

Grapes harvester 2

Task Description:

After putting the grapes in a bucket, the bucket has to be carried along the vines. When full, the weight of a the bucket is between 20 and 30 kg. Lifting occurs above shoulder height (when smaller worker even above head height). The bucket is emptied in the container of the tractor. Not every worker empties the bucket. There are 2 or 3 workers amongst a group of 10 workers that collects all the grapes from the buckets of other persons to fills his bucket. This person also gives an empty bucket to another worker when his bucket is already full.



Comments from the employee:

- 'The work height is not always in accordance with the working posture'
- At the end of the day the bucket is very heavy
- You have to be trained to perform this

MSD risks:

- Uncomfortable postures of back
- Heavy loads

Exposed areas:

- Neck / shoulder
- upper/lower back

Solutions:

- Better working techniques
- Job rotation: not always the same people that harvest or carry
- Machine harvester



Comments from the employer

We prefer the manual work rather than using the machinery. The quality is much better due to the control of the worker if the grapes are OK or not so the buckets still have to be carried. Job rotation may be a solution.

Photos: Veerle Hermans, Belgium, 2009