB

The hearing protection made available to employees who are exposed to noise at the workplace that exceeds the exposure limit value must ensure that the individual employee's exposure does not exceed the exposure limit value.

Employees at whose workplace noise exceeds the exposure limit value have to wear the hearing protection provided.

Pursuant to section 65 para. 4 line 6 of the Austrian Worker Protection Act (ASchG), employee noise exposure records must be kept for all employees exposed to noise above the exposure limit value regardless of the individual effect of their personal protective equipment.

Areas in which the exposure limit value for noise is exceeded must be marked in a suitable way. The same applies to areas where vibration is transferred via the floor and the exposure limit value for whole-body vibration is exceeded. If it is impossible to mark the space and the exposure risk justifies such a measure, cordon off the space and limit access.



Limit values for individual rooms

Rooms in which mostly intellectual activities are carried out: 50 dB

Rooms in which simple administrative tasks or comparable assignments are carried out: 65 dB

Lounges, on-call rooms, first-aid rooms and living space (noise generated by people does not affect the limit): 50 dB

In all above-mentioned rooms, exposure to whole-body vibration should be kept as low as possible and must not exceed the exposure action value.