

ADJUSTABLE FLOOR

Task Description:

In the parlour / rotary milking systems the milker stands in a ditch / on a rotating platform with a fixed floor. Milking is performed in an upright standing position and for several hours. The fixed floor is not adjustable to the height of the milker and this may complicate a correct working posture



Unadjustable fixed floors in a milking parlour and in a rotary milking system



Unsuitable working posture when there is no adjustable floor installed

Comments from the employee:

- ❑ *'The work height is not in accordance with the work task'*
- ❑ *'It is complicated to obtain a correct working posture'*
- ❑ *'It is no comfortable standing posture'*
- ❑ *'After milking, I always have pains in my shoulders and lower back'*

MSD risks:

- ❑ The work involves working with the arms above shoulder height
- ❑ The posture complicates a correct angle of 90° between the joints of the shoulder and the elbow
- ❑ The milker is exposed to a continuously static muscle load for several hours

Exposed areas:

- ❑ Neck / shoulder
- ❑ Elbow
- ❑ Upper / lower back

Solutions:

- ❑ Installation of a floor in the milking parlour / rotary milking system which is adjustable to the height of the milker



A floor in the milking parlour adjustable to the height of the milker

Comments from the employer after installation of an adjustable floor:

- ❑ *'The milkers complain less about aches and pains after milking the cows'*
- ❑ *'In order to attract and keep good workers, it is important to have a good work environment and an adjustable floor in the parlour is a good example'*
- ❑ *'The economic investment is well covered by the lower costs for sick leave'*

Comments from the ergonomist:

- ❑ *'An adjustable floor is a good solution when there is one milker in the parlour. It is more complicated to adjust to a correct working height if there is two milkers of different body height milking at the same time'*

Research references:

Stål, M. & Pinzke, S. 1991. Work environment in dairy barns. Part 2. Musculoskeletal problems in Swedish milking parlour operators (In Swedish). Report no. 80. Department of Farm Building, Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden.