

Adjustable floor height

Task Description: Milking cows

Milking cows by hand does not occur anymore in Belgium. Milking machines do most of the work. After cleaning the udder the farmer puts the milking claws on the teats. In a tie-stall the farmer has to squat down to get under the cow. The whole milking machine (8 kg) has to be transported. The milking is automatically collected in a milk bulk tank. The claws are removed automatically after milking.



Comments of the employee:

- 'Continuously repetition of the same gestures: at least one hour'
- 'Work height not in accordance with posture: cow on floor level'
- 'No comfortable standing posture: squatting down'
- 'Loads too heavy: milking machine of 8 kg'
- 'Opportunity to have a break: milking as fast as possible'

Comments of the employer: motivation regarding solution:

- The physical load of this milking system is too heavy to sustain for years. The walking distance is too high and the system is time consuming. Tie-stalls are an exception in Belgium.

MSD risks:

- Posture
- Force
- Frequency/duration

Exposed areas:

- Neck/shoulder
- Arm/wrist
- Lower back
- Lower limbs

Solutions:

- The floor height of a parlour can be adjusted to the farmer's stature. Squatting is not necessary anymore and only the claws have to be lifted.

