

Grapes harvester

Task Description:

During a short seasonal period (2 weeks) grapes have to be harvested in the vineyard. Very repetitive work with high frequency is continuously performed during 8 or more hours per day. Awkward postures of wrist (one hand fixating the grapes, the other one for harvest) and flexion of the back is observed. Grapes are disposed in a bucket that people have to carry along the vines. When full, the bucket can weight 20 till even 30 kg.



Awkward back postures during harvest

Comments from the employee:

- 'The work height is not always in accordance with the working posture'
- 'It is complicated to obtain a correct working posture'
- 'It is no comfortable standing posture'

MSD risks:

- Uncomfortable postures of back, neck and wrists
- The worker is exposed to a continuously static back muscle load for several hours

Exposed areas:

- Neck / shoulder
- wrist
- upper/lower back

Solutions:

- Better working techniques
- 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. In addition with a machine, there is the potential of damaging the grape skins which can cause colouring of the juice and the loss of aromatic qualities.