

Hand-arm vibration of horticultural machinery

Part 2

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Richard Heaton MPhys(Hons)

Sue Hewitt BA(Hons) MSc

Harpur Hill

Buxton

Derbyshire

SK17 9JN

In recent years there have been many cases of HAVS being reported for people who work in agriculture, horticulture and landscape gardening. HSE/HSL does not currently hold much information on vibration exposures in these areas of work.

The work described in this report assesses the standard test for hedge trimmers defined in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 for repeatability and ease of use and where possible for reproducibility (by comparing machine manufacturers' declared vibration against HSL measurements to the same standardised procedures). It also assesses the validity of the measurement techniques adopted in the vibration emission test, investigates some of the factors which are likely to influence the results of the test and compares the vibration emission values with vibration magnitudes measured under real operating conditions.

The report concludes that for three of the four hedge trimmers the vibration emissions slightly overestimate the upper quartile. For the fourth hedge trimmer the upper quartile is overestimated by approximately 50%. Placing of the vibration emissions during normal intended use of the machinery in satisfactory rank order cannot be assured by comparing the vibration emissions determined according to the test code, BS EN ISO 10517:2009. The test code inconsistently represents workplace vibration.

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KEY MESSAGES

The vibration emissions of hedge trimmers and their use for long periods during a working day can result in exposures above the Exposure Action Value (EAV) of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 and for some models of these machine types, without adequate control of exposure duration, above the Exposure Limit Value (ELV) of the Regulations.

The vibration emissions of models of these machines varies sufficiently for it to be possible to reduce the vibration hazard by careful consideration of vibration when selecting a hedge trimmer.

Placing of the vibration emissions during normal intended use of the machinery in satisfactory rank order cannot be assured by comparing the vibration emissions determined according to the test code for hedge trimmers, BS EN ISO 10517:2009.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Objectives

In recent years there have been many cases of HAVS (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome) reported for people who work in agriculture, horticulture and landscape gardening. HSE/HSL does not currently hold much information on vibration exposures in these areas of work. Data from the HSL HAVS referrals database show that of the 329 people who have been diagnosed with HAVS, approximately 10% of them list hedge trimmers as one type of equipment which they had been using on a regular basis.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 require that, amongst other information, suppliers of machinery must declare the vibration emission of their tools and machines. The purpose of declaring such information is to allow purchasers and users of tools and machinery to make informed choices regarding the safety of a potential purchase and to facilitate use of the tools without risk – in this case, risk of vibration injury.

The method of declaring vibration emission is to apply a standard test to a machine or tool. The purpose of the standard test is to provide a repeatable and reproducible method of producing a vibration emission value and its uncertainty for declaration purposes. However, in practice, designing a standard test often involves compromise between realistic operation and providing the repeatability and reproducibility sought by manufacturers. The standard test for hedge trimmers is based on artificial operations.

The objectives of the work were to provide HSE with information regarding:

1. The likelihood that use of a hedge trimmer's declared vibration emission value according to BS EN ISO 10517:2009, for comparison of the vibration of hedge trimmers, will assist avoiding purchase of high vibration machines.
2. The likelihood that use of a hedge trimmer's declared vibration emission value according to BS EN ISO 10517:2009 will facilitate a reliable estimate of workplace exposure for comparison with the Exposure Action Value (EAV) of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 (Vibration Directive 2002/44/EC).
3. Limitations of the test code and scope for improvement that can be fed back into the responsible standardisation group.

Main Findings

Objective 1

Vibration emissions of hedge trimmers are sufficient to present an occupational risk of vibration injury.

Choosing between models of hedge trimmer on the basis of declared vibration emissions can help minimise the vibration risk.

Using the standard tests outlined in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 (and an earlier standard test, BS EN 774:1996, used by the manufacturer for two of the machines), manufacturers' declared emission values were verified according to the criteria in BS EN 12096:1997 in three out of the four cases.

Objective 2

When comparing manufacturers' data with the upper quartile field magnitudes for the highest measured value at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 locations, only one of the manufacturers' a emission values approaches the upper quartile of in-use data. However, when the $a+K$ value is used, the upper quartile is exceeded or adequately represented for all four machines. This shows that the use of existing manufacturers' a emission data for the purposes of risk assessment will result in an underestimate of the vibration risk associated with the use of the machine. However, the $a+K$ value gives a reasonable estimate of the vibration risk in three out of four cases. In the case of Machine A, use of $a+K$ results in a 50% overestimate, but the magnitude of vibration is small relative to the other machines. HSL data suggests that a smaller value of K could be declared for Machine A.

When comparing HSL measured emission values with the upper quartile field magnitude at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 measurement locations, the upper quartile is slightly overestimated for three of the four hedge trimmers. For the fourth hedge trimmer the upper quartile is overestimated by approximately 50%, even before taking the K value into consideration. The vibration risk associated with the use of the machines is overestimated by up to 50%.

Objective 3

There are significant differences between the vibration emissions of the hedge trimmers tested both according to the standard test and in normal workplace use. All machines could present risk of vibration injury if their use is not adequately managed and two of the hedge trimmers would require more careful management on account of their higher vibration emission.

ANOVA (Analysis of variance) of the vibration magnitudes measured for individual operators during the emission tests showed that the emissions are significantly different for each operator for three of the four hedge trimmers. This suggests that the emission test procedure in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 could be improved by deriving the emission value from tests made using more than one operator.

BS EN ISO 10517:2009 produces emission values which identify that Machines A and D are the better machines, consistent with the upper quartile vibration determined during normal use. The upper quartile value determined for Machine B suggests that this is the highest vibration machine. However, BS EN ISO 10517:2009 suggests that the vibration of Machines B and C is similar, contrary to findings from comparison of the upper quartile vibration. The test code inconsistently represents workplace vibration

Recommendations

The reason for the test code's inconsistent representation of workplace vibration should be investigated.

BS EN ISO 10517:2009 should be revised to require three operators to carry out the emission test. The use of only one operator is not valid as a main source of variation of the vibration magnitude is from the operator.

The C_v criterion should also be reduced from the current specification of 'Less than 0.4'. Setting a criterion of 'Less than 0.15', as widely used in pneumatic and electrical standards seems sufficient.

Measuring while the hedge trimmer is *idling* does not appear necessary and should be removed, as it only makes the emission test more complicated.

HSE should advise users to take the manufacturers' *a+K* values as indicators of likely in-use vibration values for hedge trimming.

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1 INTRODUCTION

1.1 BACKGROUND

Hand-arm vibration emission test code standards support the legal requirement of the Machinery Directive (Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations) to report vibration emission. For vibration these standards have a central role in the legal framework for inspection of suppliers of work equipment and they provide a presumption of conformity with the requirement to declare vibration emissions.

Work by HSE/HSL to evaluate vibration emission standards for hand-held power tools and machines has shown that many test codes provide vibration values that substantially under-represent vibration risk. Employers estimating the vibration exposure of their employees using the information provided by the manufacturer may be unwittingly putting their employees at high risk of developing hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS).

The work reported here is carried out under a project that encompasses machines which are powered by internal combustion engines. There are a number of internal combustion type machines which are known to represent a risk to health, for example lawnmowers and hedge trimmers, for which HSL had not previously carried out an assessment of the emission standards. HSE requires more knowledge on the typical vibration magnitudes and exposures from machines such as hedge trimmers and this needs to be addressed, particularly in view of the fact that incidence of HAVS is increasingly prevalent among those who work in grounds maintenance and similar occupations that use these machines.

The relevant standards are:

- BS EN ISO 10517:2009 *Powered hand-held hedge trimmers – Safety*, the vibration emission test code evaluated in this report.
- BS EN 774:1996 *Garden equipment – Hand held, integrally powered hedge trimmers – Safety*, the predecessor to BS EN ISO 10517:2009.
- BS EN ISO 20643:2008 *Mechanical vibration – Hand-held and hand-guided machinery – Principles for evaluation of vibration emission*, provides the basis for drafting vibration test codes and requires declared emissions are representative of the 75th percentile of emissions during normal use.
- BS EN 12096:1997 *Mechanical vibration – Declaration and verification of vibration emission values*, used for the verification of manufacturers' declared emission values.

1.2 OUTLINE OF WORK

In recent years there have been many cases of HAVS being reported for people who work in agriculture, horticulture and landscape gardening. HSE/HSL does not currently hold much information on vibration exposures in these areas of work.

The machines most commonly used are pedestrian controlled lawnmowers, brush and grass cutters, chainsaws and hedge trimmers. Previous research has been carried out for the Forestry Commission looking at chain saws and brush cutters (NV/04/04 and NV/01/16 respectively), however pedestrian controlled mowers and hedge trimmers have not been investigated. Data from the HSL HAVS referrals database show that of the 329 people who have been diagnosed

with HAVS, approximately 10% of them list hedge trimmers as one type of equipment which they had been using on a regular basis.

The Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008 require that, amongst other information, suppliers of machinery must declare the vibration emission of their tools and machines. The purpose of declaring such information is to allow purchasers and users of tools and machinery to make informed choices regarding the safety of a potential purchase and to facilitate use of the tools without risk – in this case, risk of vibration injury.

The method of declaring vibration emission is to apply a standard test to a machine or tool. The purpose of the standard test is to provide a repeatable and reproducible method of producing a vibration emission value and its uncertainty for declaration purposes. However, in practice, it has been difficult to design a standard test that is both based on a realistic operation and provides the repeatability and reproducibility sought by manufacturers. The standard test for hedge trimmers is based on artificial operations.

At the time of testing, the current version of the standard test code for measurement of vibration emission of hedge trimmers was BS EN ISO 10517:2009. The work for hedge trimmers had three aims:

1. To assess the standard test defined in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 for repeatability and ease of use and where possible for reproducibility (by comparing machine manufacturers' declared vibration against HSL measurements to the same standardised procedures).
2. To assess the validity of the measurement techniques adopted in the vibration emission test and investigate some of the factors which are likely to influence the results of the test.
3. To compare the vibration emission values with vibration magnitudes measured under real operating conditions.

The objectives of the work were to provide HSE with information regarding:

1. The likelihood that use of a hedge trimmer's declared vibration emission value according to BS EN ISO 10517:2009, for comparison of the vibration of hedge trimmers, will assist avoiding purchase of high vibration machines.
2. The likelihood that use of a hedge trimmer's declared vibration emission value according to BS EN ISO 10517:2009 will facilitate a reliable estimate of workplace exposure for comparison with the Exposure Action Value (EAV) of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 (Vibration Directive 2002/44/EC).
3. Limitations of the test code and scope for improvement that can be fed back into the responsible standardisation group.

2 MACHINES TESTED

Four hedge trimmers were acquired for testing as shown in Figures 1a-d.



Figure 1a Machine A



Figure 1b Machine B



Figure 1c Machine C



Figure 1d Machine D

Table 1a describes the basic characteristics of the four hedge trimmers and Table 1b details their declared vibration emissions.

Table 1a Basic characteristics

Machine	HSL Sample No.	Cutting length (mm)	Weight (kg)	Engine speed idle/max (rpm)	Engine speed at max. power ¹ (rpm)
A	NV/10/07	600	5.6	2800/9100	7000
B	NV/10/06	600	5.7	2700/8400	8400
C	NV/10/05	690	6.0	3500/	6700
D	NV/10/04	735	6.3	2700/10500	9000

¹ Engine speed at maximum power is used when undertaking the emission test

Table 1b Declared vibration emissions

Machine	Declared vibration emission (m/s ²)						Test code quoted	Calculated vibration emission (m/s ²)		
	<i>Idling</i>		<i>Racing</i>		<i>Equivalent</i>			<i>Equivalent</i>		
	$a_{hv,Id}$	K	a	K	a	K		a	K	
A	-	-	-	-	2.3	2.0	ISO 20643	-	-	
B	2.3	-	4.5	-	-	-	EN 774	4.2	2.1*	
C	-	-	4.6	0.5	-	-	EN 774	-	-	
D	2.3	-	3.1	-	-	-	EN ISO 22867	3.0	1.5*	

*K value calculated according to provisions in BS EN 12096:1997

In Table 1b, the ‘Test code quoted’ column is how the test codes are quoted in the machine handbooks. None of the handbooks included a date of the test code.

Idling (subscript: Id) is the engine speed at which the cutting equipment does not move.

Racing (subscript: Ra) is the engine speed at 133% of the speed at maximum engine power

Equivalent (subscript: Eq) is based on a work cycle composed of idling and racing and is given by

$$a_{hv,Eq} = \left(\frac{1}{5} \bar{a}_{hv,Id}^2 + \frac{4}{5} \bar{a}_{hv,Ra}^2 \right)^{1/2} \quad \text{Equation 1}$$

$\bar{a}_{hv,Eq}$ is the *equivalent* vibration emission value

$\bar{a}_{hv,Id}$ is the mean *idling* vibration emission value

$\bar{a}_{hv,Ra}$ is the mean *racing* vibration emission value

For Machines B and D where the manufacturers’ have declared both *idling* and *racing* values, HSL has calculated an *equivalent* value based on Equation 1.

Machine A has a declared vibration emission *equivalent* value based on ISO 20643. Since this is a general declaration standard it is assumed that the actual test code followed is BS EN ISO 10517:2009 because the manufacturer has declared an *equivalent* vibration magnitude, a term that only appears in this machine specific standard.

Machines B and C have declared vibration emissions according to EN 774. The manufacturer of Machine B has declared both *idling* and *racing* values and so an *equivalent* value has been calculated by HSL. The manufacturer of Machine C has declared only a *racing* value as required in BS EN 774:1996.

Machine D has declared vibration emissions based on EN ISO 22867:2008. This particular emission standard is intended for forestry machinery and so does not apply to hedge trimmers. However, the test code procedure for strimmers in BS EN ISO 22867:2008 is almost identical to BS EN ISO 10517:2009. The manufacturer has declared both *idling* and *racing* values and so an *equivalent* value has been calculated by HSL.

3 LABORATORY TESTING OF VIBRATION EMISSION

3.1 EMISSION TEST PROCEDURE FOR POWERED HAND-HELD HEDGE TRIMMERS

The emission test procedure for a hedge trimmer is a free running test, which involves no actual cutting. Measurements are carried out with the machine *idling* and the machine *racing* and an *equivalent* vibration value is determined using Equation 1. *Idling* is the engine speed at which the cutting equipment does not move. *Racing* is the engine speed at 133% of the speed at maximum engine power. All of the machines tested in this report have a speed limiter set below this 133% speed and so are tested at full throttle.

Tests are carried out on a new, normal production hedge trimmer fitted with standard equipment. The hedge trimmer is run in and warmed up until stable conditions are reached before the test is started. The cutting device is lubricated and the fuel tanks are full. The hedge trimmer is operated with the operator standing upright and held with the axis of the cutting device orientated as in the normal rest position on a horizontal surface as shown in Figure 2.

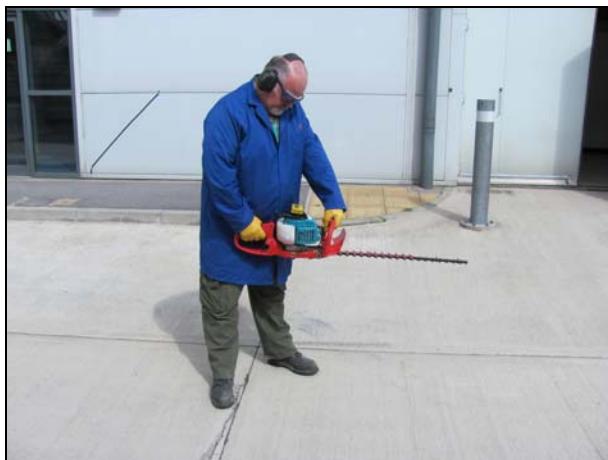


Figure 2 Operator position

The test procedure requires a minimum of four measurements and at least four separate periods of vibration data totalling at least 20 seconds. Between each measurement there must be a break, when the machine is allowed to reach a stable idling condition. The vibration test codes for many other machine categories, use five measurements per operator. Consequently, in these tests, HSL have chosen to measure five cycles of *idling* and *racing* with a 20s measurement time for each.

BS EN 774:1996, the predecessor to BS EN ISO 10517:2009, calls for 5 *racing* measurements only.

Both test codes specify one operator only. A description of the criteria for the use of one operator is given in BS EN ISO 20643:2008 which states that...

...if it can be shown that the vibration is not affected by operator characteristics, it is acceptable to perform measurements with one operator only.

3.2 TRANSDUCER MOUNTING LOCATIONS

The transducer locations specified by BS EN ISO 10517:2009 are shown in Figure 3. The dimensions are in millimetres.

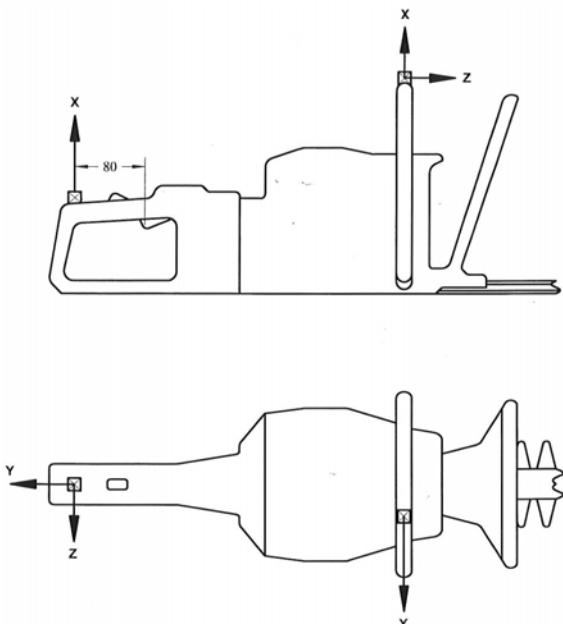


Figure 3 Position of transducers (taken from BS EN 10517:2009)

3.3 DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS

Details of instrumentation used for acquisition and analysis of vibration emission data is given in Appendix A.

The transducers used for all of the measurements were PCB Type 356A02 ICP triaxial accelerometers. The accelerometers were bolted to a custom-made aluminium mounting block and fixed in place using a plastic cable tie and tensioning gun. The cable tie system (shown in Figure 4) produces a reliable, repeatable fix that has been tested at HSL, and has been shown to be rigid within and well beyond the frequency range of interest for hand-arm vibration measurements. For Machine C, the rear hand accelerometer was fixed in place using cyanoacrylate glue rather than a cable tie, as to not interfere with the use of the trigger.



Figure 4 Aluminium block positioned using the cable tie system

Each of the five separate measurements of *idling* and of *racing*, for one operator only, was a twenty second linear analysis, made using a Brüel & Kjær (B&K) Pulse multi-channel real time frequency analyser. One-third octave band analyses of the data were carried out. The data were also frequency weighted in accordance with BS EN ISO 8041:2005 and then stored on the PC. The overall frequency weighted vibration magnitude at each measurement position was recorded after each test.

After five measurements each of *idling* and *racing*, the coefficient of variation C_v , was calculated. The C_v is equal to the standard deviation divided by the mean of the five measurements. BS EN ISO 10517:2009 states that the measurements are valid if C_v is less than 0.4. If C_v was greater than or equal to 0.4 then testing continued until five consecutive measurements gave an acceptable value of C_v .

For each hedge trimmer, the declared vibration emission figure for *idling*, is the mean value of the five measurements for *idling* and the declared vibration emission figure for *racing*, is the mean value of the five measurements for *racing*. The *equivalent* vibration value is then calculated using Equation 1.

The individual deviation K , is calculated according to the provisions of BS EN 12096:1997 Annex B.2, where a single machine is used to declare the vibration emission.

3.4 EMISSION TEST RESULTS

The full results of the emission tests, including frequency spectra, are given in Appendix B.

Table 2 contains the results of the HSL emission tests according to BS EN 774:1996 which requires a racing value and BS EN ISO 10517:2009 which requires an equivalent value. The figures in **bold** indicate the mounting location with the highest vibration emission.

Table 2 Vibration emission total values measured at HSL

Machine	Frequency weighted vibration magnitude (m/s ²)							
	Racing BS EN 774:1996				Equivalent BS EN ISO 10517:2009			
	Front hand		Rear hand		Front hand		Rear hand	
	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>
A	1.9	0.4	3.1	0.5	2.0	0.4	3.0	0.4
B	5.2	1.2	6.8	1.7	5.2	1.0	6.6	1.3
C	7.7	1.3	4.8	0.6	7.1	1.2	4.5	0.5
D	4.4	0.9	3.7	0.4	4.2	0.7	3.5	0.4

The emission tests were carried out using three operators, to see if the use of only one operator as permitted in the standard is justified.

A C_v of less than 0.4 was achieved easily. Only one value of C_v was greater than 0.15, which occurred during *idling* measurements when there is greater variation in the engine speed.

4 ADDITIONAL LABORATORY MEASUREMENTS

4.1 ADDITIONAL OPERATORS

BS EN ISO 10517:2009 specifies that a single operator can be used for the test. To investigate the assumption that only one operator is necessary, all of the emission tests were carried out using three operators. The results are shown in Table 3, based on *equivalent* vibration values.

Table 3 Operator *equivalent* values from emission tests. The figures in brackets are the percentage differences from operator 1.

	Equivalent vibration magnitudes (m/s ²)		
	Op 1	Op 2	Op 3
Machine A	3.2	3.1 (-3%)	2.7 (-16%)
Machine B	6.4	7.5 (+17%)	5.9 (-8%)
Machine C	6.5	6.9 (+6%)	7.8 (+20%)
Machine D	4.0	4.0 (0%)	4.6 (+15%)

Table 3 shows absolute differences of up to 1.3 m/s² from Operator 1 and percentage differences of between -16% and +20% between operators for the same machine.

4.2 HORIZONTAL VS VERTICAL OPERATION

Hedge trimmers are operated using one of two cutting techniques. For the horizontal cut technique (Figure 5a) the cutter bar is held at an angle of 0° to 10° as the hedge trimmer is swung horizontally. For the vertical cut technique (Figure 5b) the cutting bar is swung in an arc from the bottom upwards.

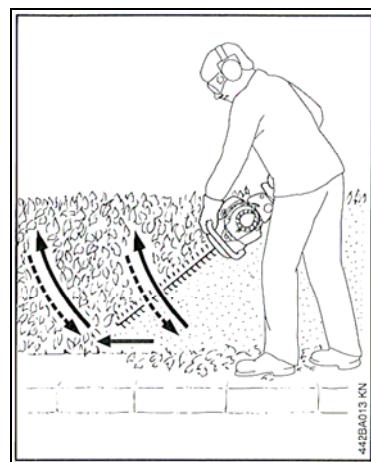


Figure 5a Horizontal cut technique **Figure 5b** Vertical cut technique

Diagrams used (with permission) from manufacturer's handbook

To allow for better control and comfort in all cutting situations, the rear handle on all of the hedge trimmers tested at HSL can be rotated through 90° as shown in Figure 6. The emission test calls for the operator to hold the machine as in the horizontal technique but without the

motion. Further emission tests were carried out on all of the machines for one operator only, with the operator holding the hedge trimmer as in the vertical technique with the rear handle rotated through 90°. The cutting bar was engaged and the hedge trimmer itself was held stationary.



Figure 6 Rear handle rotated through 90°

The differences on the measured vibration magnitudes between the two techniques for racing are shown in Table 4.

Table 4 Differences between cutting techniques

	Horizontal		Vertical		% difference
	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>	<i>a</i>	<i>K</i>	
Machine A	3.3	0.2	2.4	0.1	-27
Machine B	6.6	0.2	5.5	0.7	-17
Machine C	7.1	0.5	5.0	0.7	-30
Machine D	4.3	0.5	3.3	0.1	-23

Table 4 shows that the vertical cut configuration generates emission values that are between 17 and 30% lower than the horizontal cut configuration.

5 FIELD MEASUREMENTS

5.1 MEASUREMENT PROTOCOL

Following the laboratory emission test stage, the hedge trimmers were taken out on the HSL site, where they were used under three sets of conditions as shown in Figures 7a-c. Triaxial vibration measurements were made at the same mounting locations as in the emission tests (Figure 3). Three operators carried out the same operation, one after another. The conditions in Figure 7a involved both horizontal and vertical cutting techniques on a thick stemmed shrub. The conditions in Figure 7b involved both horizontal and vertical cutting techniques on a thinner stemmed shrub. The conditions in Figure 7c involved the vertical cutting technique on conifer, a much softer and easier foliage to cut.



Figure 7a Horizontal and vertical cut techniques on thick stemmed shrub



Figure 7b Horizontal and vertical cut techniques on thinner stemmed shrub



Figure 7c Vertical cut technique on conifer

5.2 DATA ACQUISITION AND ANALYSIS

Details of instrumentation used for acquisition and analysis of field measurement data is given in Appendix A.

Due to the highly mobile nature of the machines it was not possible to use the normal mains powered real time frequency analysis unit on site. The signals from the accelerometers were therefore recorded on a battery powered data recorder, then analysed using a B&K Pulse multi-channel frequency analyser when back at the laboratory at HSL. One-third octave band analyses of the data were carried out. The data were also frequency weighted in accordance with BS EN ISO 8041:2005 and then stored on the PC. The overall frequency weighted vibration magnitude at each measurement position was recorded after each test. The data acquisition instrumentation is shown in Figure 8.

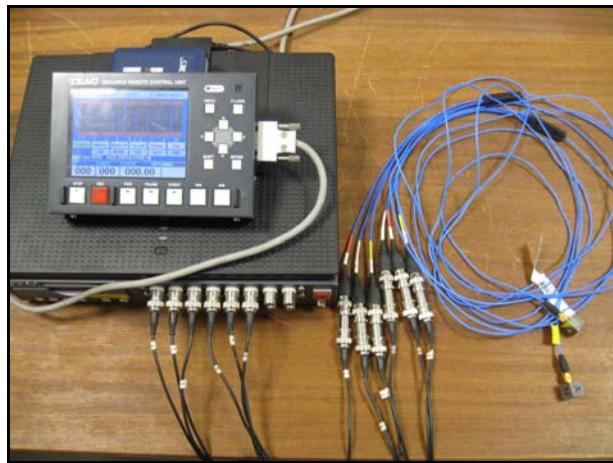


Figure 8 Data acquisition instrumentation

All of the measurements obtained for each of the hedge trimmers were then used to derive a mean frequency weighted vibration magnitude and standard deviation.

5.3 RESULTS OF FIELD MEASUREMENTS

The full results from the field measurements, including frequency spectra, are given in Appendix B. A summary of the overall results for each hedge trimmer is given in Table 5.

The ‘**Average**’ conditions are the mean and standard deviation across all field measurements for that hedge trimmer. The **bold** values indicate the hand position with the highest measured vibration.

Table 5 Summary of field measurements on the hedge trimmers

Machine	Conditions	Frequency weighted vibration total values (m/s ²)				Number of measurements	
		Front hand		Rear hand			
		mean	stdev	mean	stdev		
A	Cutting thick shrub	2.3	0.3	2.6	0.3	6	
	Cutting thin shrub	2.5	0.3	3.0	0.2	3	
	Cutting conifer	2.1	0.1	2.1	0.2	3	
	Average	2.3	0.3	2.6	0.4	12	
B	Cutting thick shrub	4.3	0.4	6.1	1.1	6	
	Cutting thin shrub	4.0	0.4	7.0	0.7	3	
	Cutting conifer	3.9	0.6	5.5	0.3	3	
	Average	4.1	0.5	6.2	1.0	12	
C	Cutting thick shrub	4.3	0.6	3.7	0.3	3	
	Cutting thin shrub	4.9	0.7	4.2	0.6	3	
	Cutting conifer	4.3	0.4	3.4	0.4	3	
	Average	4.5	0.6	3.8	0.5	9	
D	Cutting thick shrub	3.5	0.5	4.3	0.9	6	
	Cutting thin shrub	3.6	0.3	3.6	0.4	3	
	Cutting conifer	3.1	0.5	3.5	0.4	3	
	Average	3.4	0.5	3.9	0.8	12	

The upper quartile values for each hedge trimmer are given in Table 6. The **bold** values indicate the hand position with the highest measured vibration.

Table 6 Upper quartiles at both hand positions

Machine	Frequency weighted vibration total values (m/s ²)		Number of measurements
	Front hand upper quartile	Rear hand upper quartile	
A	2.5	2.8	12
B	4.6	7.0	12
C	4.8	4.0	9
D	3.8	4.0	12

6 DISCUSSION

6.1 COMPARISON OF DECLARED AND MEASURED EMISSION

BS EN 12096:1997 states that if just one machine is evaluated, the declared vibration emission is verified if the measured vibration emission, a , is less than, or equal to the value of $a + K$ as declared by the manufacturer.

Table 7 compares the measured and declared vibration emission for each machine and identifies the conditions under which the comparison has been made. Table 7 makes a verification assessment based on data averaged for three operators. Reference to Table 3 suggests that Machines B, C, and D would have failed the verification test on at least one occasion had one of the three operators been selected alone. The Standard test should require more than one operator to reduce the effect of the operator on test results.

Table 7 Comparison of declared emissions under BS EN 12096:1997

Machine	Manufacturer's declared emission (m/s^2)			Conditions	HSL measured emission (m/s^2)			HSL verifies
	a	K	$a+K$		a	K	$a+K$	
A	2.3	2.0	4.3	<i>Equivalent</i>	3.0	0.4	3.4	Y
B	4.2	2.1*	6.3	<i>Equivalent</i>	6.6	1.3	7.9	N
	4.5	2.3*	6.8	<i>Racing</i>	6.8	1.7	8.5	Y
C	4.6	0.5	5.1	<i>Racing</i>	7.7	1.3	9.0	N
D	3.0	1.5*	4.5	<i>Equivalent</i>	4.2	0.7	4.9	Y

* Value not provided so calculated as $0.5a$ according to the provisions of BS EN 12096

During the emission tests HSL measured both *idling* and *racing* vibration total values in order to calculate an *equivalent* vibration total value. Doing so allowed verification to be made against both test codes, namely BS EN ISO 10517:2009 and BS EN 774:1996. HSL has used the most appropriate data for comparison with the manufacturers' data.

The manufacturer of Machine B has declared to BS EN 774:1996 and under those conditions (*racing*), the declaration has been verified. For Machine B a comparison has also been made under *equivalent* conditions, but the verification was not successful.

The results in Table 7 show that HSL has verified the manufacturers' declared vibration emissions in three out of four cases.

The C_v criterion of 0.4 for the hedge trimmers test is unusually large. A criterion of 0.15 is widely used for electrical and pneumatic powered hand-tools. Tests conducted here readily achieved C_v values of less than 0.15 and so a C_v criterion of less than 0.15 appears sufficient for hedge trimmer testing.

6.2 ANALYSIS OF VARIANCE

6.2.1 HSL measured emission

Analysis of variance (ANOVA) was carried out on the HSL emission data, to see which emission values could be considered as different and which could not. The statistical analysis was carried out for each possible combination of two machines using the vibration magnitudes at the same locations for each machine. The null hypothesis was that the two sets of 15 emission values obtained from the laboratory test (3 operators, 5 repeats) were not statistically separable at the 5% level, i.e. they had the same mean value. The results of the ANOVA analysis are shown in Table 8 and the data are represented graphically in Figure 9, where the standard deviation is plotted against the mean measured emission, a . The mean is represented by a black diamond and the error bars indicate the standard deviation. Those machines that are not significantly different from one-another are circled.

From the results of the ANOVA analysis in Table 8 and Figure 9, it is possible to get an indication of the order of magnitude or the percentage difference that might represent a significant difference between two machines. This then enables informed judgements to be made as to whether the vibration magnitudes from two different machines can be considered as different and helps to identify any machines which stand out from the rest of the machines in the category as being particularly high or low vibration machines. Machines with low vibration emission may be representative of the state-of-the-art in terms of vibration control but this is a small sample of four machines.

Table 8 Results of the ANOVA analysis on *equivalent* emission values

	A	B	C	D
mean a	3.0	6.6	7.1	4.2
std dev	0.4	1.3	1.2	0.7
A		s	s	s
B			ns	s
C				s
D				

's' is significantly different, 'ns' is not significantly different

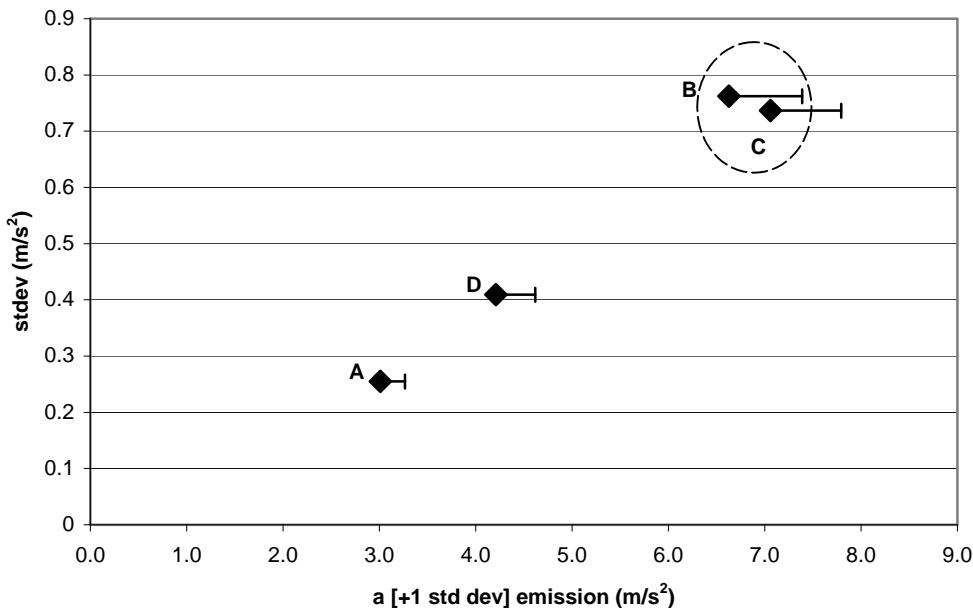


Figure 9 Mean a [$+1$ std dev] emission vs standard deviation for HSL measured vibration magnitudes. The oval indicates those machines which are not significantly different

Table 8 and Figure 9 show that the emission values of 7.1 m/s^2 and 6.6 m/s^2 for Machines B and C respectively are not significantly different. All other pairs of comparisons across the four machines show the mean vibration of the machines are significantly different.

6.2.2 Operator variations

ANOVA carried out on the data from different operators (Table 3) to investigate the effect of the operator on the measured vibration magnitude showed that the choice of operator is significant for 3 of the 4 hedge trimmers. Machine A is the only hedge trimmer where the variations are not significantly different as the absolute magnitudes are the most similar. This suggests that it is not appropriate to carry out the emission test procedure using only one operator. The reasons for the differences between operators have not been investigated. There were no obvious differences in posture or hand position during the emission tests, however there may be an effect relating to the physical characteristics of the operator's hand and arm or grip and feed forces used which influence the amount of damping that each individual operator applies.

6.3 COMPARISON OF DECLARED AND MEASURED EMISSION AND FIELD MEASUREMENTS

Figure 10 shows the manufacturer's declared emission, the HSL measured emission and the field measurement results for each measurement location on each hedge trimmer. The error bars represent the K values (reported in Table 2). For Machines A, B and D the manufacturers' declarations are based on the rear hand measurement location. It is not known from which measurement location the declaration for Machine C is based. When considering how well the result of the emission test compares with the upper quartile of the field measurements, it is important to bear in mind that the upper quartiles have been obtained from a relatively small data set.

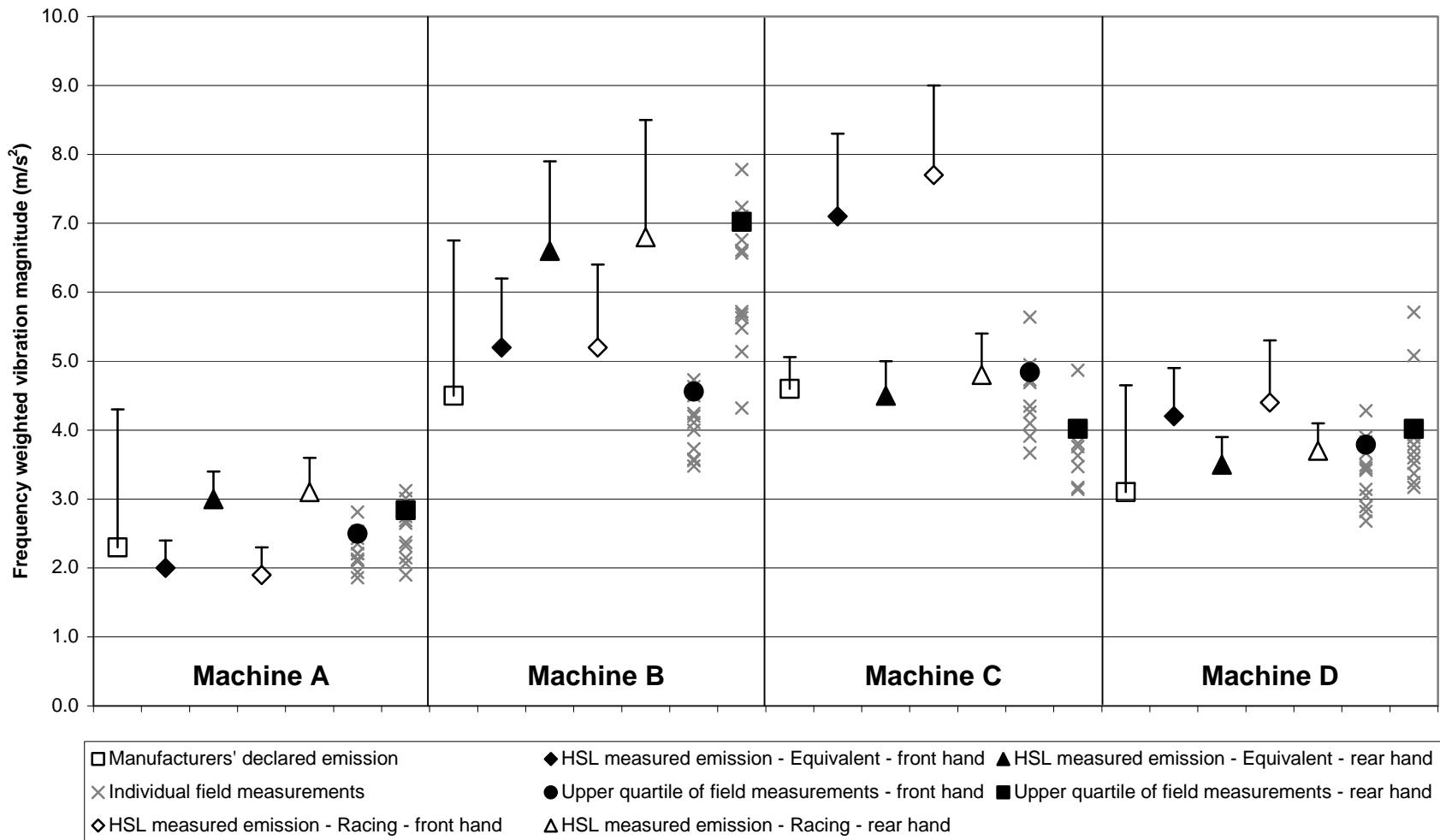


Figure 10 Comparison of manufacturers' declared and HSL measured emissions and field measurements

Figure 10 shows that for all of the hedge trimmers tested, the $a + K$ values as measured by HSL are greater than the upper quartile values. The *racing* emission values are more comparable with the field measurements as the field measurements do not include any *idling*. The *idling* emission values are lower than the *racing* emission values for the hedge trimmers tested at HSL and it is not known how much idling occurs, if any, when hedge trimmers are used at work. Hedge trimming as observed at work during a different project (NV/10/06) involved no idling i.e. the operators were on the throttle 100% of the time. Despite the fact that the *equivalent* emission values contain 80% *racing* and 20% *idling*, the *equivalent* emission values determined by HSL are also greater than the upper quartile field values.

The differences in vibration magnitudes between horizontal and vertical techniques measured during the emission tests were not observed during the field measurements. During real use the operator is continually varying grip and posture and so consequently the conditions are less controlled and this may mask any differences between horizontal and vertical operation noticed in the emission tests.

Similar variations between operators were observed during both the emission and field tests. However, during the field tests there appeared to be larger variations. One of the operators reported fatigue towards the end of the trials – all completed on one day. A possible explanation is that fatigue and operator technique may bring about variations in the measured vibration magnitude.

6.4 EMISSION VALUES AS AN INDICATOR OF RISK

One of the requirements of BS EN ISO 20643:2008 is that emission test codes should be designed to produce values which reflect the upper quartile of the in-use magnitudes. The data measured at HSL according to BS EN ISO 10517:2009 have been compared with the upper quartile of the HSL measured in-use vibration data. To do this, the ratio of the HSL measured a emission to the upper quartile of in-use values measured at the transducer positions specified in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 has been calculated and shown in Figure 11.

In Figure 11, a ratio of 1 indicates that the a emission and upper quartile field magnitudes are the same and therefore a value of 1 on the y-axis can be seen as the target value. A value greater than 1 indicates that the emission value overestimates the upper quartile of field measurements. A value less than 1 indicates an underestimate. The error bar on each data point indicates the difference that adding the K value makes to the ratio. Figure 11 shows that for the highest measured value, for three of the hedge trimmers, the HSL measured a emission value overestimates the upper quartile field by less than 15%, before taking the K value into consideration. However, for the fourth hedge trimmer, the HSL measured a emission value overestimates the upper quartile field by approximately 50%, even before taking the K value into consideration. The vibration risk associated with the use of the machines is overestimated by up to 50%.

Figure 12 shows the ratio of the manufacturers' a emissions to the upper quartile value at the location of the highest measured value as specified in BS EN ISO 10517:2009. In practice users of the emission data are likely to receive the highest measured manufacturers' emission value to represent both hands. Figure 12 shows that if the manufacturers' data are compared to the upper quartile field magnitudes for the highest hand at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 locations, only one of the manufacturers' a emission values approaches the upper quartile of in-use data. When the $a+K$ value is used, the upper quartile is exceeded or adequately represented for all four machines. This shows that the use of existing manufacturers' a emission data for the purposes of risk assessment will result in an underestimate of the vibration risk associated with the use of the machine. However the $a+K$ value will result in a reasonable estimate of the vibration risk.

In the case of Machine A, use of $a+K$ results in a 50% overestimate but the magnitude of vibration is small relative to the other machines. HSL data suggests that a smaller value of K could be declared for Machine A.

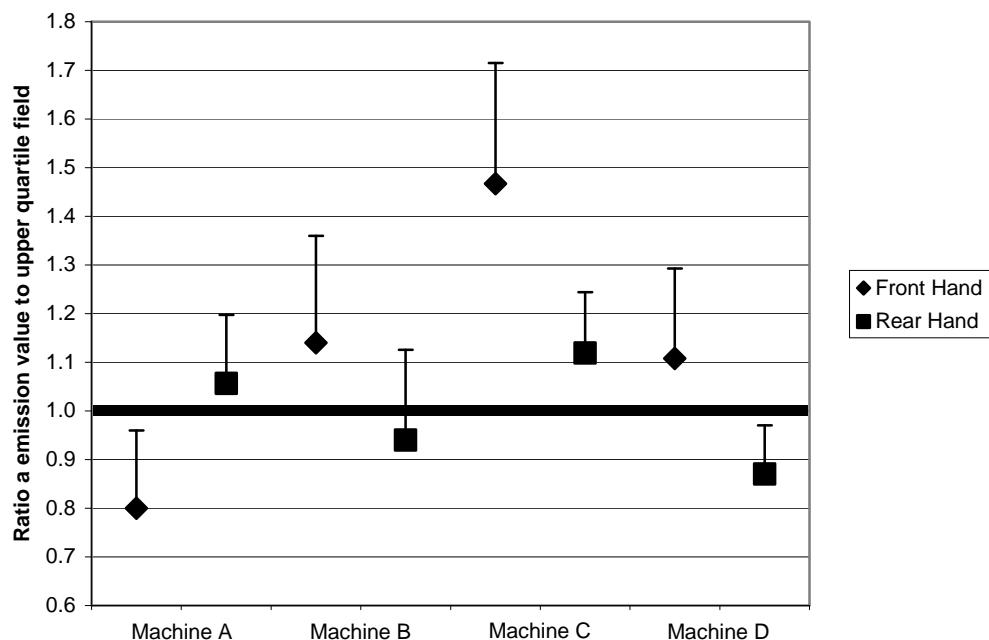


Figure 11 Ratio of HSL measured emission to the upper quartile field at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 measurement locations

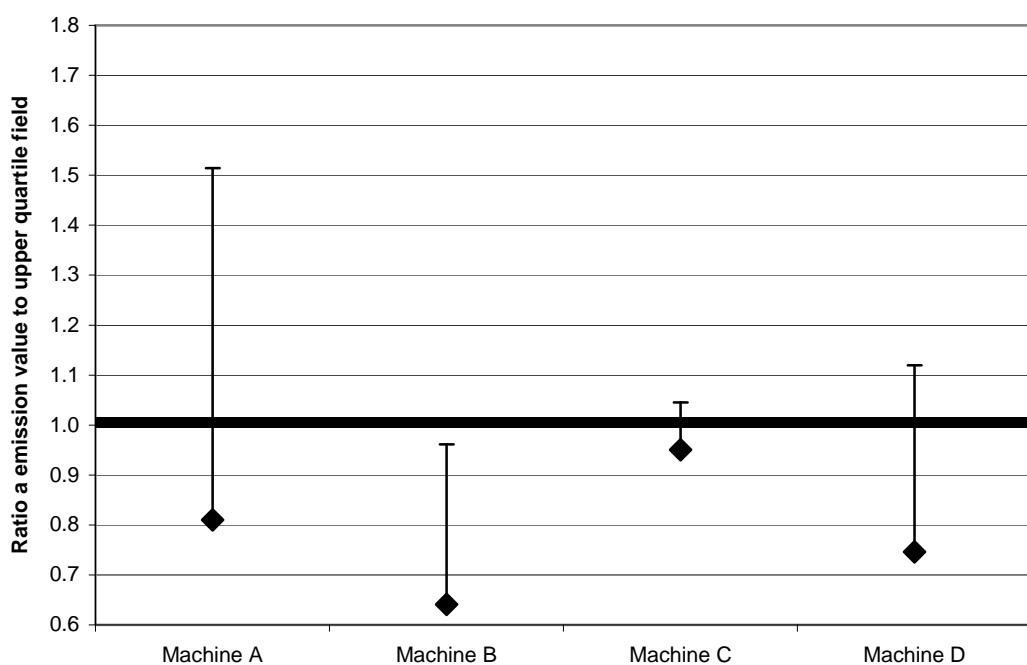


Figure 12 Ratio of the manufacturers' a emission to the highest hand upper quartile field at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 measurement locations

7 CONCLUSIONS

Vibration emissions of hedge trimmers are sufficient to present an occupational risk of vibration injury.

Choosing between models of hedge trimmer on the basis of vibration emissions can help minimise the vibration risk.

Using the standard tests outlined in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 and BS EN 774:1996, manufacturers' declared emission values were verified according to the criteria in BS EN 12096:1997 in three out of the four cases. Of the three cases, two have been verified using *equivalent* vibration values and the other using *racing* vibration values

When comparing manufacturers' data with the upper quartile field magnitudes for the highest measured value at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 locations, only one of the manufacturers' *a* emission values approaches the upper quartile of in-use data. However, when the *a+K* value is used, the upper quartile is exceeded or adequately represented for all four machines. This shows that the use of existing manufacturers' *a* emission data for the purposes of risk assessment will result in an underestimate of the vibration risk associated with the use of the machine. However, the *a+K* value gives a reasonable estimate of the vibration risk in three out of four cases. In the case of Machine A, use of *a+K* results in a 50% overestimate but the magnitude of vibration is small relative to the other machines. HSL data suggests that a smaller value of *K* could be declared for Machine A.

When comparing HSL measured emission values with the upper quartile field magnitude at the BS EN ISO 10517:2009 measurement locations, the upper quartile is slightly overestimated for three of the four hedge trimmers. For the fourth hedge trimmer the upper quartile is overestimated by approximately 50%, even before taking the *K* value into consideration. The vibration risk associated with the use of the machines is overestimated by up to 50%.

BS EN ISO 10517:2009 produces emission values which identify that Machines A and D are the better machines, consistent with the upper quartile vibration determined during normal use. The upper quartile value determined for Machine B suggests that this is the highest vibration machine. However, BS EN ISO 10517:2009 suggests that the vibration of Machines B and C is similar, contrary to findings from comparison of the upper quartile vibration. The test code inconsistently represents workplace vibration

Manufacturers appeared aware of the requirements of BS EN ISO 10517:2009 but none quoted the standard as the basis for their declarations.

ANOVA carried out on the HSL measured emission values indicates that mean values of 7.1 m/s^2 and 6.6 m/s^2 for Machines B and C respectively, are not significantly different. All other pairs of comparisons across the four machines show that the means are significantly different.

ANOVA carried out on the data investigating the effect of the operator concludes that the variations between operators are significant for three of the four hedge trimmers. This suggests that the emission test procedure in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 could be improved by specifying more than one operator.

The C_v criterion for hedge trimmers test is unusually large. A criterion of 0.15 is widely used for electrical and pneumatic powered hand-tools. Tests conducted here readily achieved C_v

values of less than 0.15 and so a C_v criterion of less than 0.15 appears sufficient for hedge trimmer testing.

The use of the *racing* and *idling* components makes the test more complicated but does not appear necessary for the machines tested as the *equivalent* and *racing* vibration values are very similar.

The differences in vibration magnitudes between horizontal and vertical techniques measured during the emission tests were not observed during the field measurements. During real use the operator is continually varying grip and posture and so consequently the conditions are less controlled. This regular change in grip masks any differences between horizontal and vertical operation noticed in the emission tests.

Similar variations between operators were observed during both the emission and field tests. However, during the field tests there appeared to be larger variations for the heaviest hedge trimmers. One of the operators reported fatigue towards the end of the trials – all completed on one day. A possible explanation is that fatigue and operator technique may bring about variations in the measured vibration magnitude.

8 RECOMMENDATIONS

The reason for the test code's inconsistent representation of workplace vibration should be investigated.

BS EN ISO 10517:2009 should be revised to require three operators to carry out the emission test. The use of only one operator is not valid as a main source of variation of the vibration magnitude is from the operator.

The C_v criterion should also be reduced from the current specification of 'Less than 0.4'. Setting a criterion of 'Less than 0.15', as widely used in pneumatic and electrical standards seems sufficient.

Measuring while the hedge trimmer is *idling* does not appear necessary and should be removed, as it only makes the emission test more complicated.

HSE should advise users to take the manufacturers' $a+K$ values as indicators of likely in-use vibration values for hedge trimming.

9 REFERENCES

- BS EN ISO 10517:2009. Powered hand-held hedge trimmers – Safety.
- BS EN 774:1996. Garden equipment – Hand held, integrally powered hedge trimmers – Safety.
- BS EN ISO 22867:2008. Forestry machinery – Vibration test code for portable hand-held machines with internal combustion engine – Vibration at the handles.
- BS EN 12096:1997. Mechanical vibration – Declaration and verification of vibration emission values.
- BS EN ISO 20643:2008. Mechanical vibration – Hand-held and hand-guided machinery – Principles for evaluation of vibration emission.
- Supply of Machinery (Safety) Regulations 2008. S.I. No.1597
- BS EN ISO 8041:2005. Human response to vibration – Measuring instrumentation.
- Council Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 7th May on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (recast).
- Pitts PM (2004). NV/04/04 - Hand-arm vibration emission of chainsaws – comparison with vibration exposure.
- Pitts PM (2001). NV/01/16 - Hand-arm vibration exposure of brush cutter operators.
- Heaton RT (2010). NV/10/06 - Vibration measurements on grounds maintenance machinery at South Derbyshire Council.

APPENDICES

APPENDIX A – DATA AQUISTION AND ANALYSIS EQUIPMENT

Vibration emission data

	Transducers ICP Type	Serial #	Sensitivity (mV/ms ⁻²)	Date of last calibration
Ch1	356A02	15793	1.060	August 2010
Ch2			1.047	
Ch3			1.056	
Ch4	356A02	97450	1.036	August 2010
Ch5			1.033	
Ch6			1.030	
B&K Pulse 3560C (Serial # 2423351)				Janurary 2010
B&K Pulse LabShop software v12.1.0				
Calibrator B&K 4294 (Serial # 1121535)				November 2010

Field measurement data

Data recording equipment

	Transducers ICP Type	Serial #	Sensitivity (mV/ms ⁻²)	Date of last calibration
Ch1	356A02	15793	1.060	August 2010
Ch2			1.047	
Ch3			1.056	
Ch4	356A02	97450	1.036	August 2010
Ch5			1.033	
Ch6			1.030	
TEAC LX10 data recorder (Serial # 107562)				September 2010
Calibrator B&K 4294 (Serial # 1121535)				November 2010

Data analysis equipment

B&K Pulse 3560C (Serial # 2423351) B&K Pulse LabShop software v12.1.0	January 2010
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APPENDIX B – DETAILED MEASUREMENT RESULTS

Vibration Emission Test report - Full

Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009

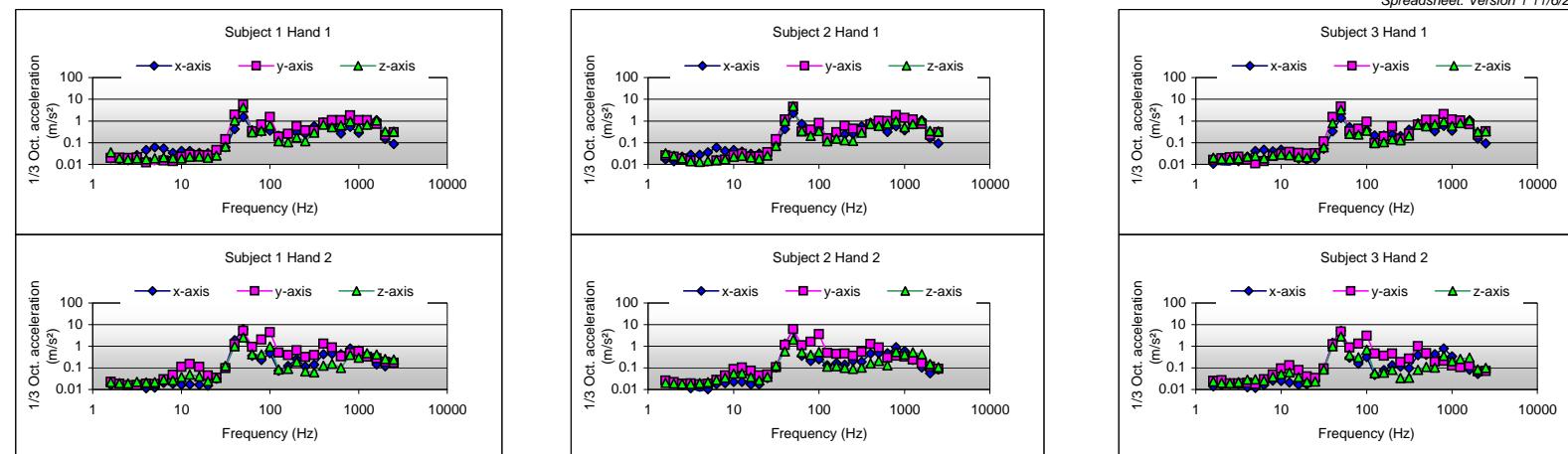
N&V reference ID: Machine A Idling

Measurement File name:

TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle						
					Operator Statistics			Operator Statistics							
					Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v					
1	1	RH1 idle	0/06/201	14:13:25:998	0.72	1.87	2.03	2.85	2.57	0.165	0.064	2.53	2.66	0.65	3.72
2	1	RH2 idle	0/06/201	14:14:28:749	0.50	2.12	1.33	2.56				2.21	1.69	0.90	2.92
3	1	RH3 idle	0/06/201	14:15:24:374	0.52	2.21	1.15	2.55				2.18	1.68	1.11	2.97
4	1	RH4 idle	0/06/201	14:16:23:874	0.52	2.03	1.31	2.47				2.03	1.92	1.09	3.00
5	1	RH5 idle	0/06/201	14:17:25:874	0.55	1.93	1.37	2.44				2.01	2.05	1.08	3.06
6	2	MM1 idle	0/06/201	14:08:24:624	0.71	1.28	1.90	2.40				1.72	2.63	0.88	3.27
7	2	MM2 idle	0/06/201	14:09:17:249	0.89	1.91	1.61	2.65				2.46	2.48	0.55	3.54
8	2	MM3 idle	0/06/201	14:10:10:373	0.94	1.68	1.65	2.53				2.18	2.51	0.68	3.39
9	2	MM4 idle	0/06/201	14:11:02:124	0.98	1.50	1.57	2.38				1.84	2.14	0.71	2.91
10	2	MM5 idle	0/06/201	14:11:53:373	0.51	1.51	1.32	2.07				1.64	1.53	0.94	2.43
11	3	PP1 idle	0/06/201	14:02:45:499	0.66	1.44	1.52	2.20				2.27	2.16	0.68	3.20
12	3	PP2 idle	0/06/201	14:03:38:748	0.51	1.75	1.22	2.19				2.15	1.63	1.02	2.88
13	3	PP3 idle	0/06/201	14:04:31:498	0.42	1.70	1.08	2.05				1.69	1.62	1.23	2.65
14	3	PP4 idle	0/06/201	14:05:23:498	0.41	1.77	0.84	2.00				1.51	1.45	1.24	2.43
15	3	PP5 idle	0/06/201	14:06:15:499	0.55	1.60	1.10	2.02				1.56	1.91	1.06	2.69
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 2.36 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.01 m/s ²						
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.30 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.52 m/s ²						
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.50 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.85 m/s ²						
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 3.01 m/s²															

Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.pls

Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010



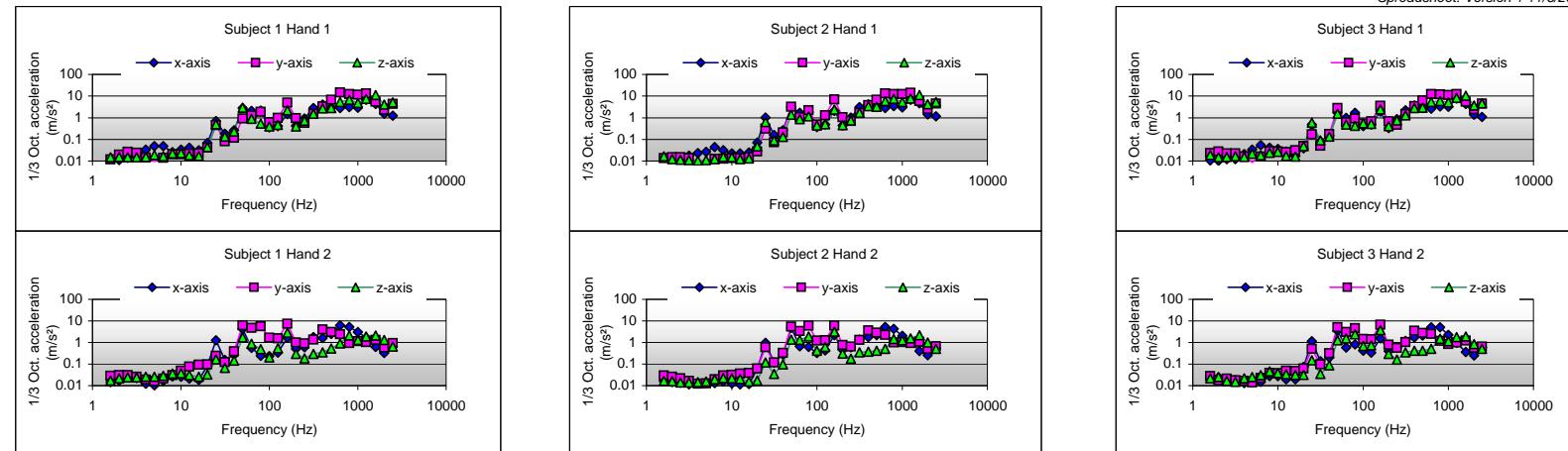
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

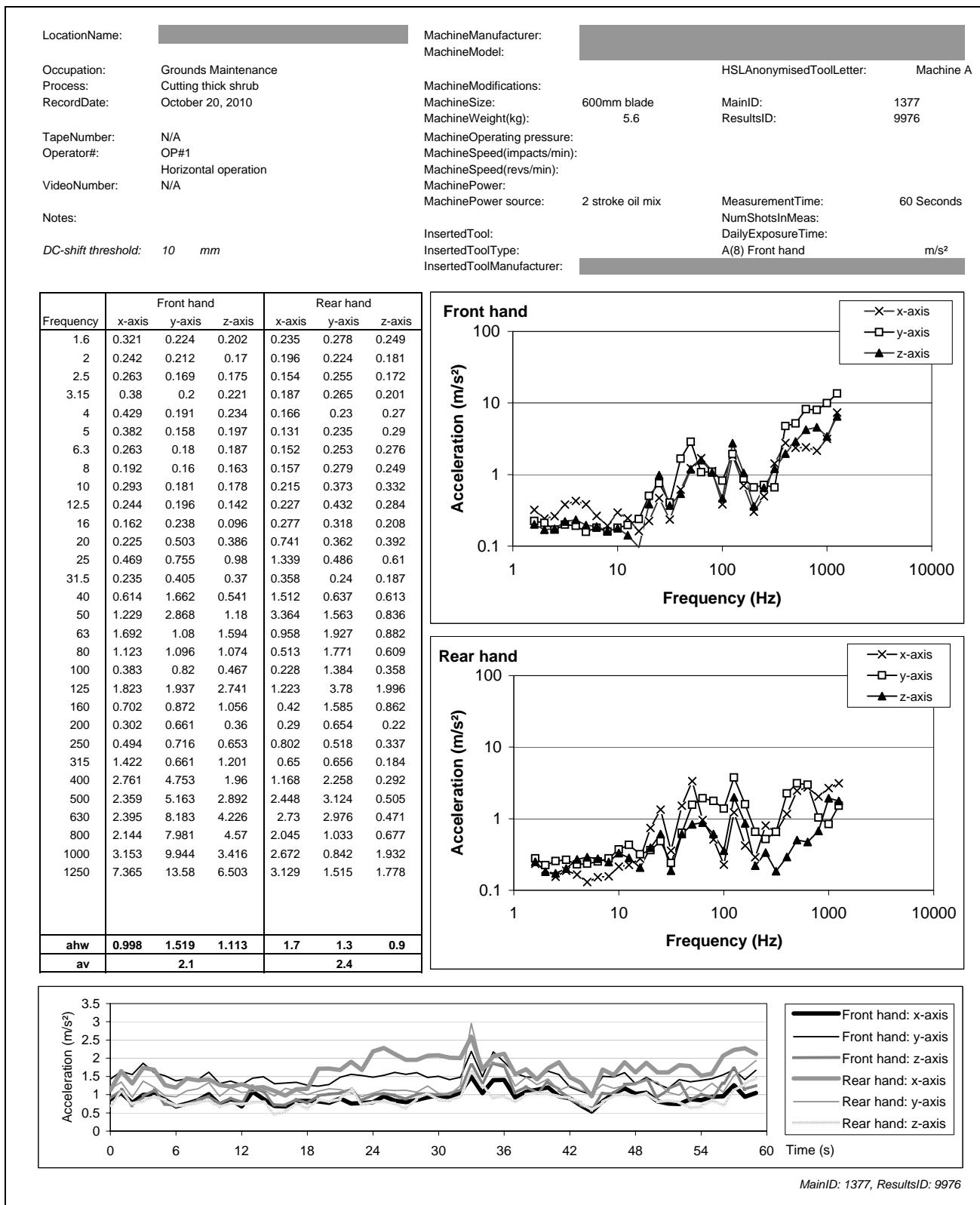
Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine A Racing
 Measurement File name:

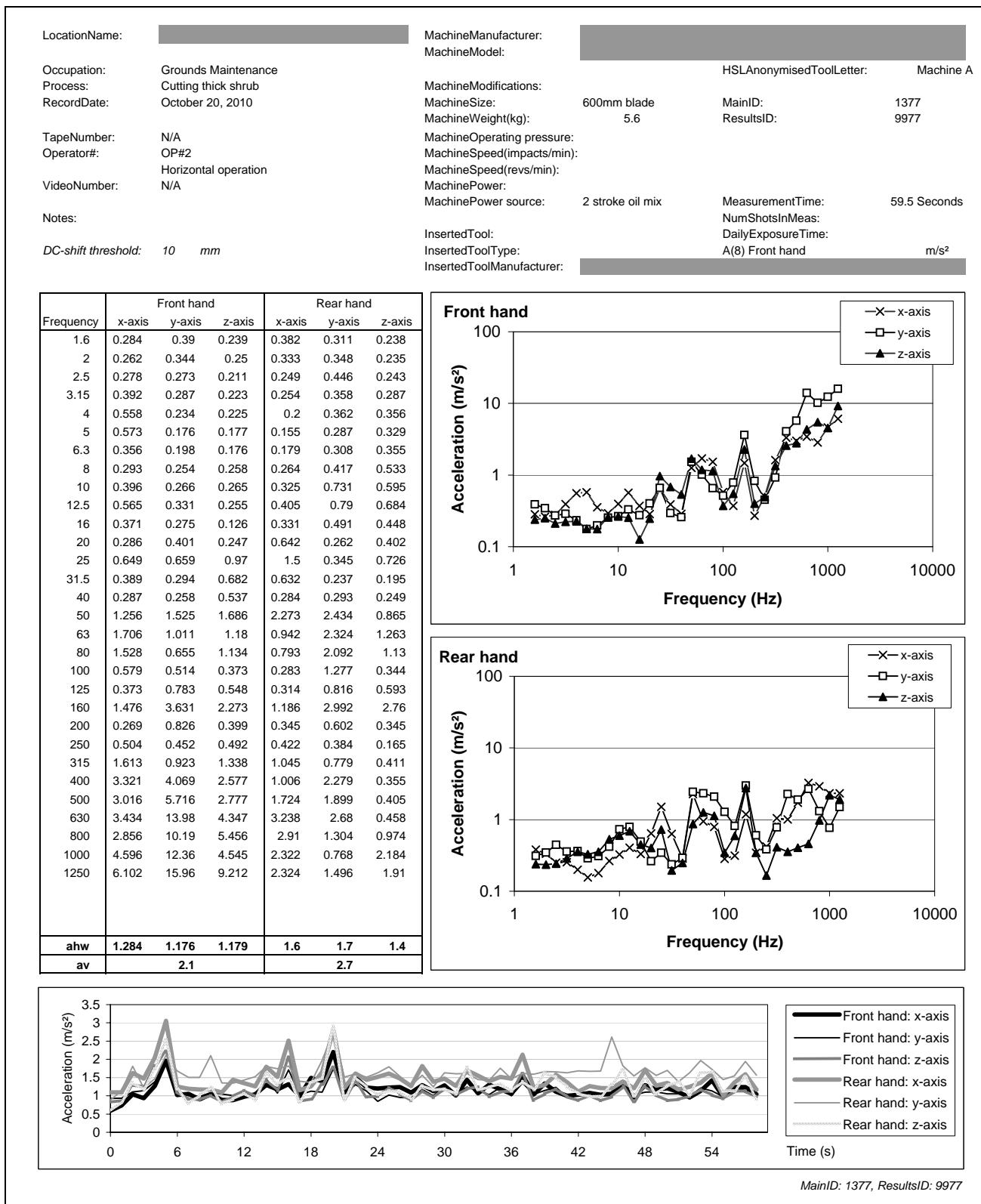
TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle									
					Operator Statistics				Operator Statistics									
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}			
1	1	H1 racir	9/06/201	15:18:24:623	1.25	0.98	0.97	1.86	1.96	0.063	0.032	1.89	2.73	0.72	3.39			
2	1	H2 racir	9/06/201	15:19:24:998	1.34	1.07	0.98	1.97				1.60	2.93	0.71	3.41			
3	1	H3 racir	9/06/201	15:20:22:748	1.28	1.01	1.20	2.03				1.56	2.88	0.70	3.35			
4	1	H4 racir	9/06/201	15:21:21:373	1.26	1.00	1.12	1.96				1.57	2.58	0.65	3.09			
5	1	H5 racir	9/06/201	15:22:20:623	1.24	0.98	1.20	1.98				1.71	2.73	0.71	3.30			
6	2	M1 racir	9/06/201	15:25:09:749	1.16	1.49	0.85	2.07				1.70	2.67	0.83	3.27			
7	2	M2 racir	9/06/201	15:26:02:624	1.28	1.52	0.78	2.13				1.74	2.49	0.77	3.14			
8	2	M3 racir	9/06/201	15:26:56:874	1.34	1.45	0.70	2.10				1.72	2.16	0.70	2.84			
9	2	M4 racir	9/06/201	15:27:50:874	1.53	1.47	0.73	2.25				1.72	2.28	0.71	2.94			
10	2	M5 racir	9/06/201	15:28:44:874	1.62	1.45	0.93	2.36				1.63	2.59	0.82	3.17			
11	3	P1 racir	9/06/201	15:30:48:874	0.76	1.14	0.80	1.59	2.18	0.121	0.055	1.40	2.35	0.85	2.87			
12	3	P2 racir	9/06/201	15:31:45:248	0.82	1.11	0.74	1.57				1.33	2.22	0.81	2.71			
13	3	P3 racir	9/06/201	15:32:40:749	0.84	1.13	0.76	1.60				1.51	2.32	0.88	2.91			
14	3	P4 racir	9/06/201	15:33:52:499	0.88	1.15	0.77	1.64				1.46	2.12	0.93	2.74			
15	3	P5 racir	9/06/201	15:34:46:249	0.90	1.16	0.72	1.63				1.38	2.09	0.88	2.65			
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 1.92 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.05 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.05 m/s ²					
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.27 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.29 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.29 m/s ²					
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.44 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.48 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.48 m/s ²					
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 3.05 m/s²																		

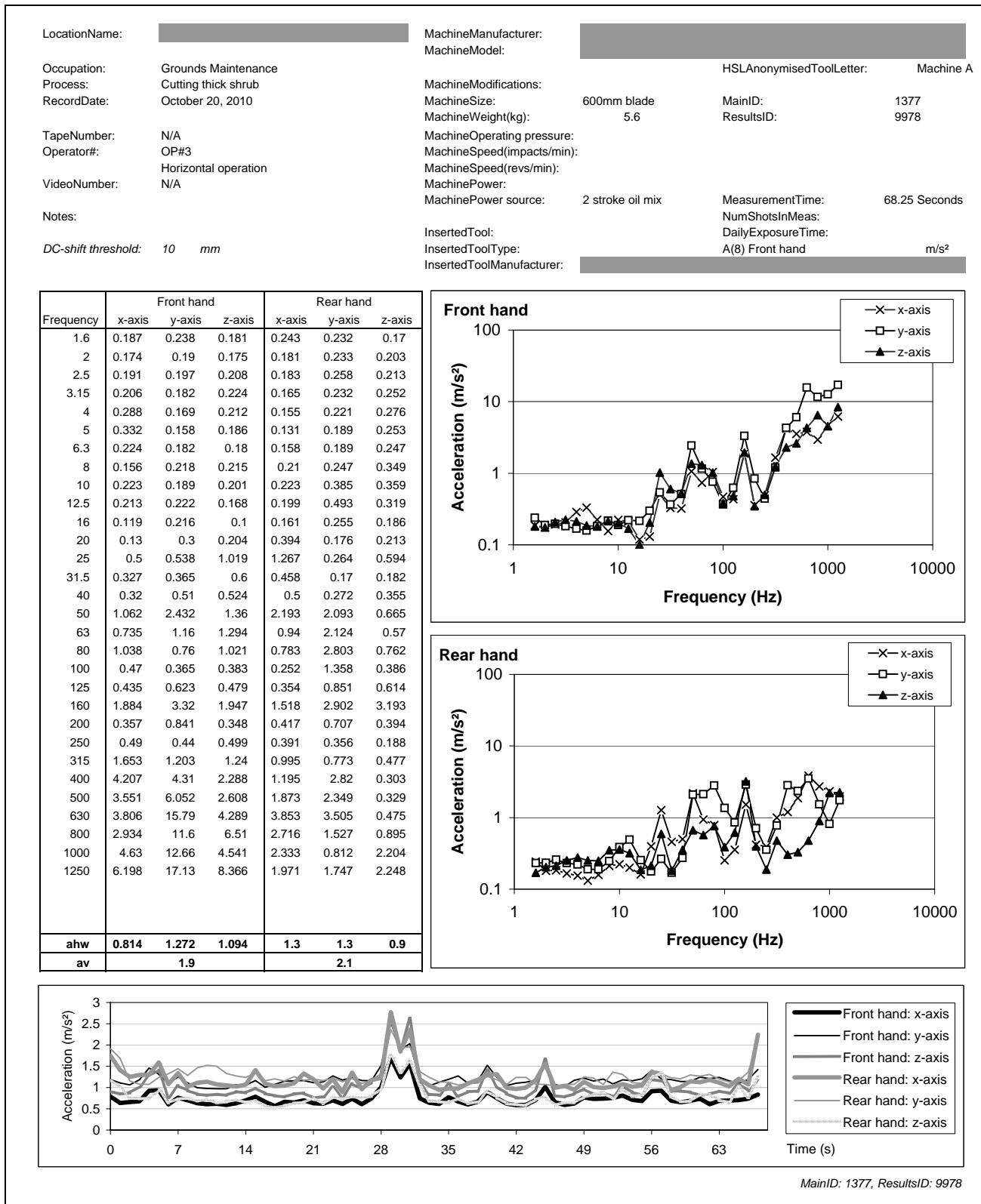
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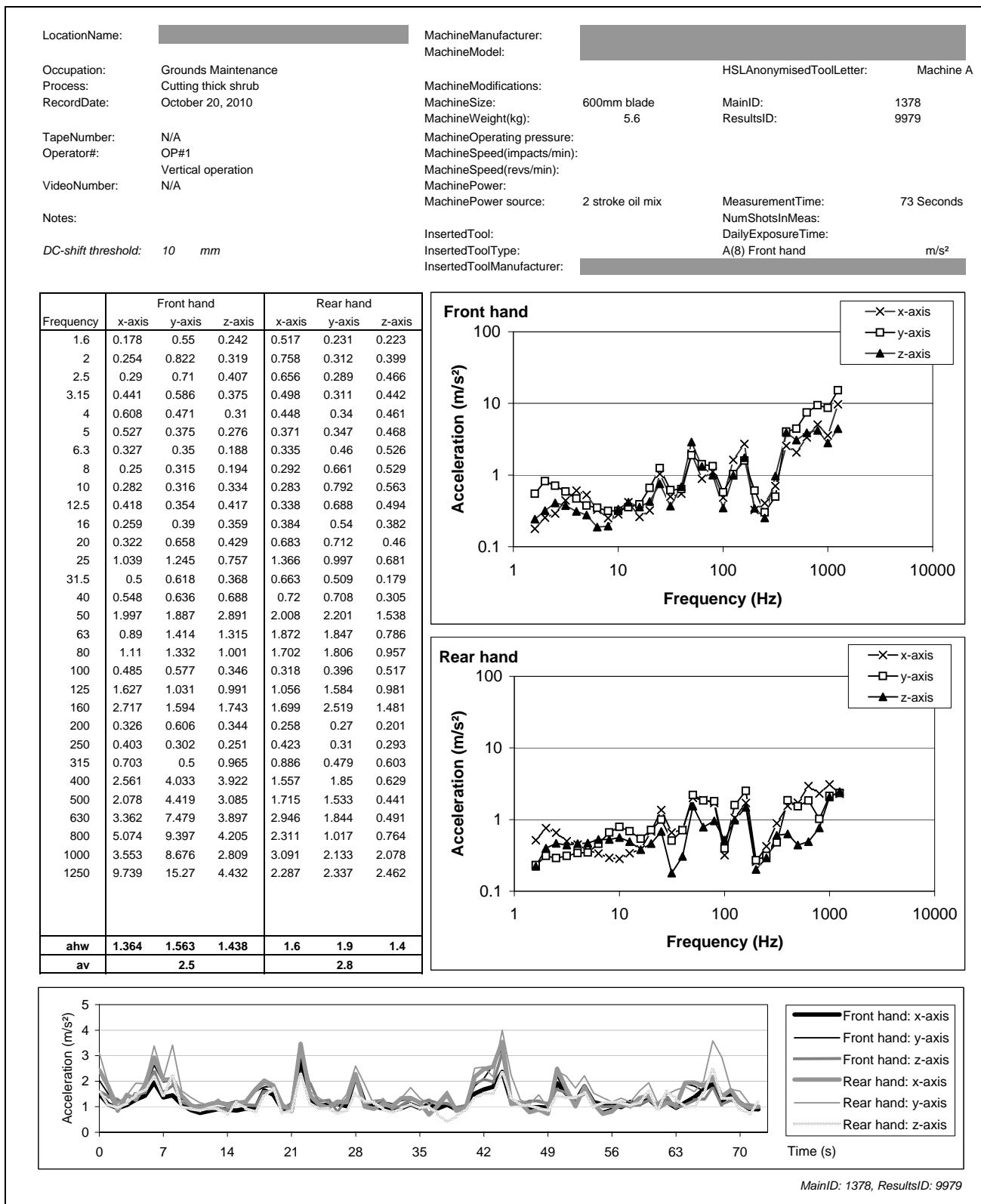
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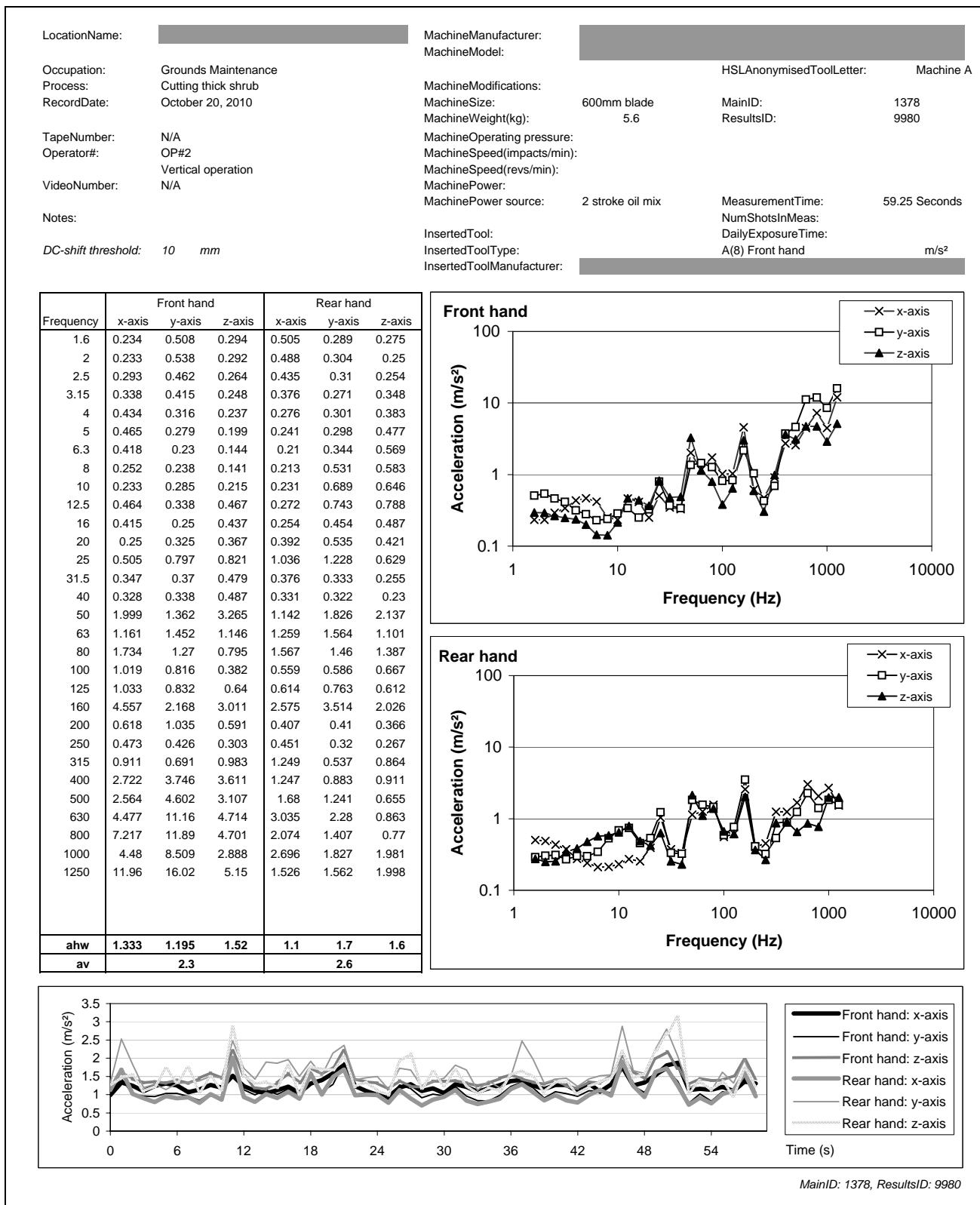


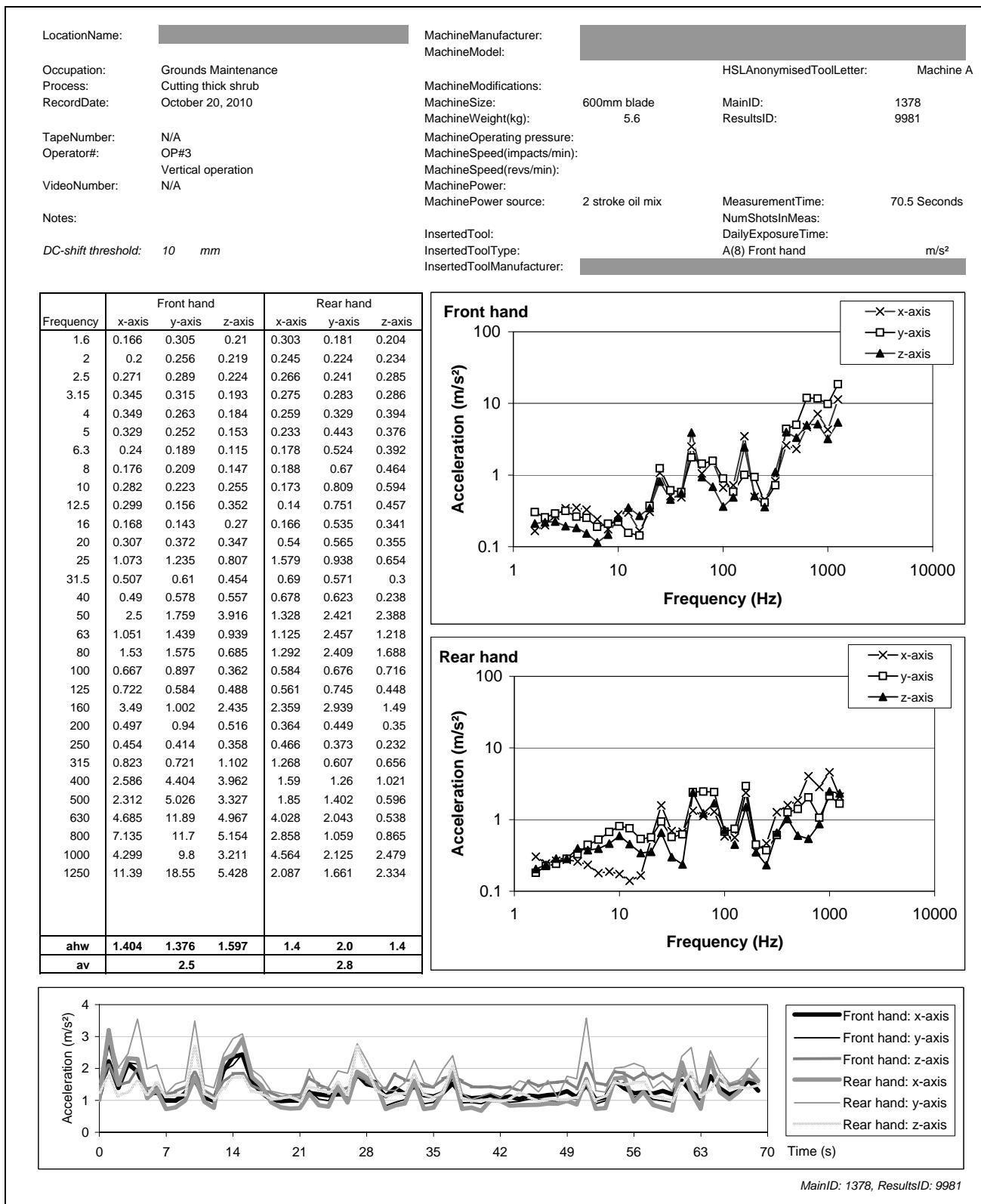


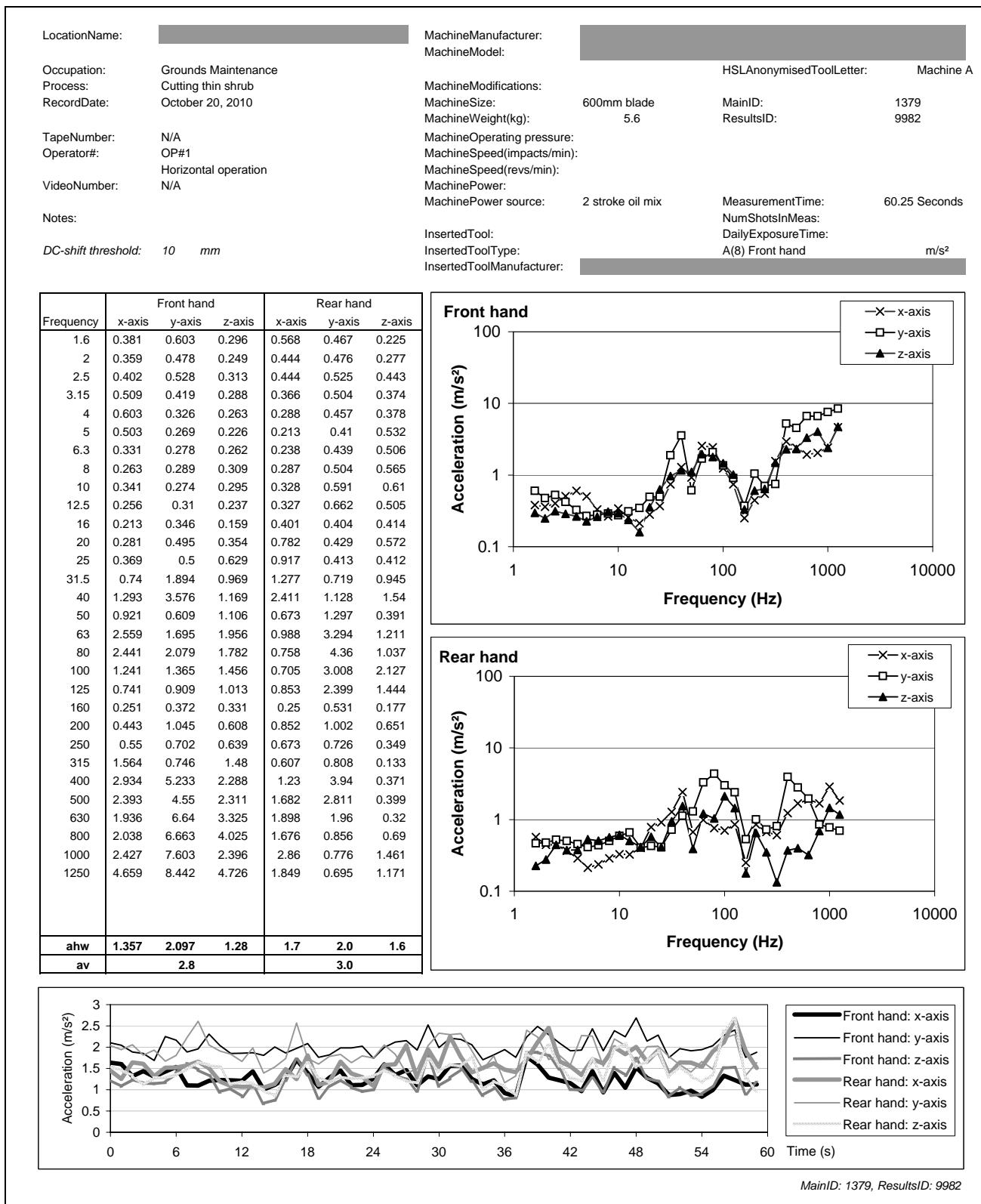


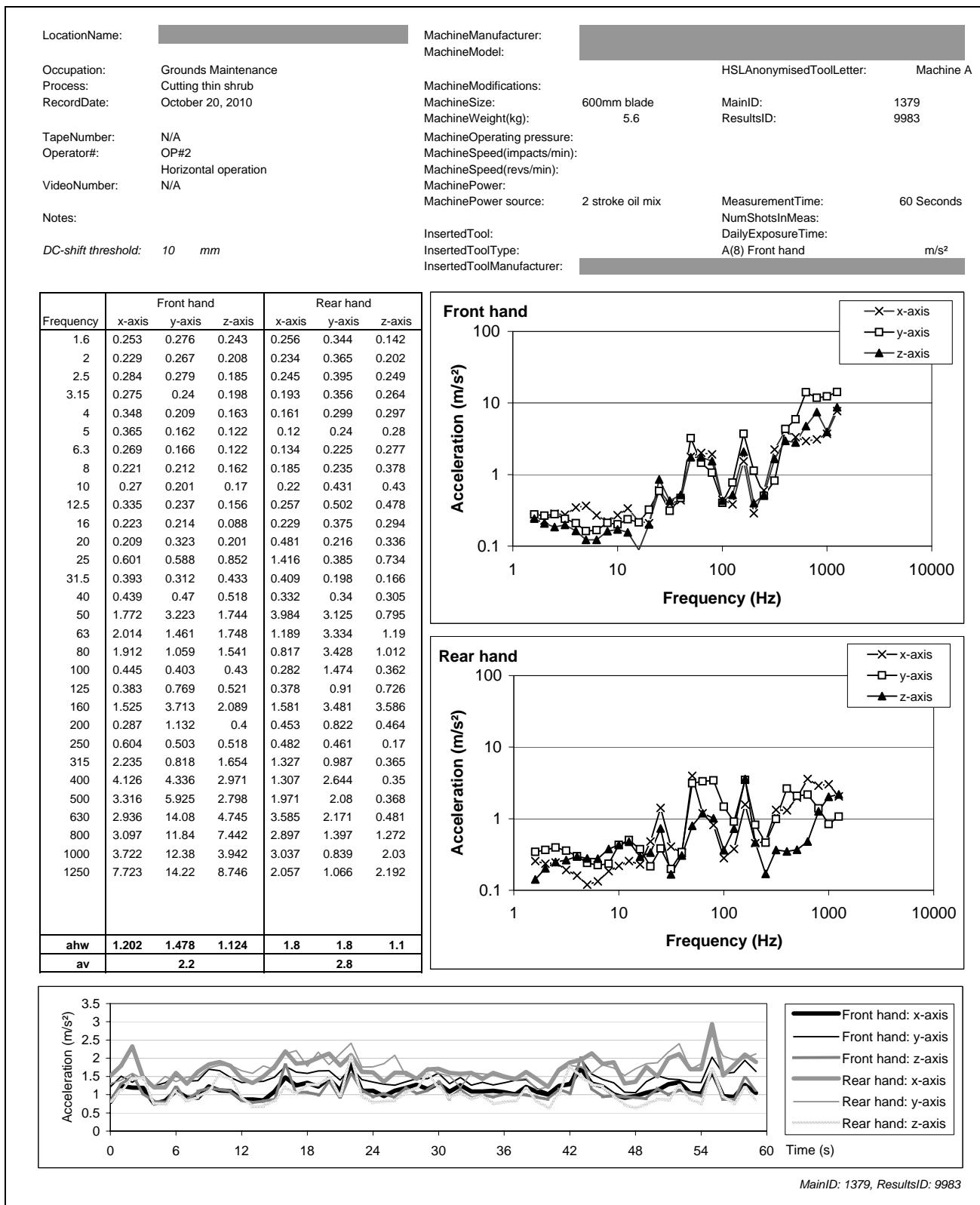


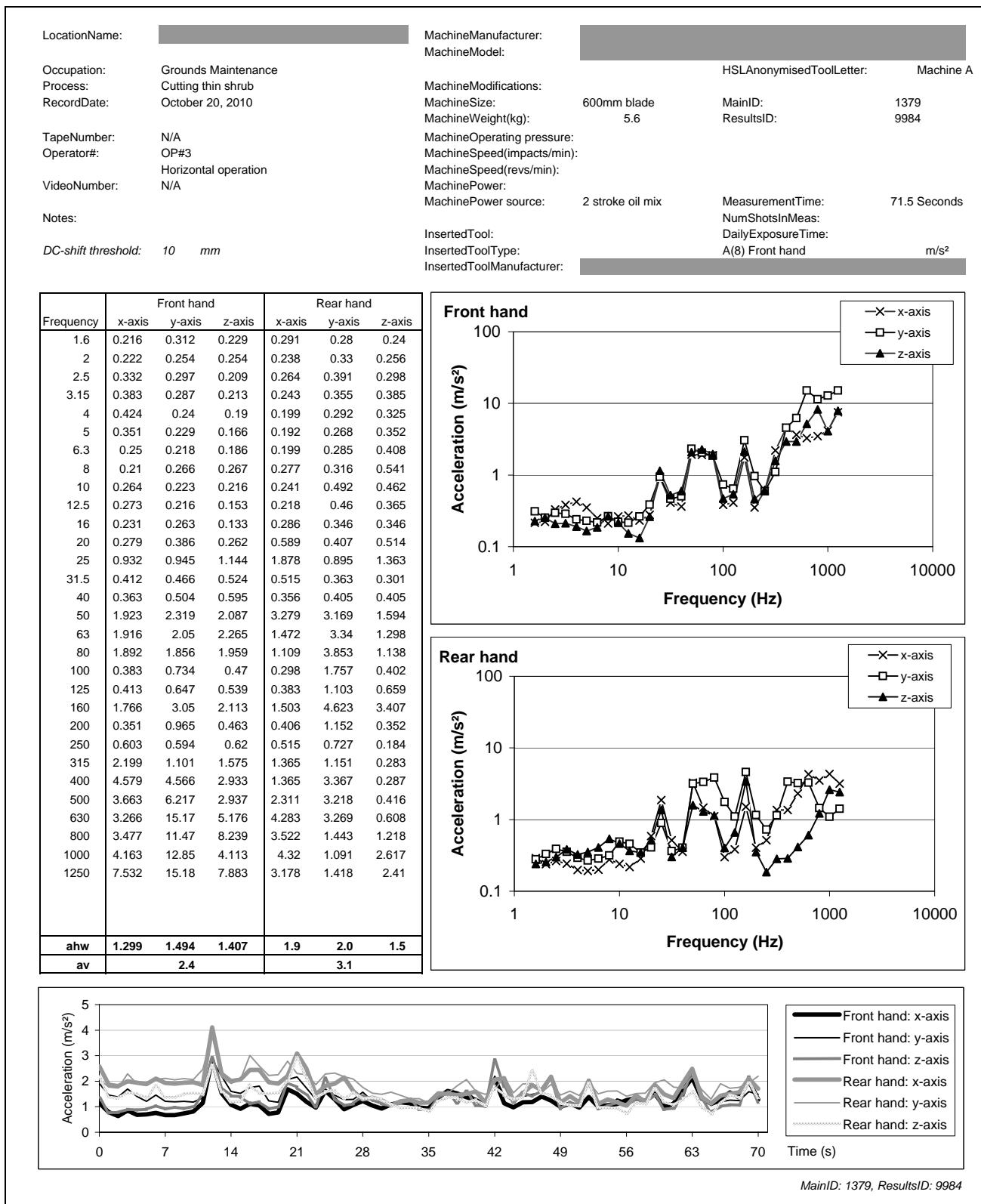


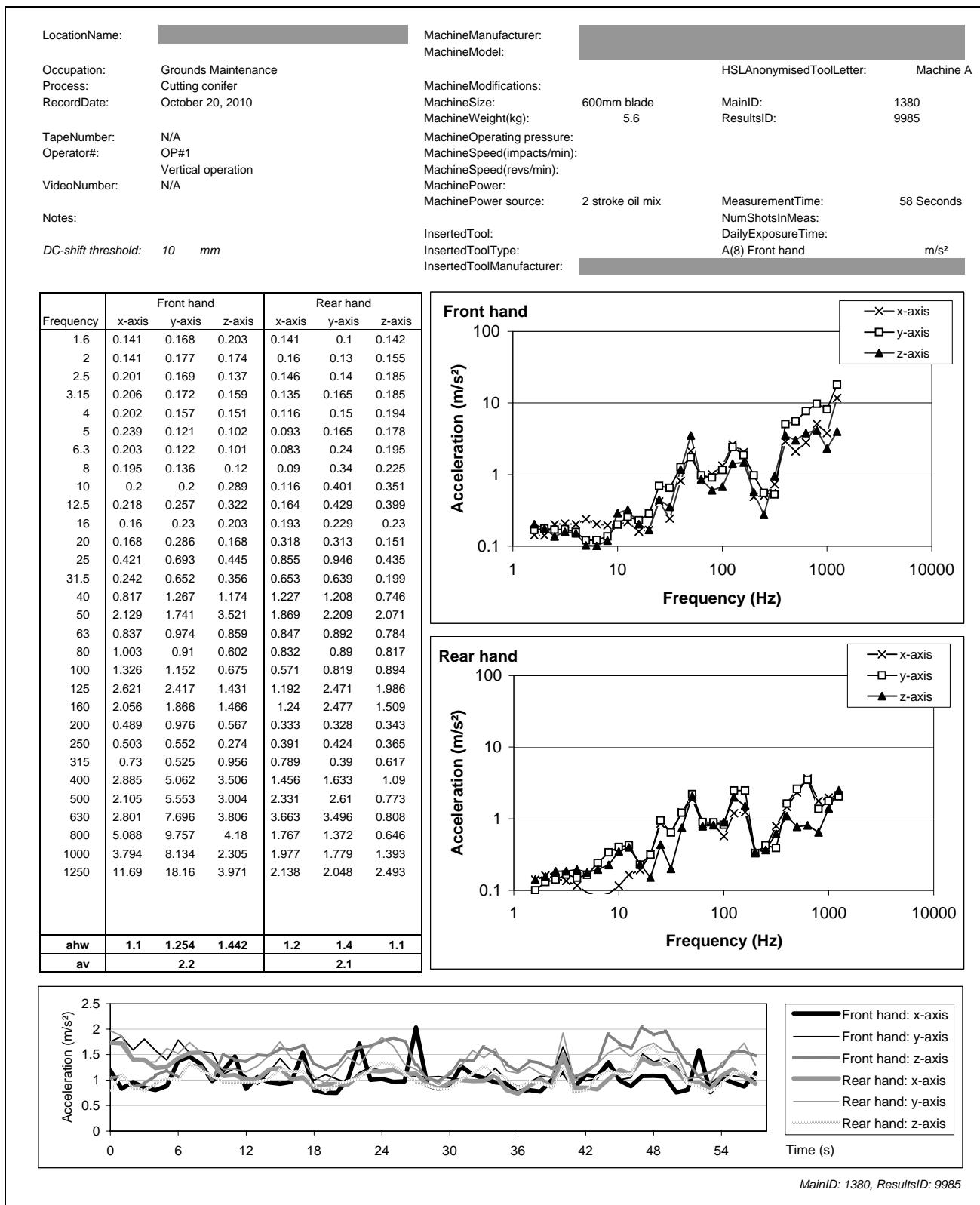


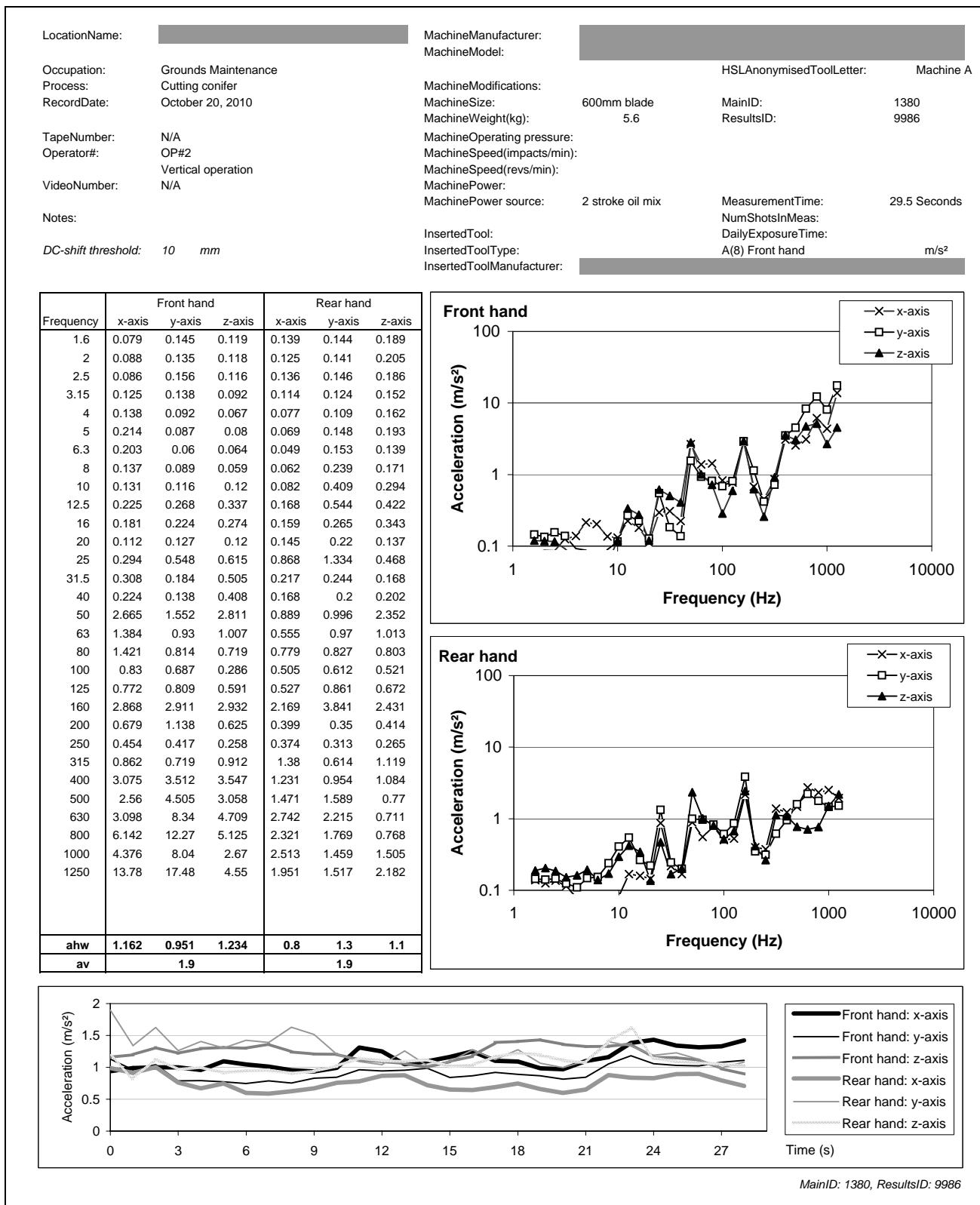


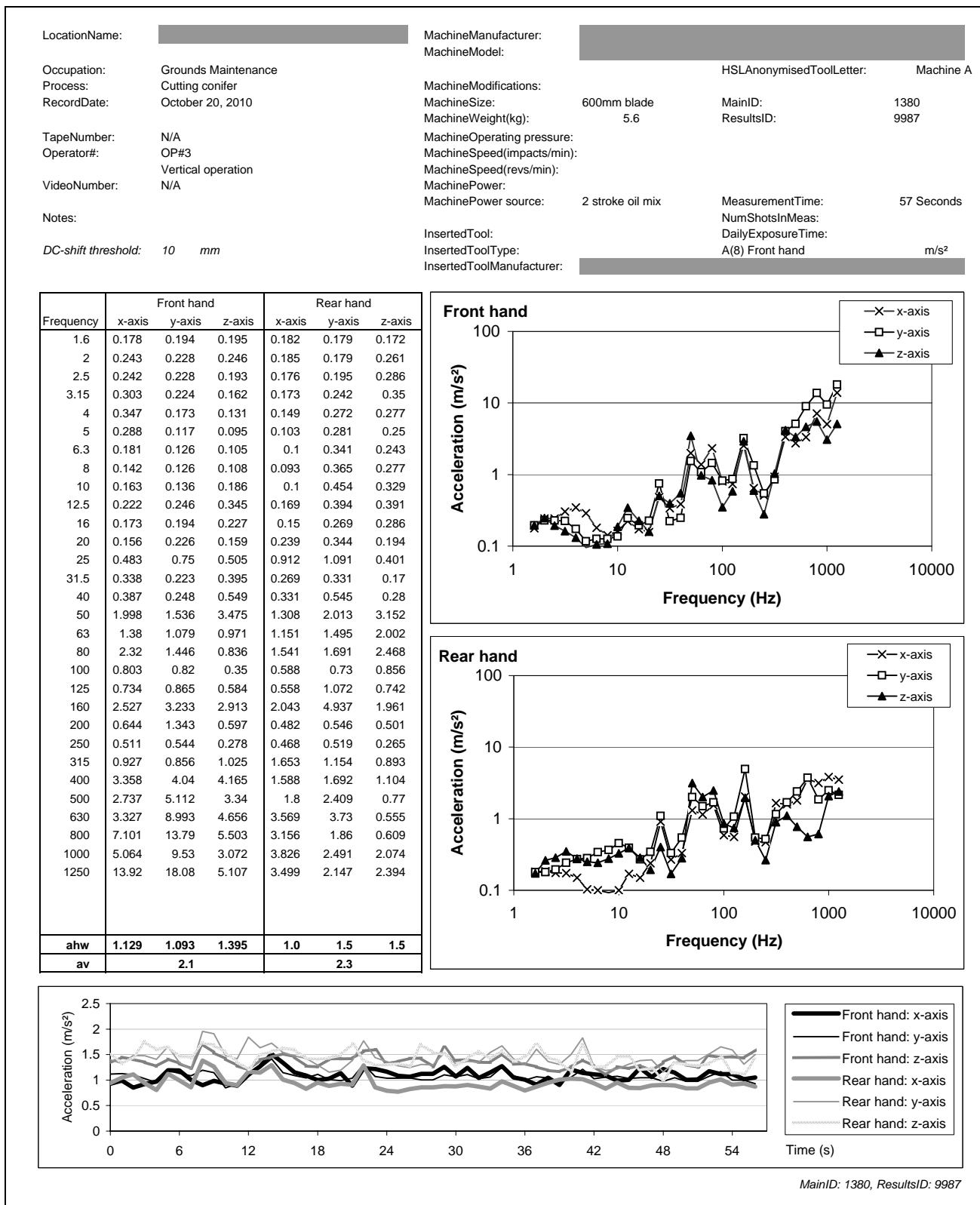












MainID: 1380, ResultsID: 9987

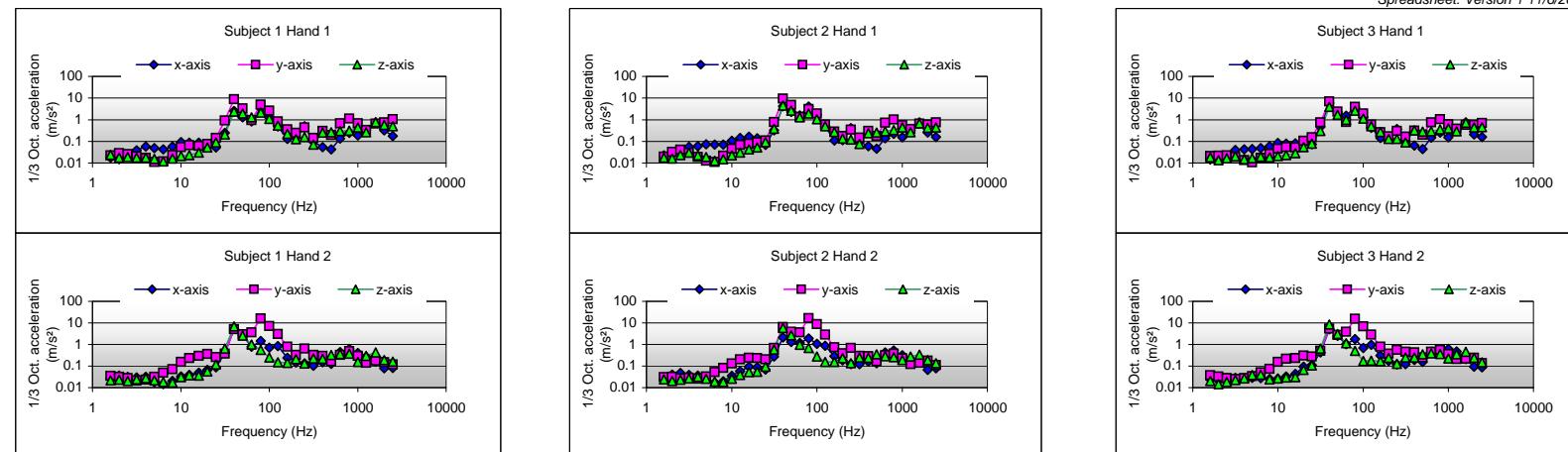
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine B Idling
 Measurement File name:

TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle								
					Operator Statistics				Operator Statistics								
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}		
1	1	dle RH0	3/06/201	11:02:09.999	1.66	4.23	1.57	4.81	4.48	0.445	0.099	2.30	4.46	3.15	5.92		
2	1	dle RH0	3/06/201	11:03:01.623	1.47	4.65	1.30	5.05				2.55	4.56	3.47	6.27		
3	1	dle RH0	3/06/201	11:03:52.748	1.30	4.00	1.26	4.39				2.27	4.50	3.03	5.88		
4	1	dle RH0	3/06/201	11:04:42.874	1.38	3.72	1.26	4.16				2.37	4.21	2.78	5.58		
5	1	dle RH0	3/06/201	11:05:33.248	1.15	3.62	1.18	3.98				2.54	3.84	2.52	5.25		
6	2	dle SH0	3/06/201	11:09:44.249	2.19	4.09	2.57	5.30				1.17	4.55	2.41	5.27		
7	2	dle SH0	3/06/201	11:10:35.373	2.13	4.18	2.11	5.15				1.53	4.84	2.52	5.67		
8	2	dle SH0	3/06/201	11:11:26.623	2.20	4.27	2.16	5.26				0.93	4.79	2.42	5.45		
9	2	dle SH0	3/06/201	11:12:19.248	2.06	4.38	1.98	5.23				0.93	4.73	2.67	5.51		
10	2	dle SH0	3/06/201	11:13:11.373	2.13	4.79	1.82	5.55				1.03	5.19	2.98	6.07		
11	3	dle MMO	3/06/201	11:16:53.374	2.50	3.31	1.94	4.58				2.15	4.44	3.64	6.13		
12	3	dle MMO	3/06/201	11:17:45.248	2.94	3.01	2.10	4.70				1.75	4.32	3.64	5.91		
13	3	dle MMO	3/06/201	11:18:40.624	2.82	2.89	1.94	4.48				1.71	4.17	3.47	5.69		
14	3	dle MMO	3/06/201	11:19:34.249	2.71	2.72	1.66	4.18				2.04	4.00	3.57	5.74		
15	3	dle MMO	3/06/201	11:20:27.249	2.58	3.59	1.43	4.65				4.08	4.48	4.03	7.28		
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 4.76 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 5.84 m/s ²								
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.55 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.67 m/s ²								
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.90 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.10 m/s ²								
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 5.84 m/s²														$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.10 m/s ²			

Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.xls

Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010



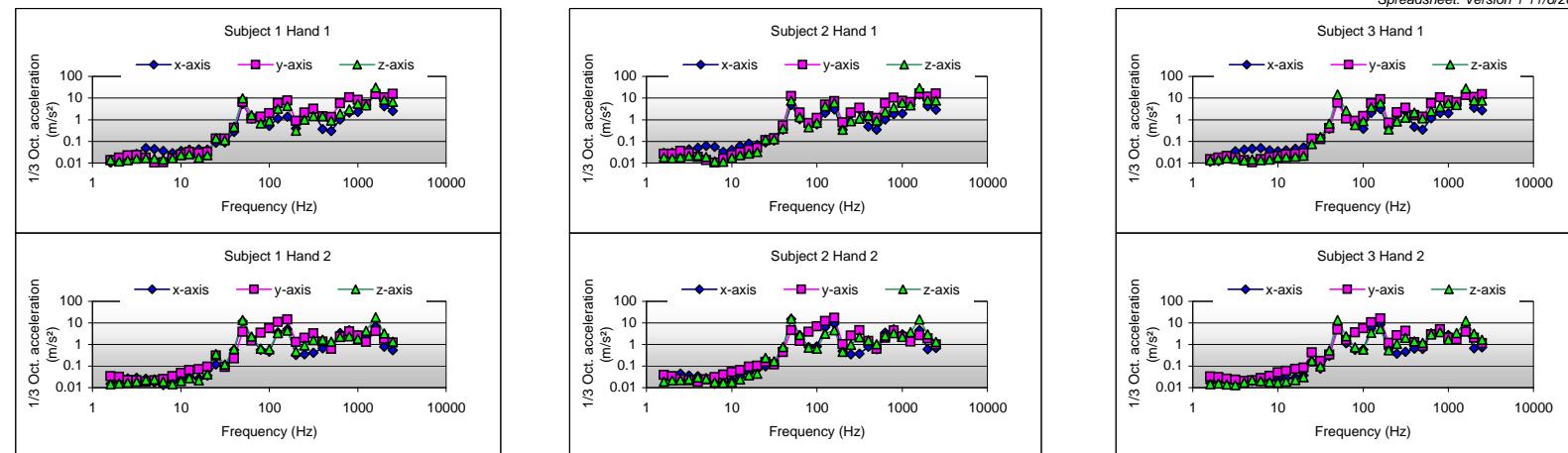
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

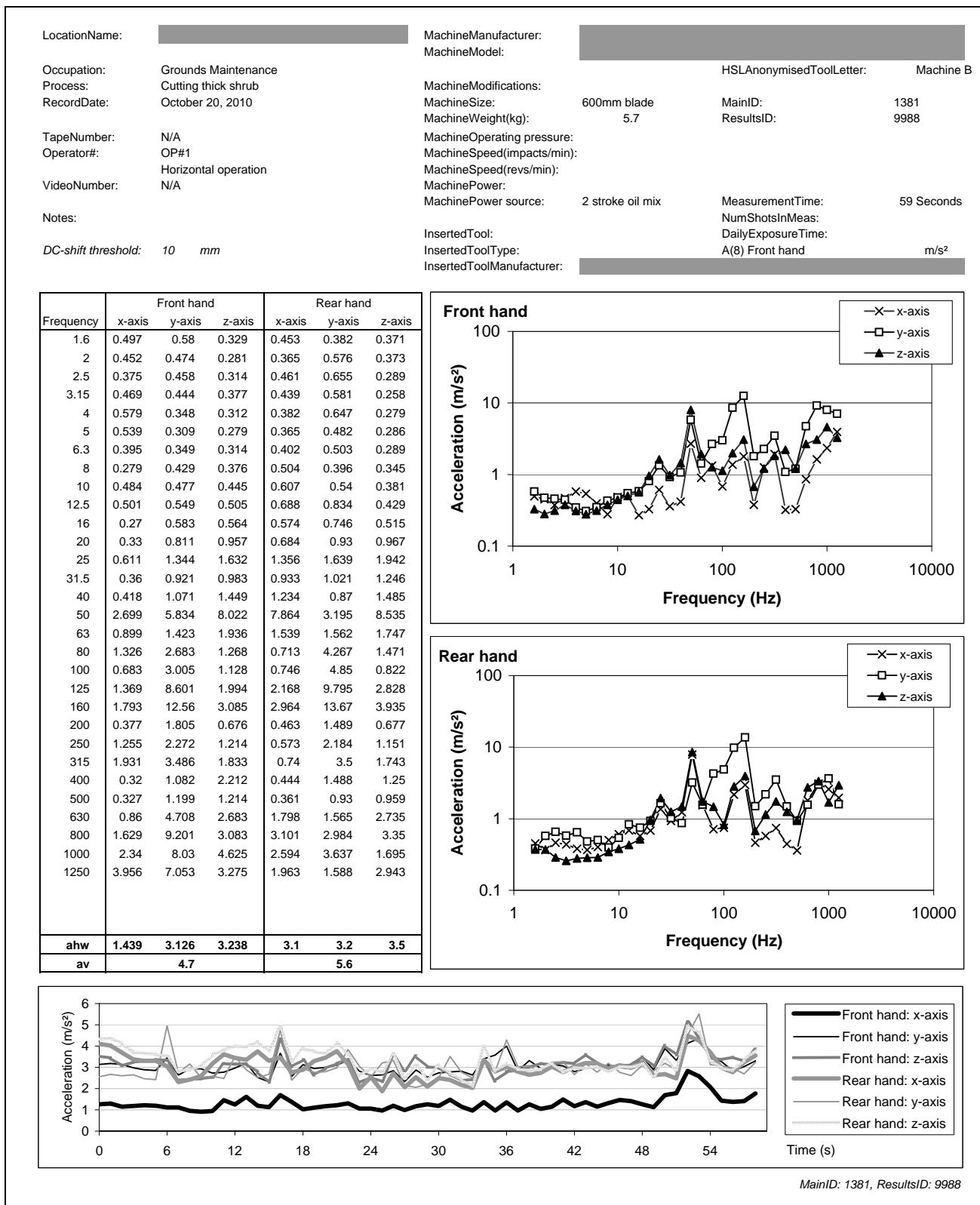
Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine B Racing
 Measurement File name:

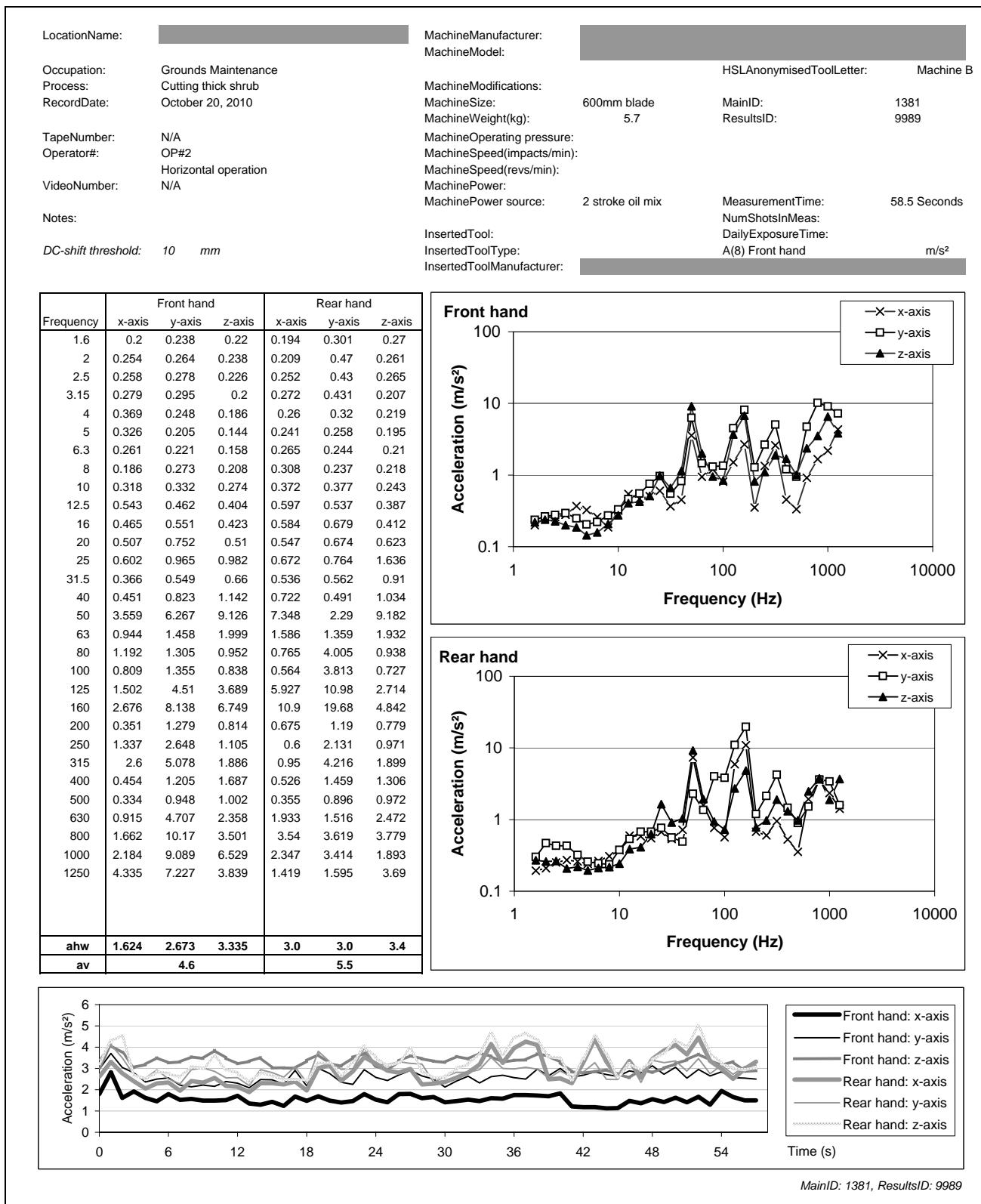
TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle									
					Operator Statistics				Operator Statistics									
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}			
1	1	cinc RH	3/06/201	11:02:36:123	1.98	2.75	3.43	4.82	4.50	0.233	0.052	3.98	2.79	4.45	6.58			
2	1	cinc RH	3/06/201	11:03:25:623	1.75	2.69	3.35	4.64				3.79	2.62	4.41	6.38			
3	1	cinc RH	3/06/201	11:04:17:123	1.77	2.40	3.26	4.42				3.86	2.70	4.56	6.55			
4	1	cinc RH	3/06/201	11:05:07:498	1.71	2.23	3.18	4.24				3.89	2.73	4.65	6.65			
5	1	cinc RH	3/06/201	11:05:56:998	1.75	2.13	3.37	4.36				3.94	2.70	4.74	6.73			
6	2	cinc SH	3/06/201	11:10:08:873	1.68	4.08	2.50	5.07				4.87	3.43	5.61	8.18			
7	2	cinc SH	3/06/201	11:11:00:249	1.39	4.21	2.73	5.21				5.30	2.95	5.36	8.09			
8	2	cinc SH	3/06/201	11:11:52:123	1.57	4.25	2.69	5.27				5.22	3.03	5.22	7.98			
9	2	cinc SH	3/06/201	11:12:44:248	1.74	4.24	2.54	5.24				5.15	3.17	5.10	7.92			
10	2	cinc SH	3/06/201	11:13:35:999	2.03	3.97	2.71	5.22				4.78	3.15	4.87	7.51			
11	3	cinc MM	3/06/201	11:17:18:748	2.47	2.19	5.18	6.15	6.02	0.342	0.057	2.39	3.20	5.13	6.50			
12	3	cinc MM	3/06/201	11:18:13:873	2.50	1.99	4.90	5.85				2.46	3.23	4.82	6.30			
13	3	cinc MM	3/06/201	11:19:06:373	2.60	2.25	4.58	5.73				2.33	3.04	4.41	5.84			
14	3	cinc MM	3/06/201	11:19:59:498	2.72	2.24	4.61	5.80				1.91	2.82	4.12	5.35			
15	3	cinc MM	3/06/201	11:20:52:249	2.72	3.09	5.10	6.56				2.37	2.63	3.87	5.25			
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 5.24 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 6.79 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 6.79 m/s ²					
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.71 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 1.01 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 1.01 m/s ²					
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.18 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.66 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.66 m/s ²					
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 6.79 m/s²																		

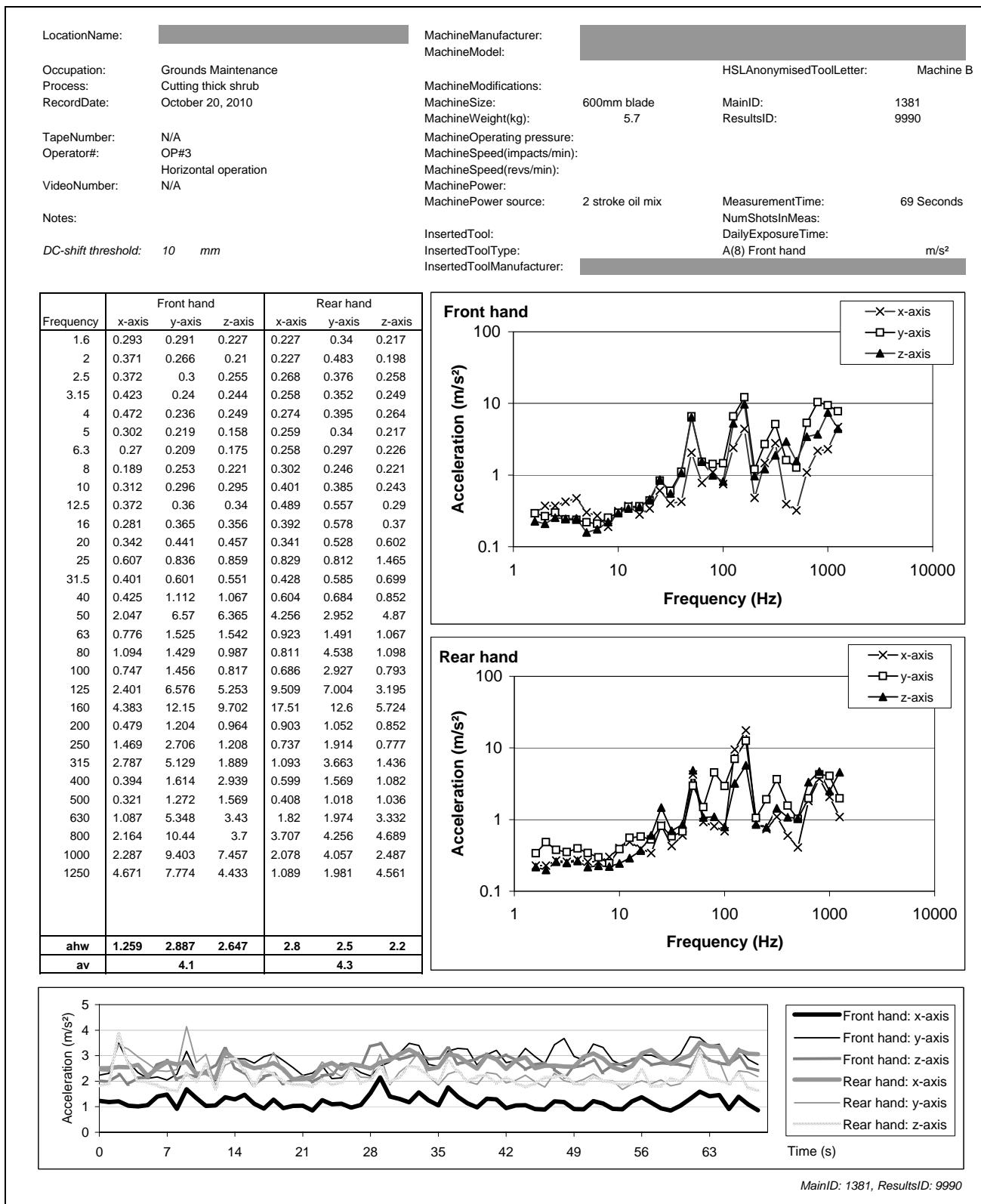
Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.pls

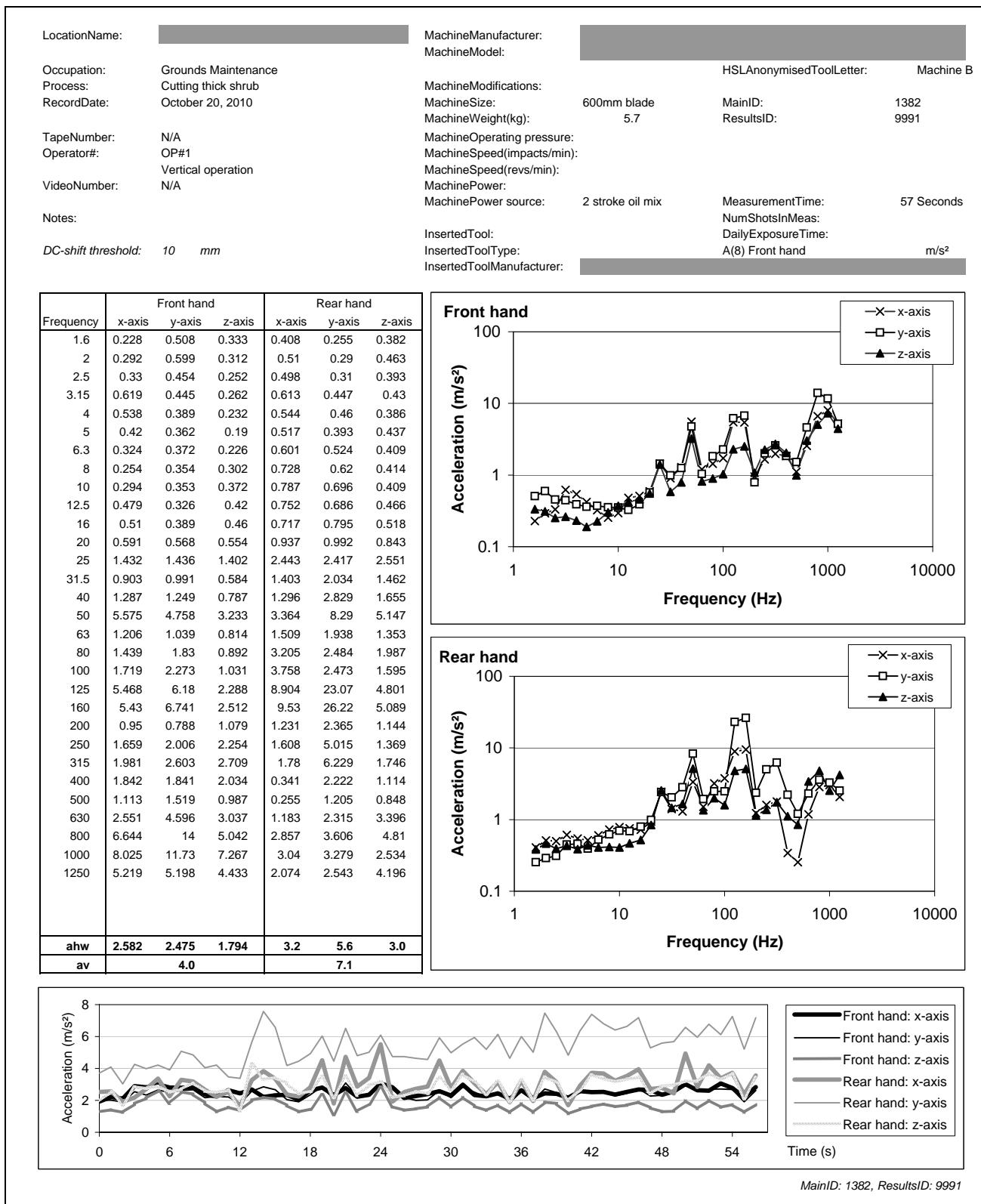
Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010

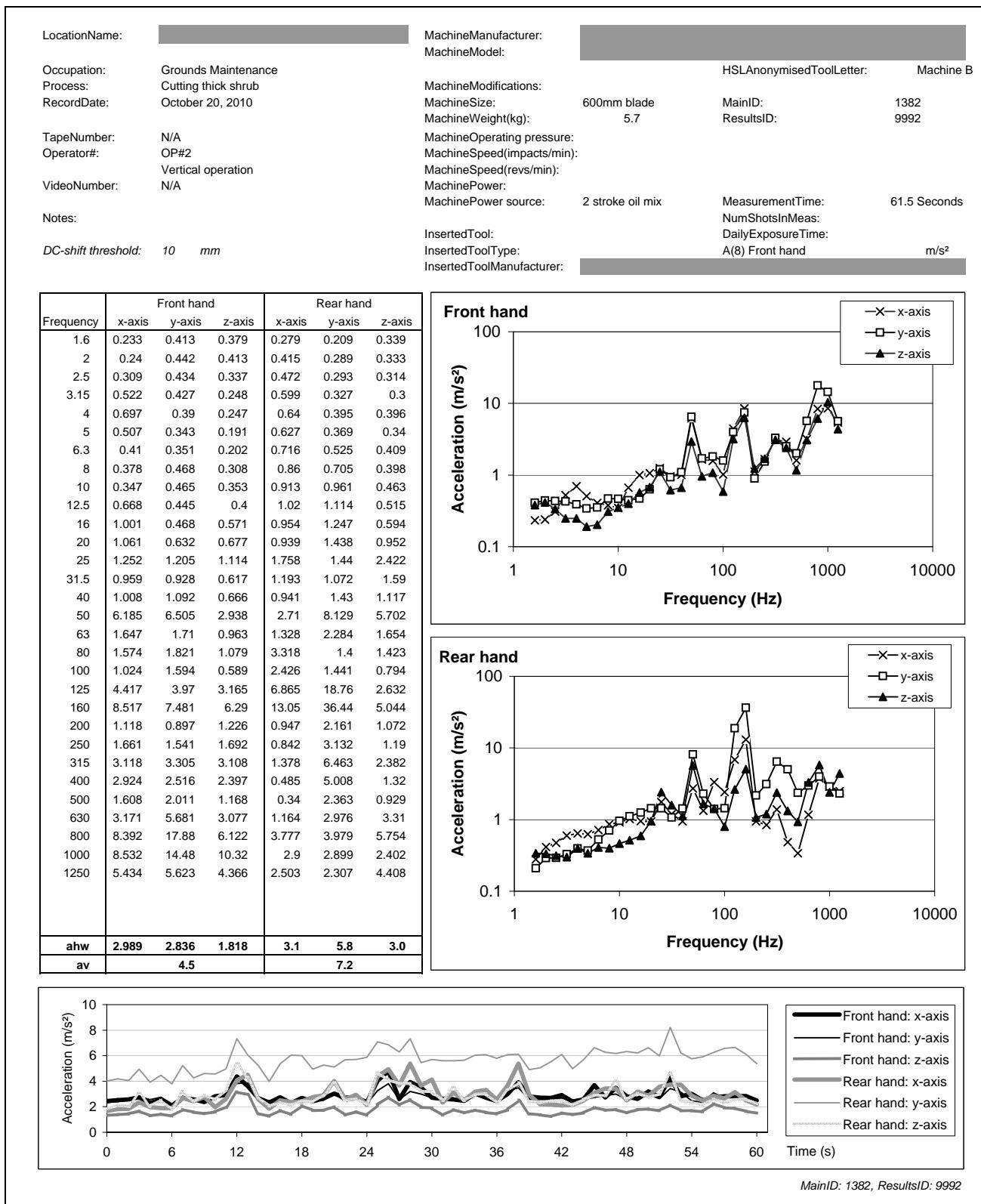


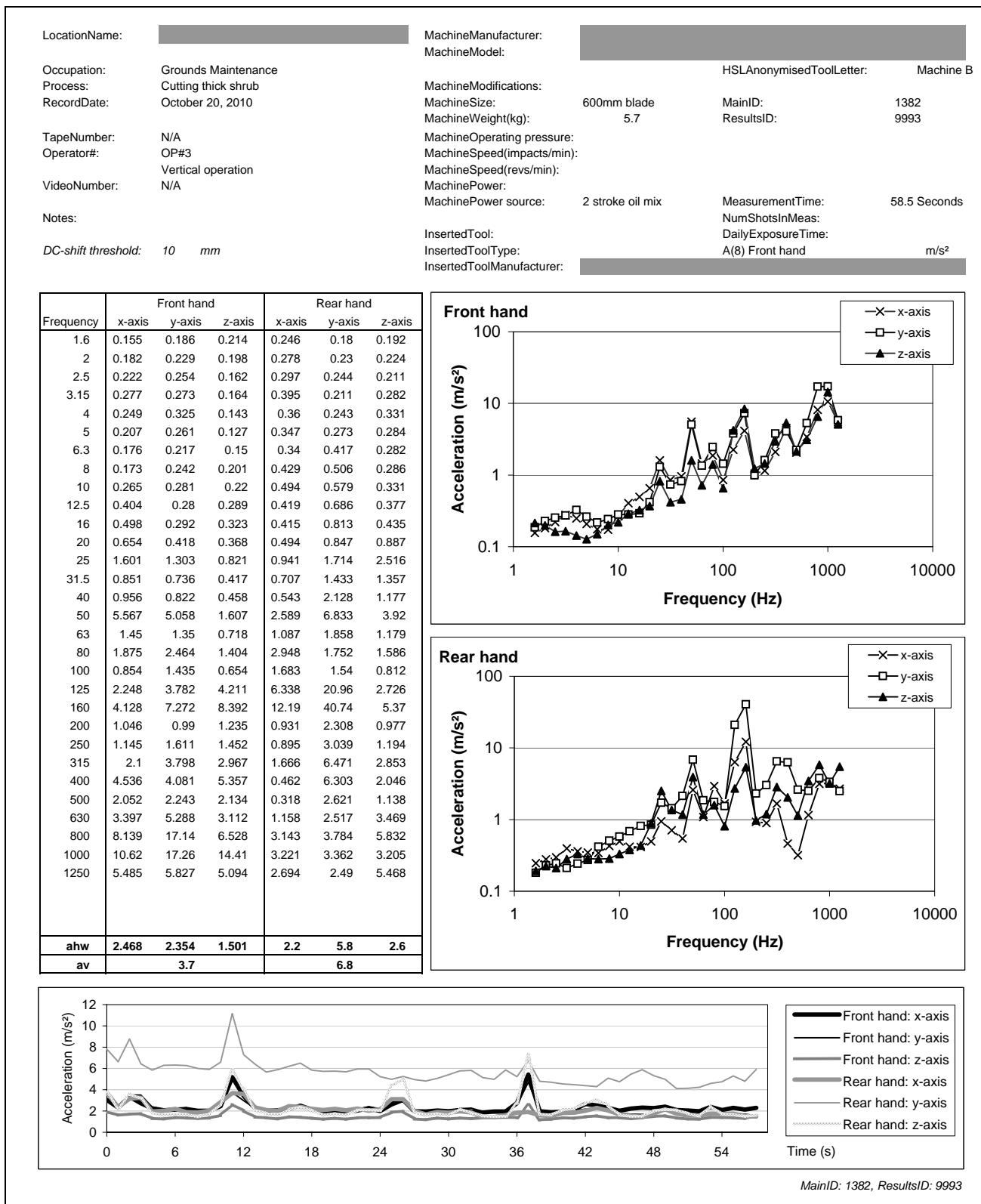


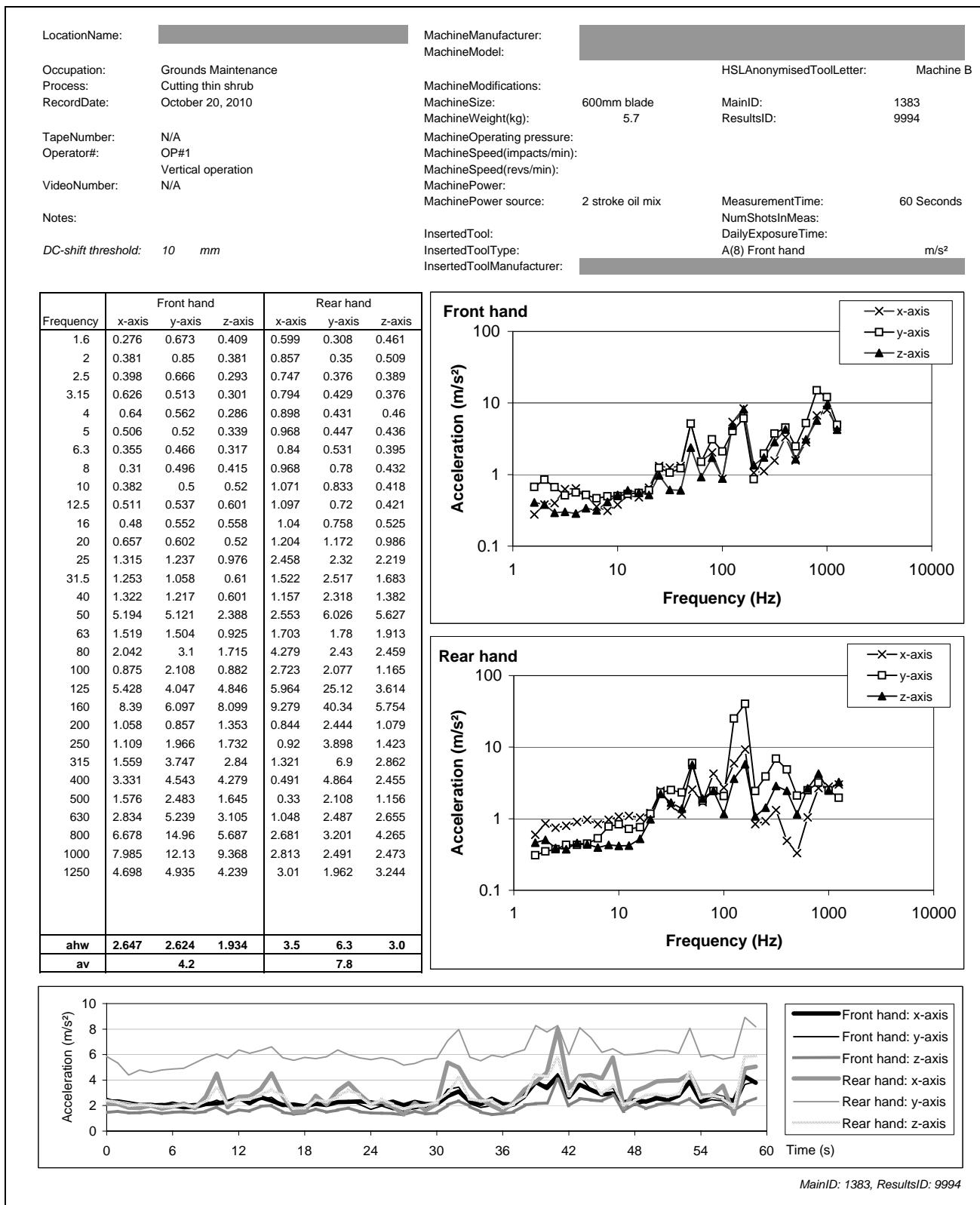


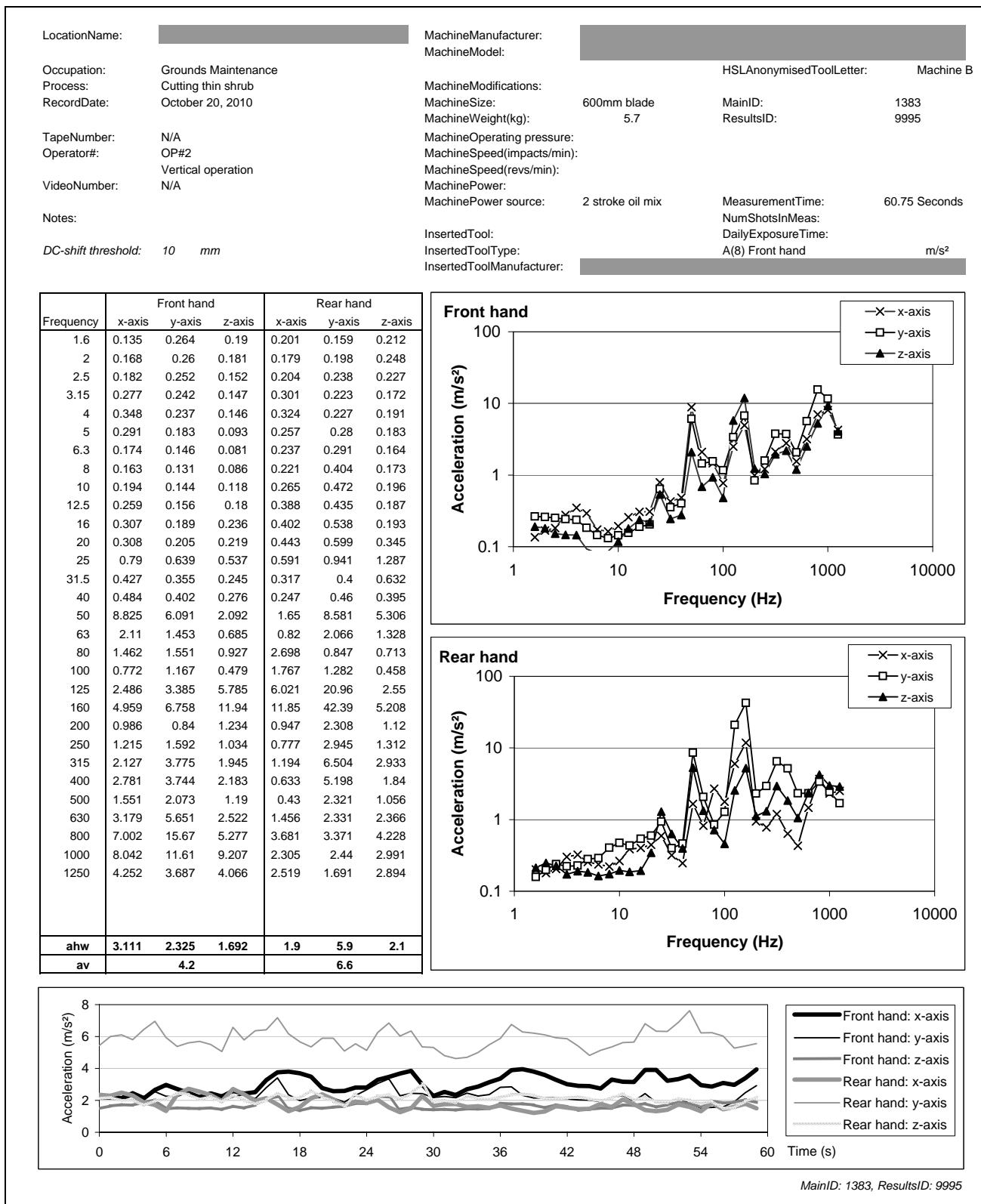


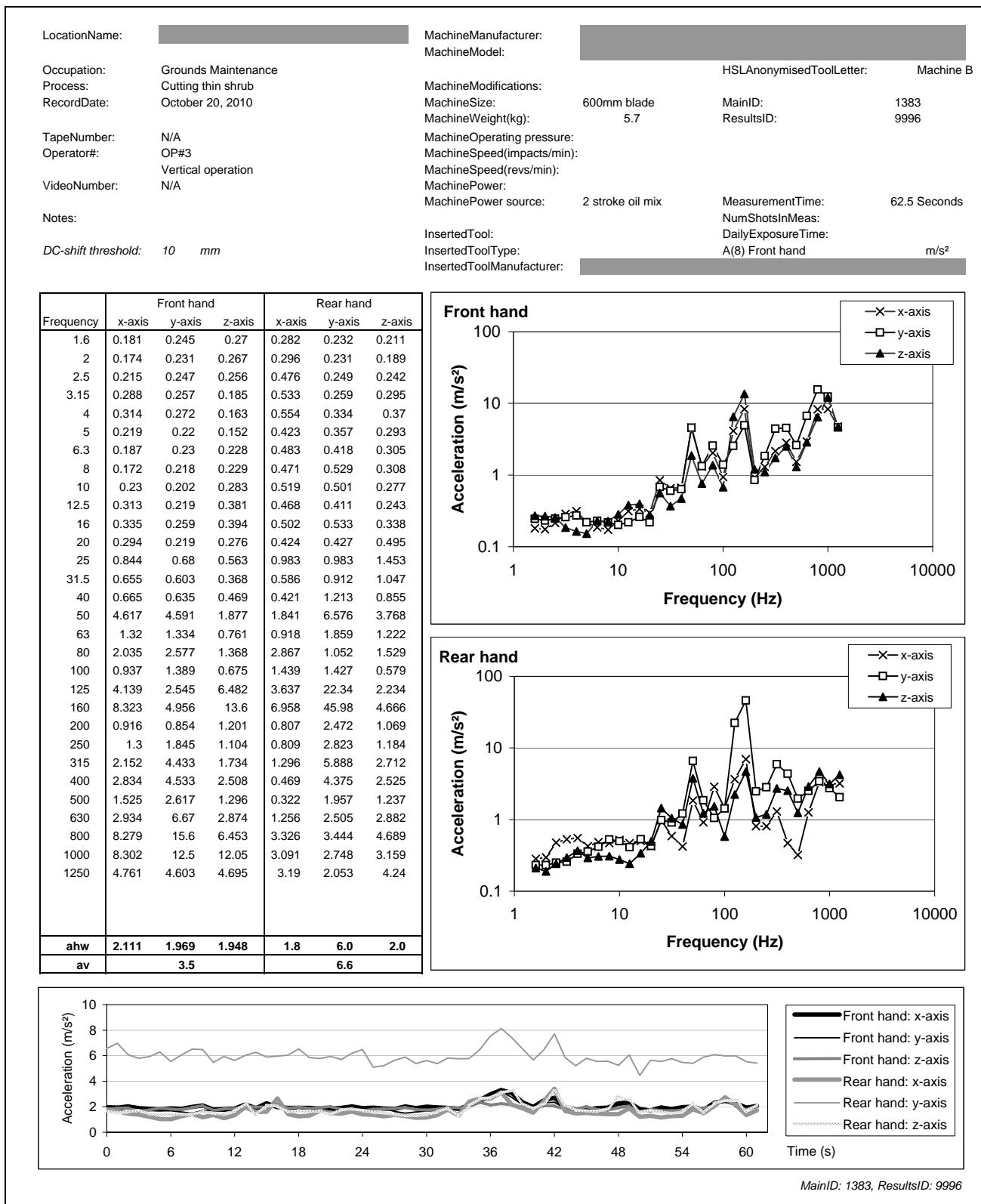


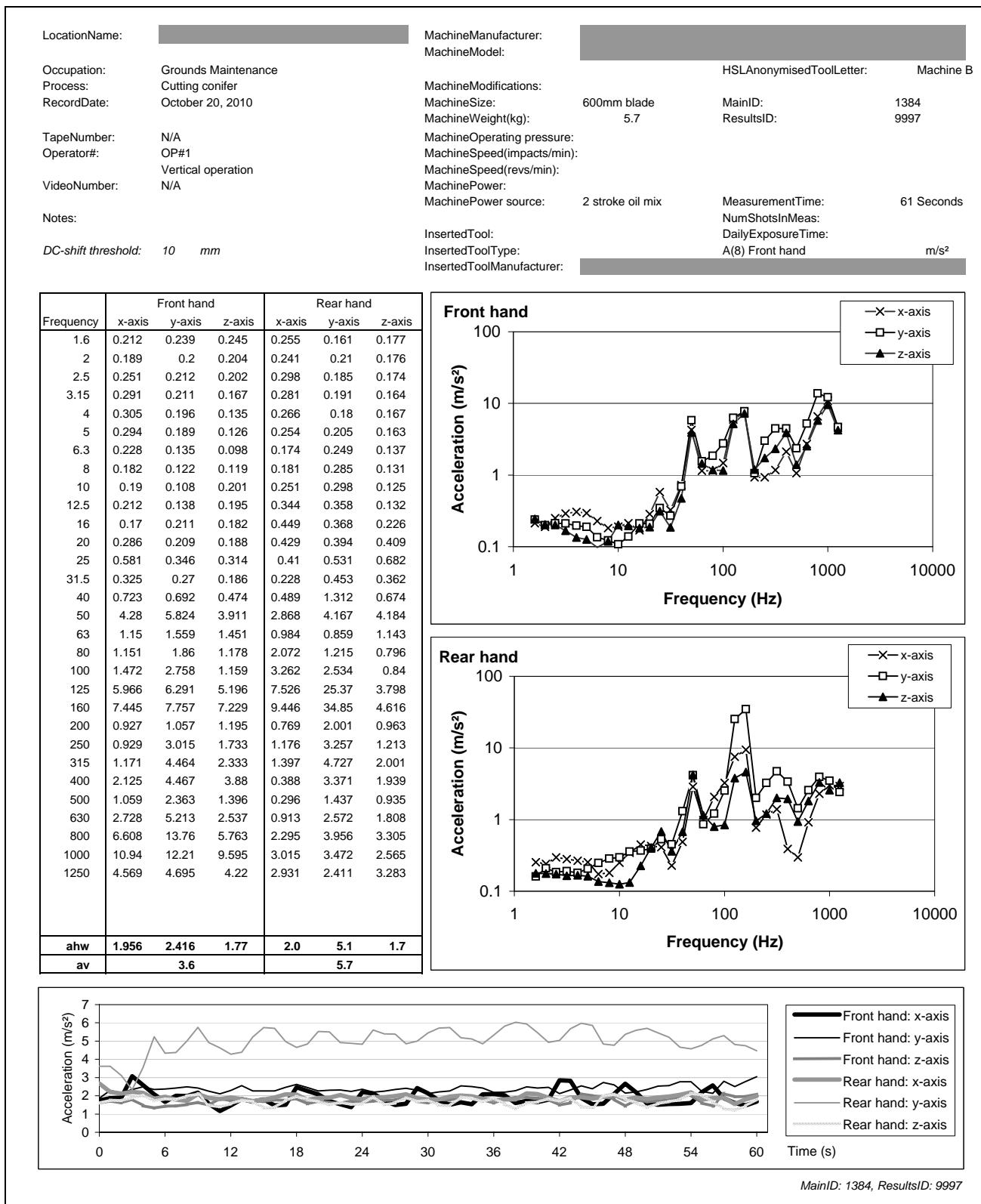


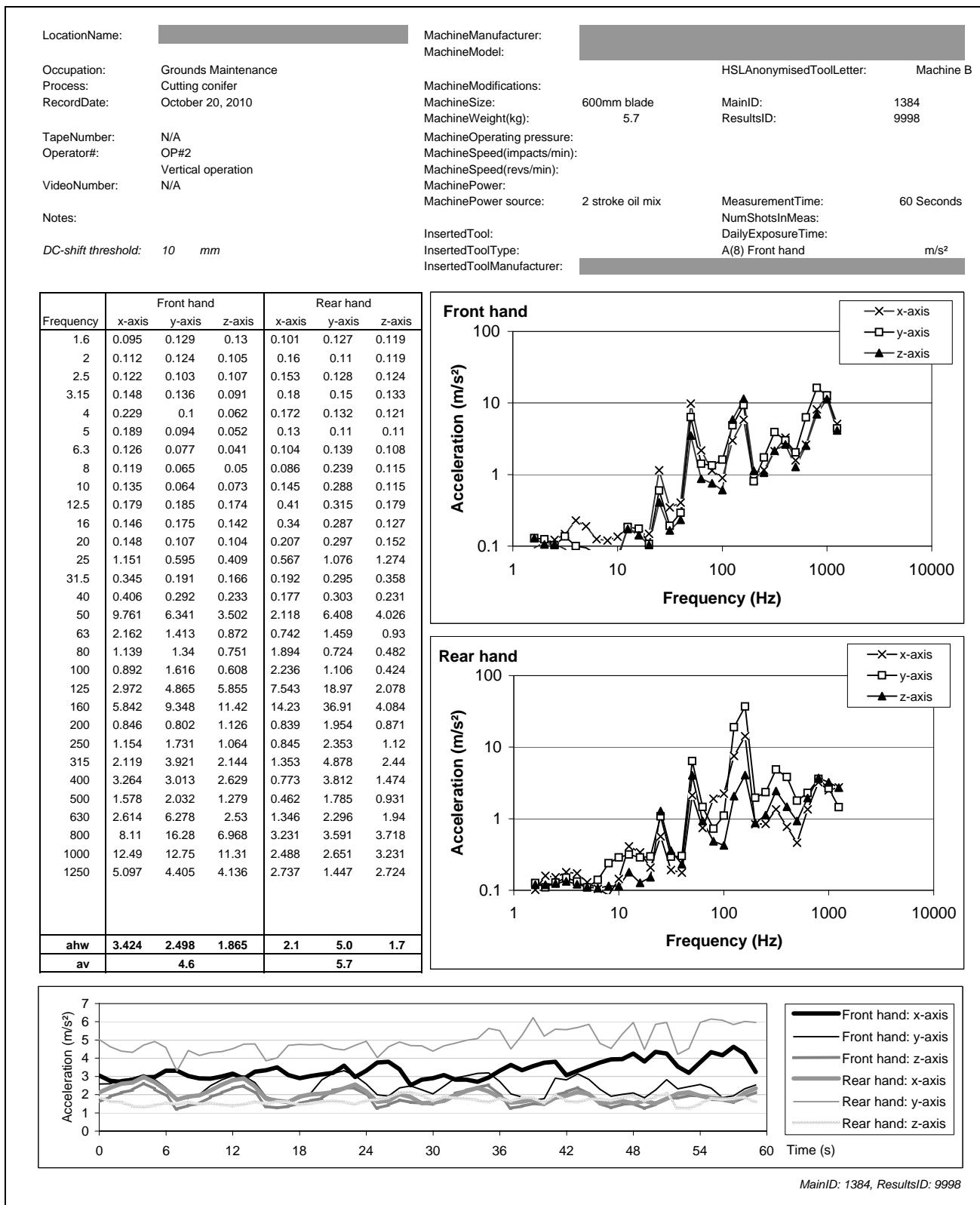


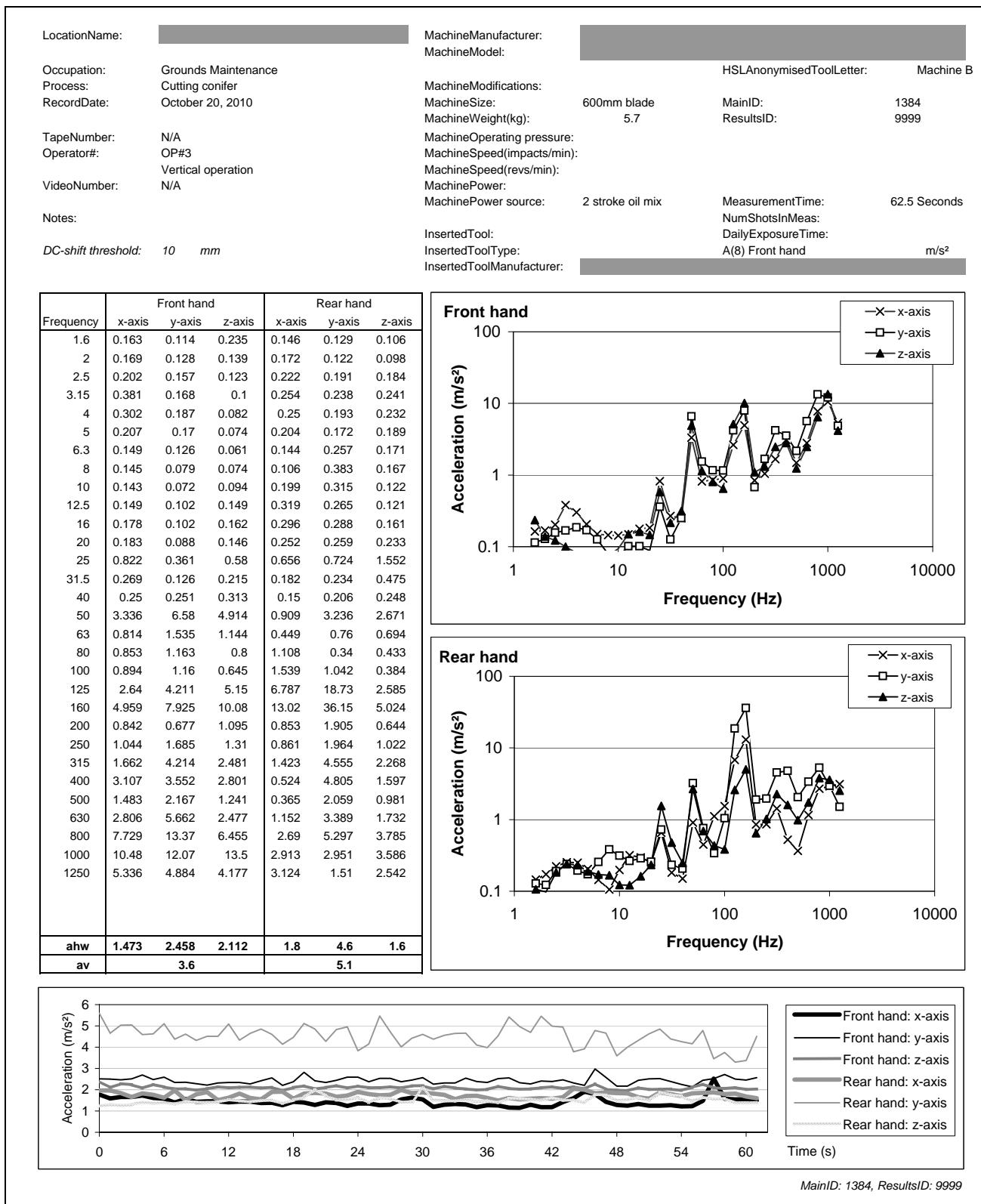












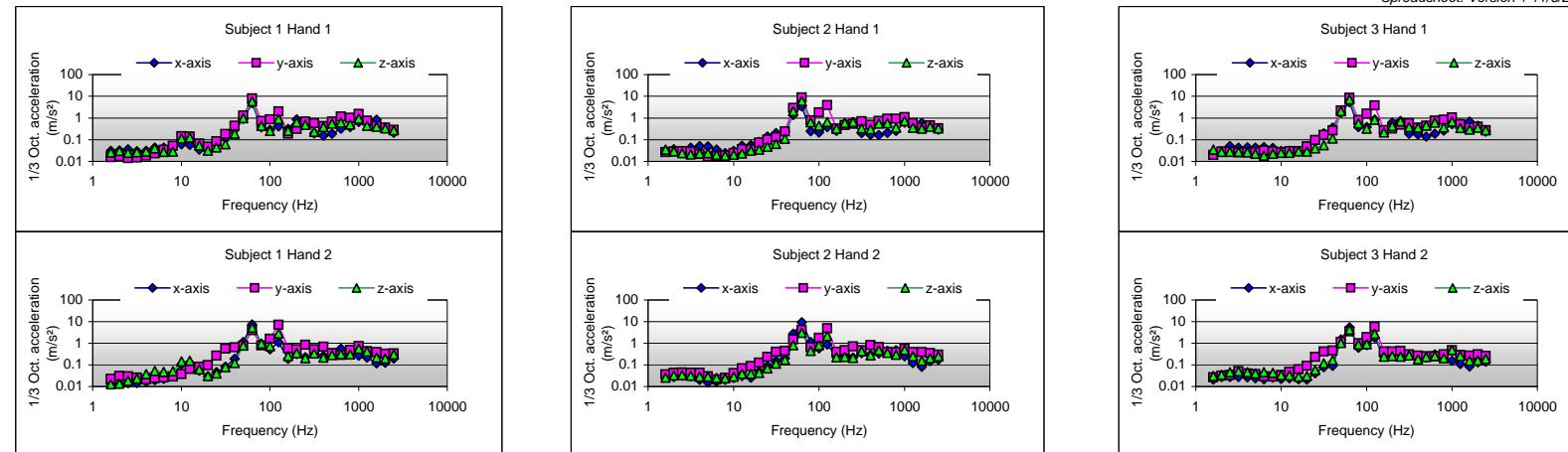
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine C Idling
 Measurement File name:

TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle						
					Operator Statistics			Operator Statistics							
					Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v					
1	1	dle RH0	04/06/201	15:06:03:624	1.32	2.06	1.83	3.05	2.96	0.130	0.044	1.72	1.59	1.69	2.89
2	1	dle RH0	04/06/201	15:07:23:499	1.07	2.48	1.55	3.12				1.99	1.42	1.79	3.04
3	1	dle RH0	04/06/201	15:08:21:373	1.25	2.25	1.47	2.96				2.14	1.39	1.38	2.90
4	1	dle RH0	04/06/201	15:09:16:749	1.34	1.97	1.46	2.80				1.98	1.52	1.14	2.74
5	1	dle RH1	04/06/201	15:10:14:498	1.43	1.93	1.57	2.87				1.90	1.53	1.30	2.77
6	2	dle SH0	04/06/201	14:43:39:498	1.42	2.49	1.82	3.40				2.20	1.52	0.52	2.73
7	2	dle SH0	04/06/201	14:44:43:248	0.79	2.71	1.56	3.22				3.76	1.57	0.88	4.17
8	2	dle SH0	04/06/201	14:45:43:498	1.06	2.67	1.83	3.41				2.37	1.47	0.87	2.92
9	2	dle SH0	04/06/201	14:46:44:499	0.95	2.63	1.68	3.27				2.38	1.41	1.19	3.01
10	2	dle SH0	04/06/201	14:47:38:999	0.94	2.57	1.78	3.26				2.36	1.33	1.10	2.92
11	3	dle MMO	04/06/201	14:56:28:373	0.94	2.43	2.04	3.31	3.49	0.084	0.158	1.69	1.12	1.69	2.64
12	3	dle MMO	04/06/201	14:57:42:748	1.24	2.03	1.81	2.98				1.45	1.45	1.33	2.44
13	3	dle MMO	04/06/201	14:59:01:123	1.92	2.15	2.21	3.64				1.63	1.48	0.94	2.40
14	3	dle MMO	04/06/201	15:00:02:499	1.75	3.38	2.18	4.38				1.46	1.32	0.97	2.19
15	3	dle MMO	04/06/201	15:01:03:124	1.66	2.11	1.67	3.16				1.49	1.36	1.32	2.41
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.26 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 2.81 m/s ²						
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.46 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.54 m/s ²						
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.76 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.88 m/s ²						
					Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 3.26 m/s ² $K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.76 m/s ²										

Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.pls

Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010



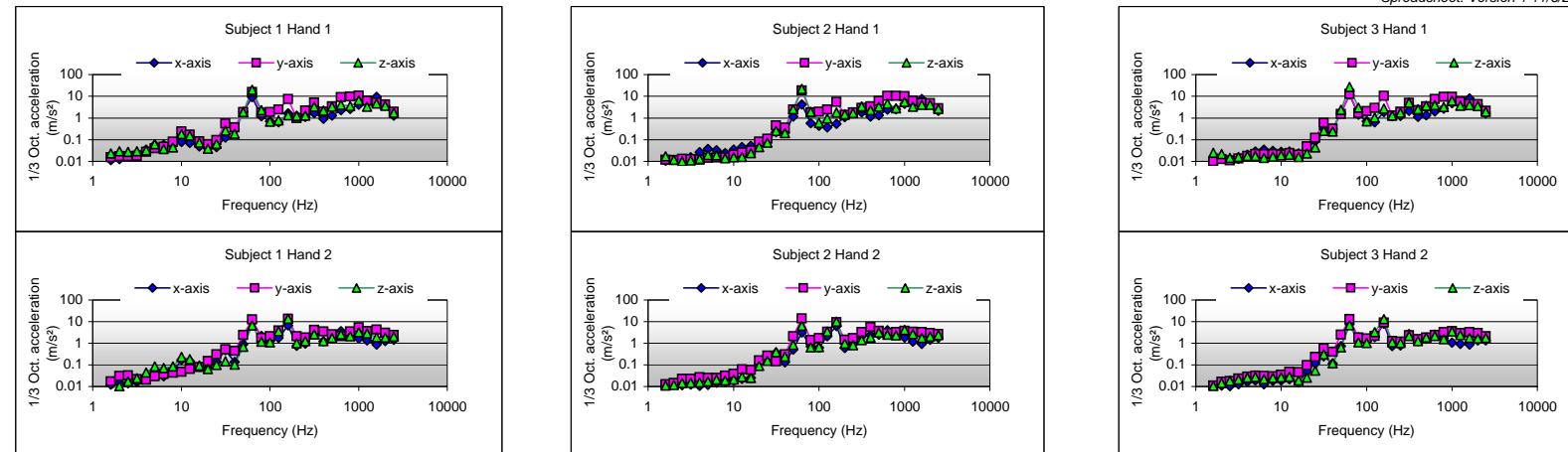
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

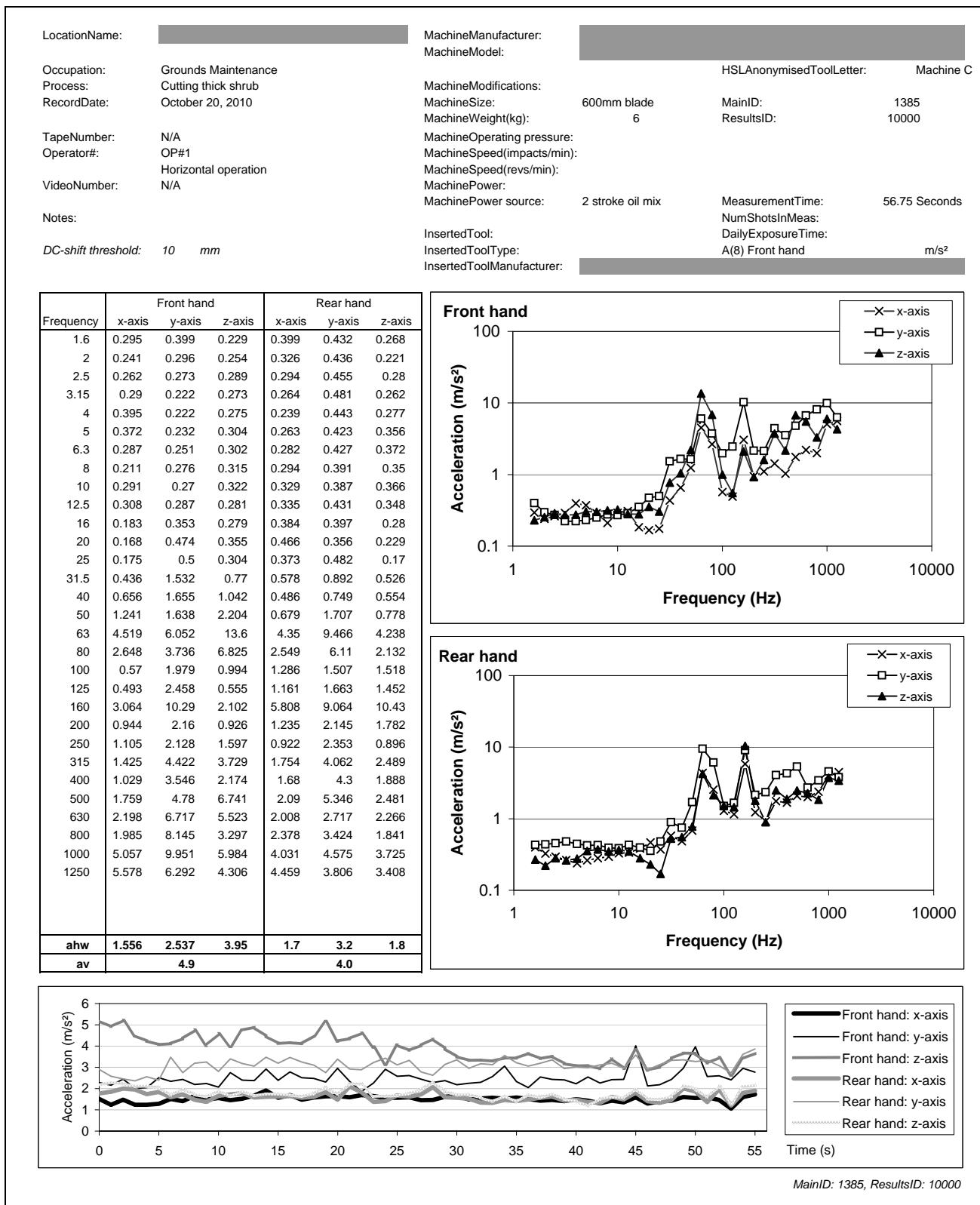
Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine C Racing
 Measurement File name:

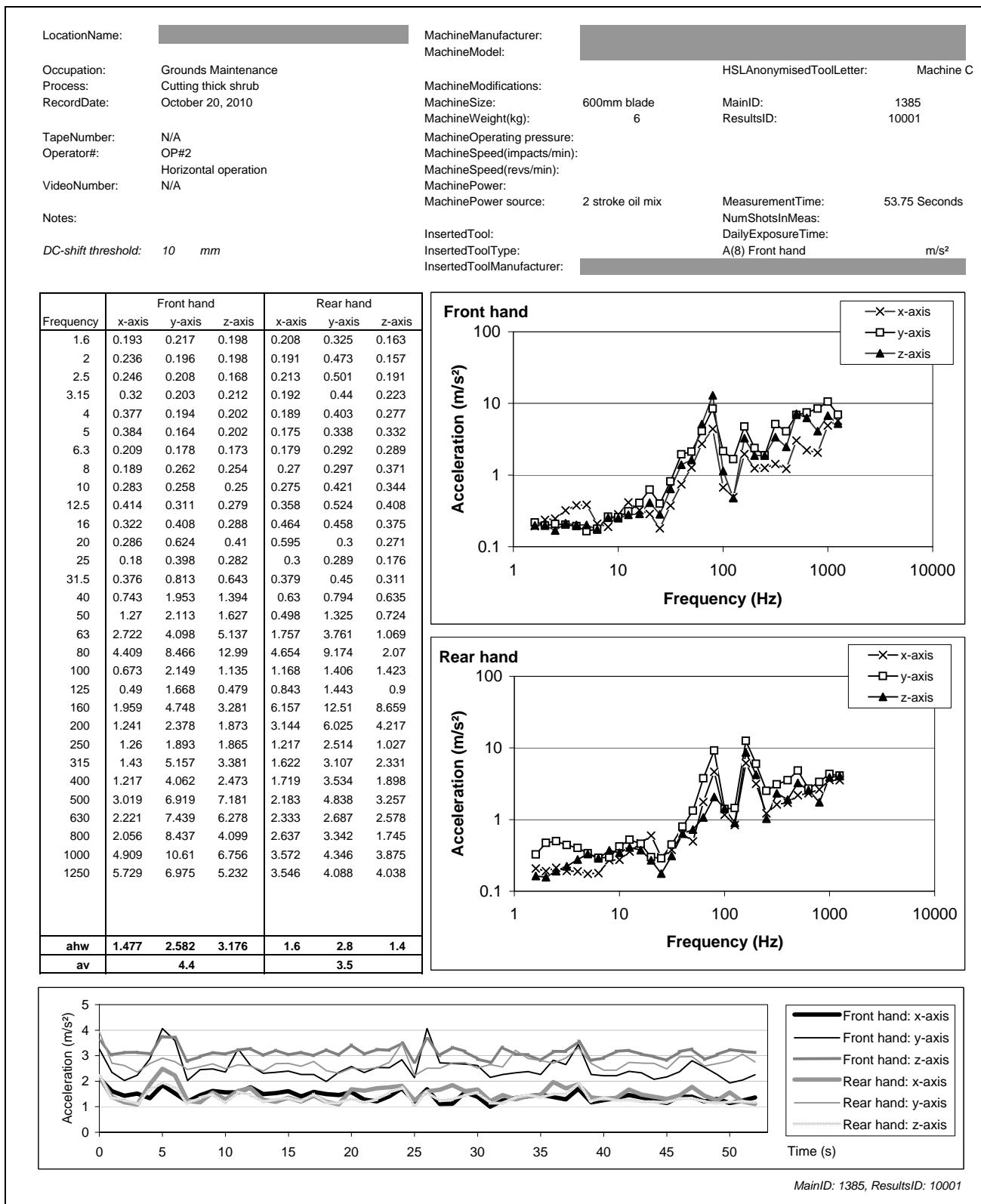
TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle									
					Operator Statistics				Operator Statistics									
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}			
1	1	cinc RH	4/06/201	15:06:41:999	2.59	4.32	5.46	7.43	7.06	0.276	0.039	2.47	3.70	2.46	5.08			
2	1	cinc RH	4/06/201	15:07:54:498	2.45	3.85	5.12	6.86				2.71	3.73	2.31	5.15			
3	1	cinc RH	4/06/201	15:08:51:748	2.37	4.35	5.21	7.19				2.47	3.48	2.29	4.85			
4	1	cinc RH	4/06/201	15:09:45:998	2.31	4.18	4.73	6.73				2.76	3.79	2.08	5.13			
5	1	cinc RH	4/06/201	15:10:41:498	2.55	4.55	4.81	7.10				2.66	3.70	2.31	5.11			
6	2	cinc SH	4/06/201	14:44:13:749	1.14	5.36	5.07	7.46				1.34	3.41	1.89	4.12			
7	2	cinc SH	4/06/201	14:45:15:374	1.10	4.42	5.68	7.28				0.94	3.95	1.99	4.52			
8	2	cinc SH	4/06/201	14:46:17:123	1.13	4.98	5.58	7.56				1.18	3.99	2.01	4.62			
9	2	cinc SH	4/06/201	14:47:12:248	1.37	4.66	6.26	7.92				1.17	3.96	2.22	4.68			
10	2	cinc SH	4/06/201	14:48:05:999	1.12	4.97	5.78	7.71				1.05	3.97	2.15	4.63			
11	3	cinc MM	4/06/201	14:57:13:624	3.22	3.41	7.04	8.46	8.51	0.587	0.069	2.04	3.79	2.75	5.10			
12	3	cinc MM	4/06/201	14:58:31:624	3.65	3.11	7.69	9.06				2.07	4.05	2.41	5.14			
13	3	cinc MM	4/06/201	14:59:33:248	2.99	3.38	6.63	8.02				2.36	3.40	2.08	4.63			
14	3	cinc MM	4/06/201	15:00:35:999	2.99	4.11	7.63	9.16				2.14	3.34	2.21	4.54			
15	3	cinc MM	4/06/201	15:01:30:249	3.05	3.88	6.13	7.87				2.48	3.87	2.08	5.05			
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 7.72 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 4.82 m/s ²									
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.81 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.38 m/s ²									
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.34 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.62 m/s ²									
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 7.72 m/s²														$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.34 m/s ²				

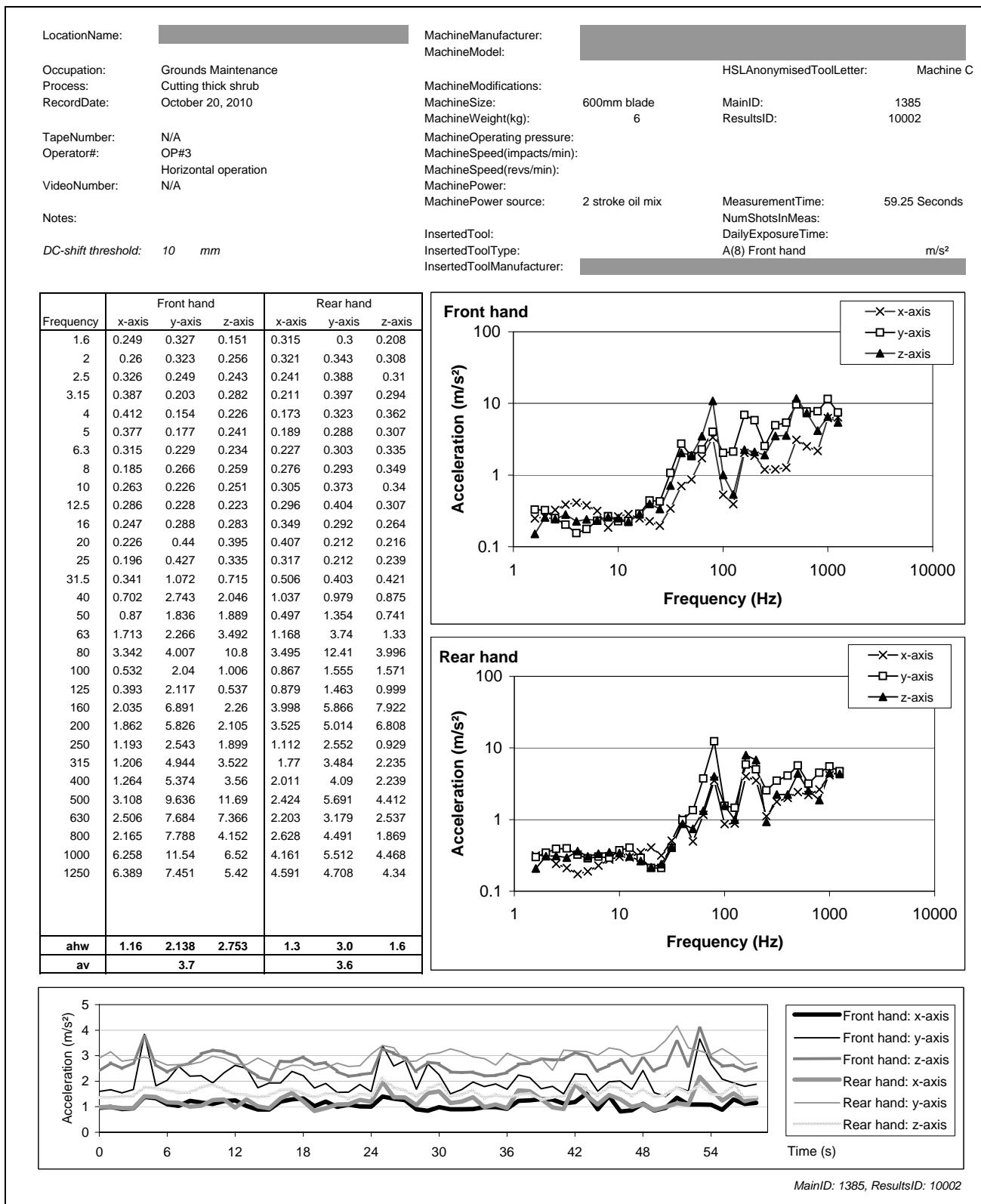
Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.pls

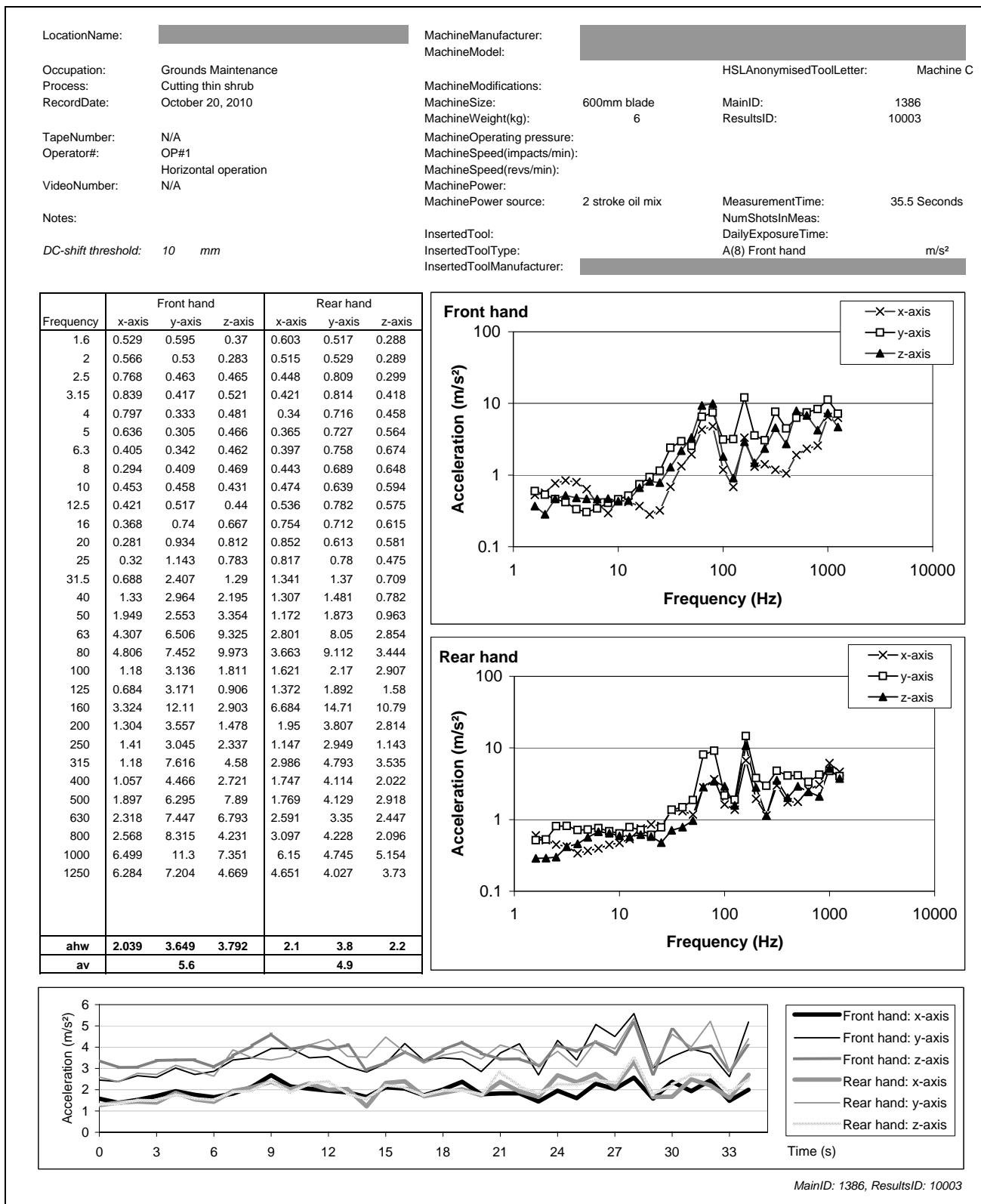
Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010

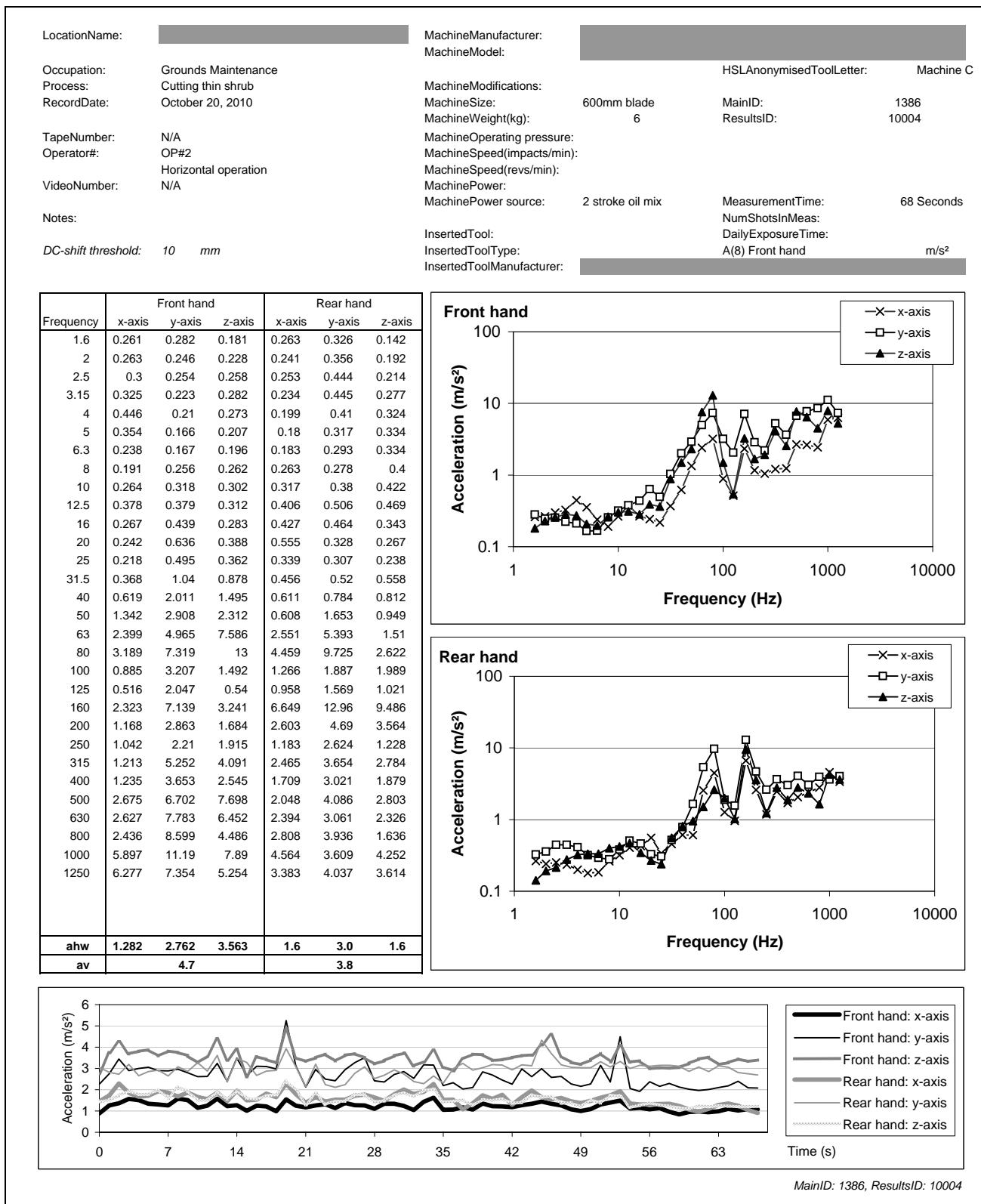


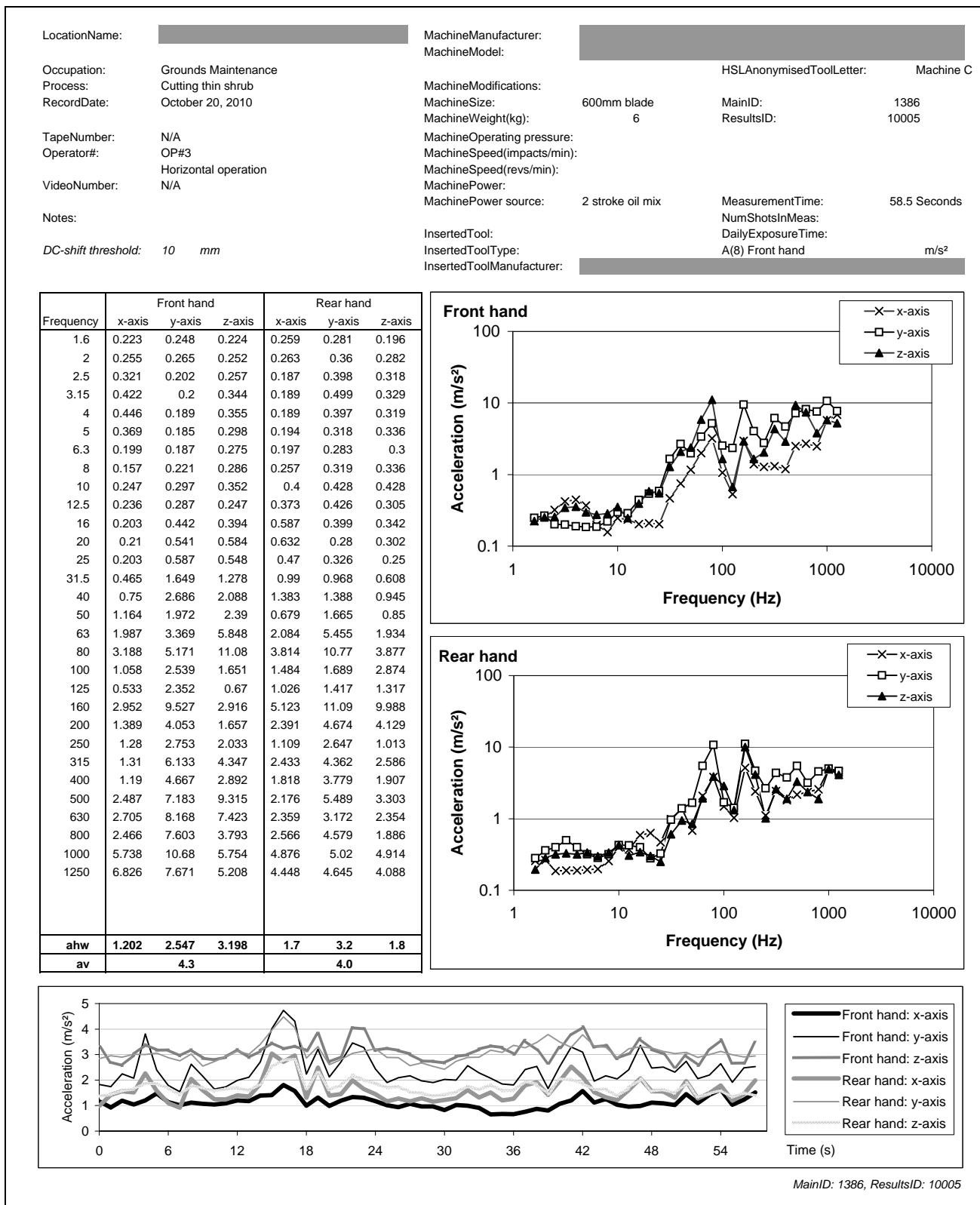


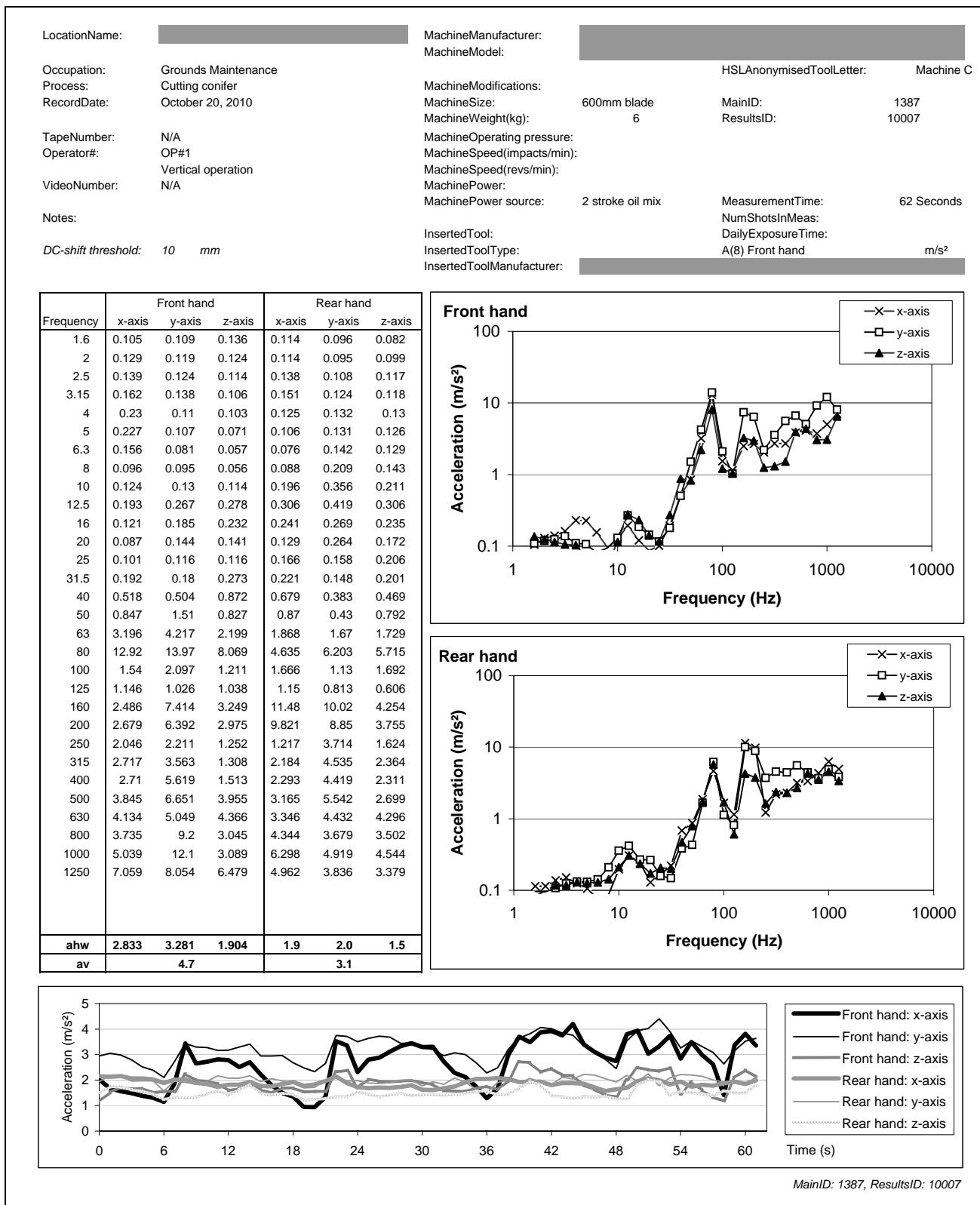


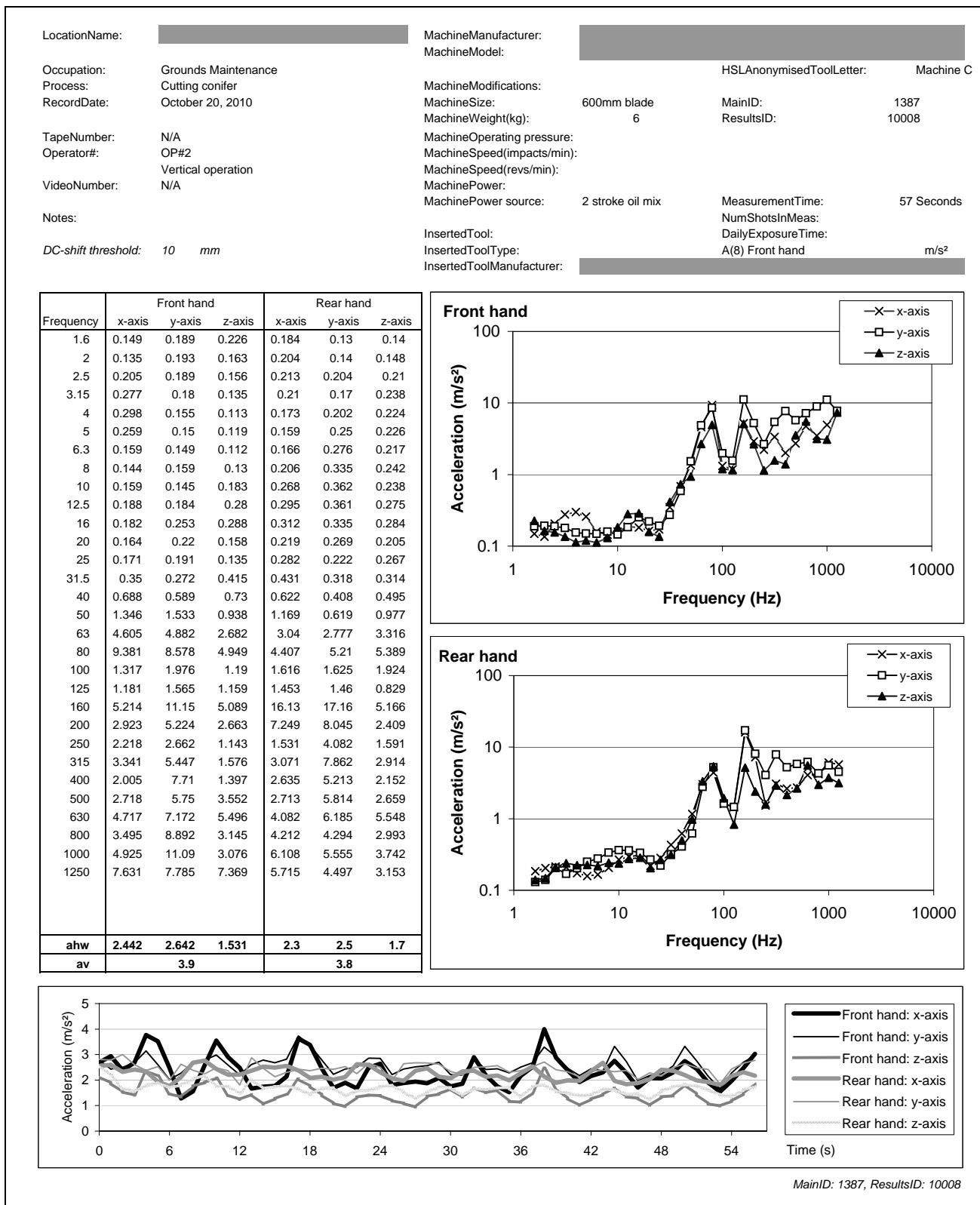


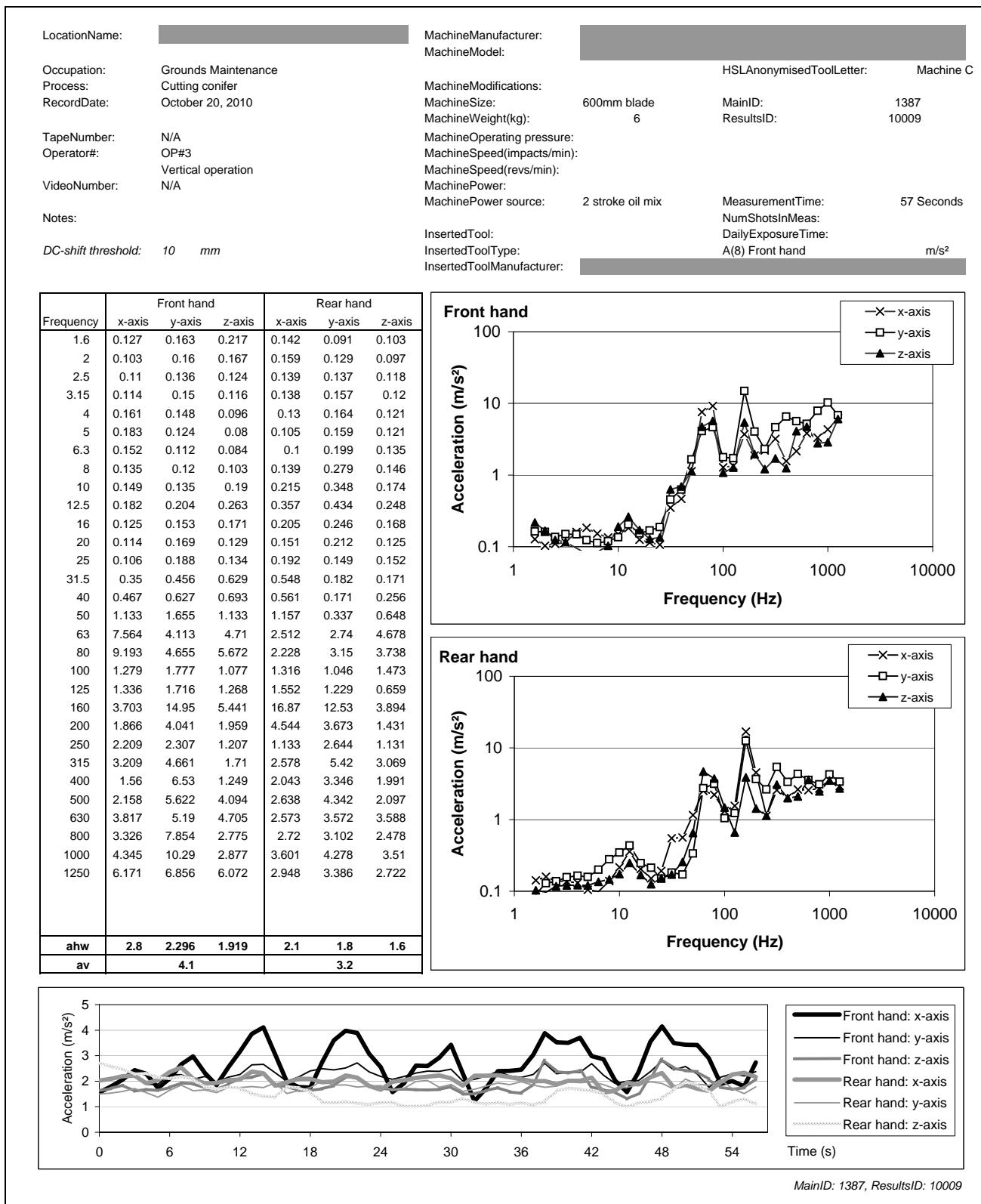












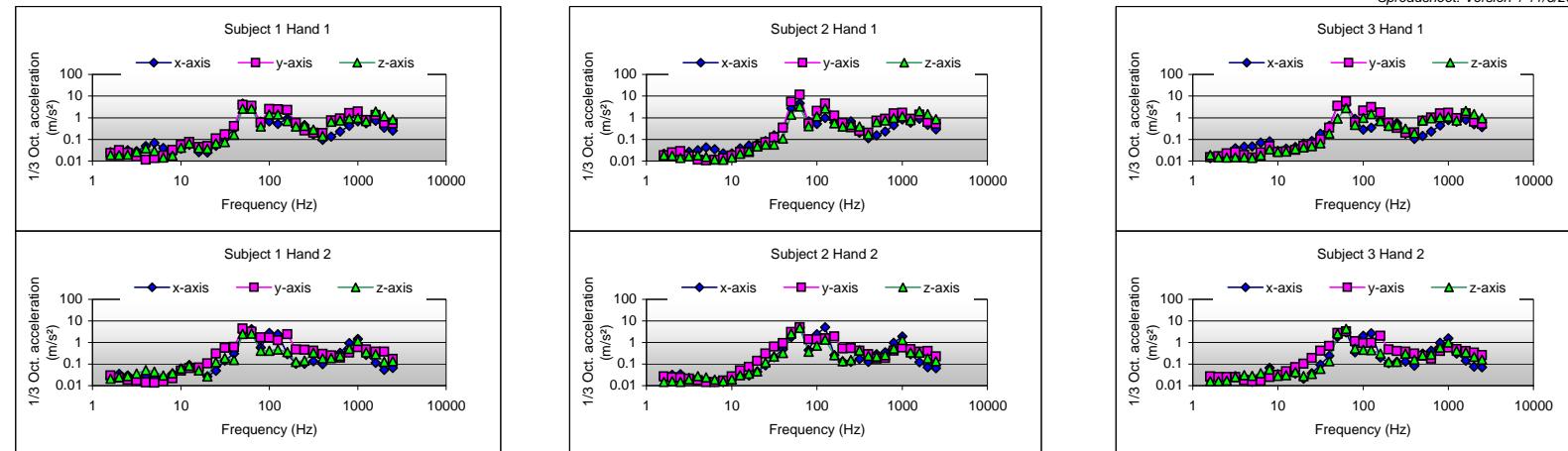
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

Standard: BS EN ISO 10517:2009
 N&V reference ID: Machine D Idling
 Measurement File name:

TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle										
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	
1	1	dle RH0	7/06/201	13:51:41:124	2.08	1.53	1.02	2.78	2.75	0.105	0.038	1.17	2.38	0.71	2.74	2.75	0.124	0.045	
2	1	dle RH0	7/06/201	13:52:33:999	1.96	1.68	1.22	2.85				1.21	2.16	1.18	2.74				
3	1	dle RH0	7/06/201	13:53:25:623	1.84	1.80	1.17	2.83				1.57	1.71	1.22	2.62				
4	1	dle RH0	7/06/201	13:54:18:123	1.49	1.89	1.15	2.67				1.77	1.57	1.25	2.67				
5	1	dle RH0	7/06/201	13:55:06:749	1.20	1.90	1.33	2.61				2.36	1.37	1.12	2.95				
6	2	dle SH0	7/06/201	13:58:01:373	2.08	3.35	0.88	4.04				1.26	2.59	1.84	3.42				
7	2	dle SH0	7/06/201	13:58:56:124	1.73	3.73	1.20	4.28	4.23	0.151	0.036	1.82	1.72	1.53	2.93	3.05	0.231	0.076	
8	2	dle SH0	7/06/201	13:59:48:749	1.50	3.89	1.23	4.34				2.21	1.68	1.40	3.12				
9	2	dle SH0	7/06/201	14:00:41:623	1.47	3.96	1.11	4.37				1.55	1.91	1.61	2.94				
10	2	dle SH0	7/06/201	14:01:34:498	1.33	3.71	1.09	4.09				1.54	1.75	1.61	2.83				
11	3	dle MMO	7/06/201	14:05:08:249	1.94	1.71	0.40	2.61				1.36	2.12	1.41	2.89				
12	3	dle MMO	7/06/201	14:06:02:374	1.54	1.87	0.95	2.60				1.30	1.16	1.50	2.29				
13	3	dle MMO	7/06/201	14:06:57:623	1.66	2.14	0.95	2.87	2.82	0.248	0.088	2.05	1.59	2.07	3.32	2.40	0.693	0.288	
14	3	dle MMO	7/06/201	14:08:12:748	1.34	2.63	1.25	3.21				0.52	1.14	1.23	1.75				
15	3	dle MMO	7/06/201	14:09:02:624	1.85	2.03	0.73	2.84				0.73	1.07	1.19	1.76				
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.27 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 2.73 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.74 m/s ²						
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.22 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.59 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.98 m/s ²						
					Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 3.27 m/s ²									$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 1.22 m/s ²					

Pulse file version: Hedge trimmer emission - Dual triggered averaging time V1.0 2010-06-11.xls

Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010



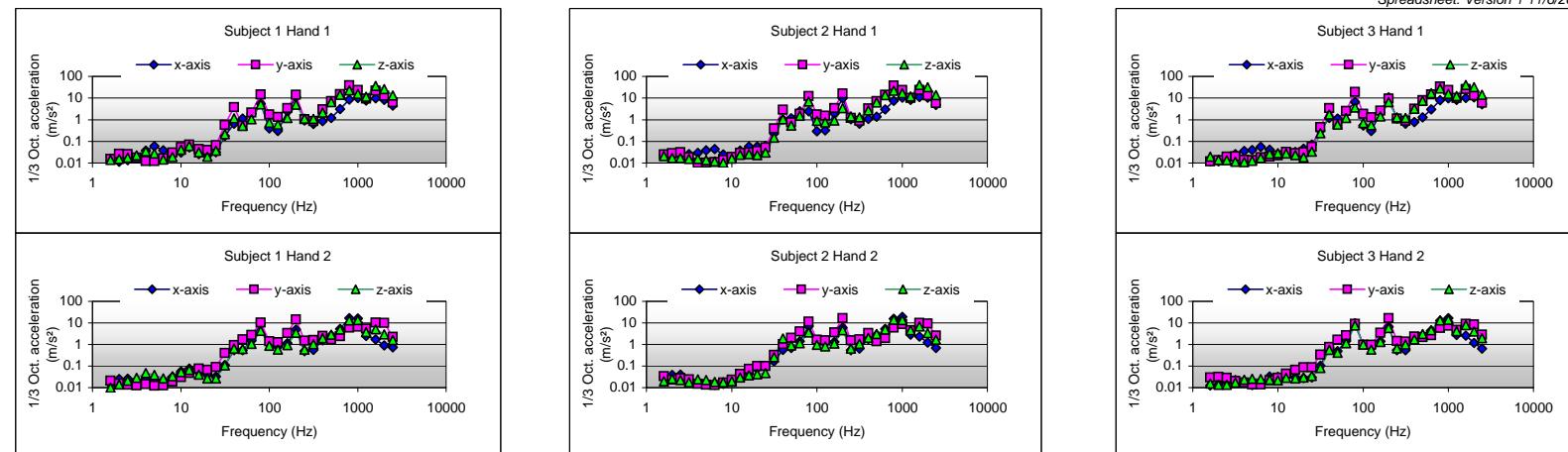
Vibration Emission Test report - Full

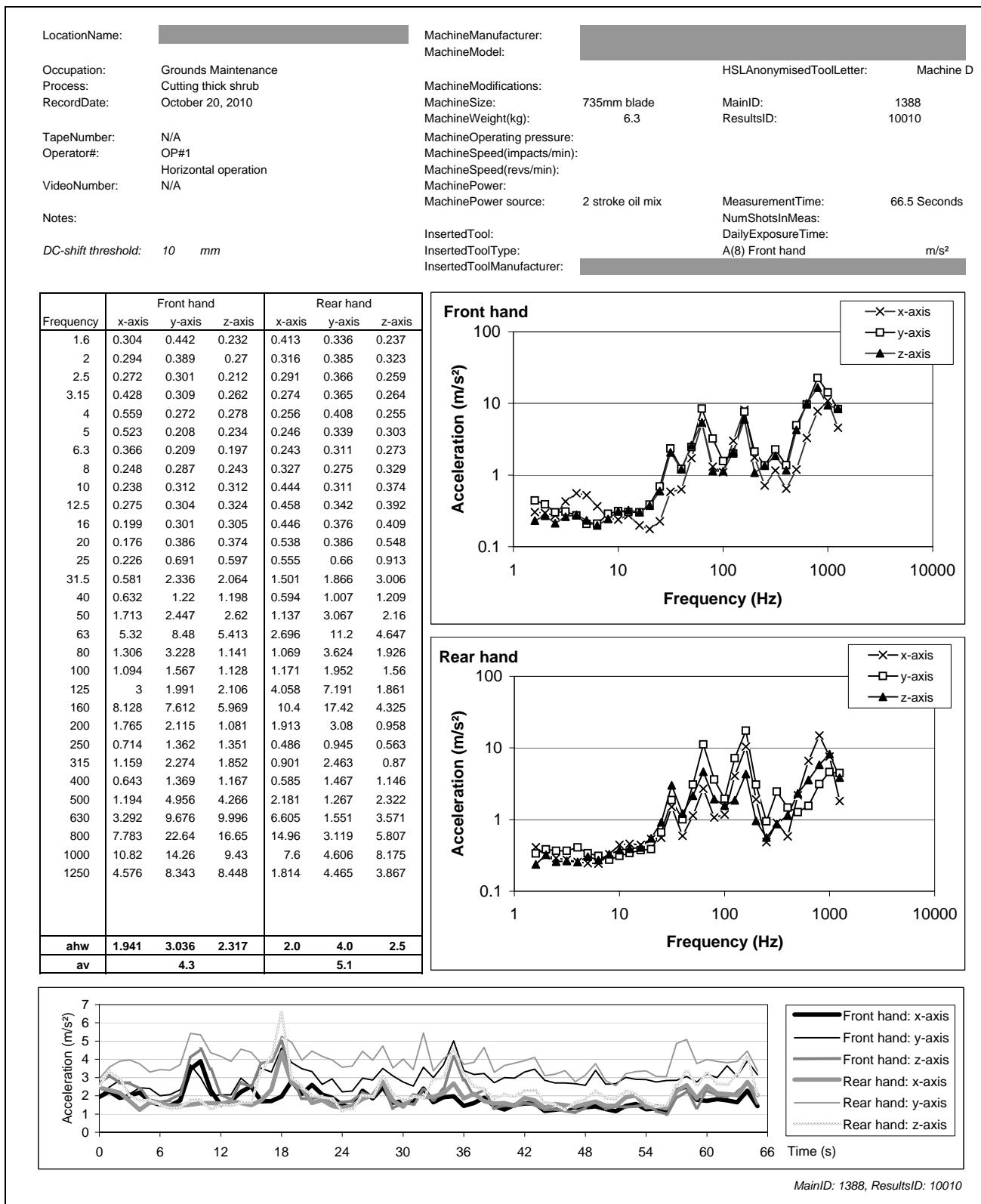
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 N&V reference ID: Machine D Racing
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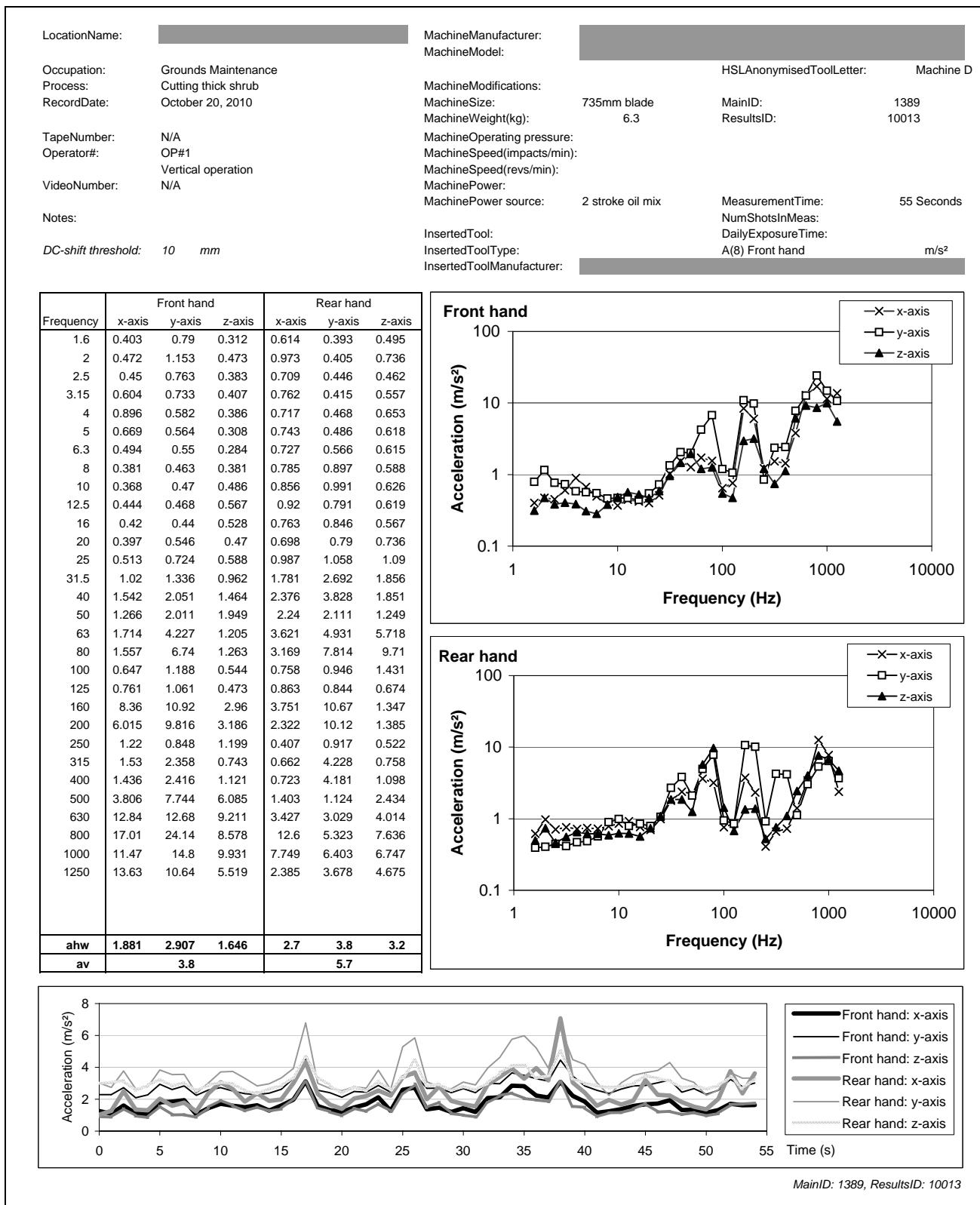
TestNo.	Operator	Meas. Name	Meas. Date	Meas Time	Hand Position 1 - Support				Hand Position 2 - Throttle									
					Operator Statistics				Operator Statistics									
					a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}	Mean a_{hv}	S_{n-1}	C_v	a_{whx}	a_{why}	a_{whz}	a_{hv}			
1	1	cinc RH	7/06/201	13:52:07:623	1.84	4.00	1.47	4.64	4.31	0.274	0.064	2.06	2.72	1.25	3.63			
2	1	cinc RH	7/06/201	13:53:00:123	1.70	3.94	1.45	4.53				1.48	2.62	1.26	3.27			
3	1	cinc RH	7/06/201	13:53:53:874	1.63	3.69	1.43	4.28				2.27	2.56	1.02	3.57			
4	1	cinc RH	7/06/201	13:54:42:373	1.48	3.55	1.40	4.09				2.24	2.61	1.00	3.58			
5	1	cinc RH	7/06/201	13:55:32:748	1.41	3.45	1.48	4.01				2.11	2.66	1.00	3.54			
6	2	cinc SH	7/06/201	13:58:27:499	1.28	3.24	1.58	3.82				1.69	3.10	1.36	3.79			
7	2	cinc SH	7/06/201	13:59:21:249	1.31	3.30	1.71	3.94				1.83	3.05	1.32	3.79			
8	2	cinc SH	7/06/201	14:00:14:124	1.32	3.28	1.68	3.91				1.60	3.08	1.22	3.68			
9	2	cinc SH	7/06/201	14:01:06:749	1.31	3.20	1.75	3.88				1.46	3.01	1.31	3.59			
10	2	cinc SH	7/06/201	14:02:00:749	1.33	3.27	1.83	3.98				1.74	2.99	1.27	3.68			
11	3	cinc MM	7/06/201	14:05:33:248	1.84	4.34	1.36	4.91	4.95	0.326	0.066	2.25	2.59	1.94	3.94			
12	3	cinc MM	7/06/201	14:06:30:373	1.74	4.49	1.41	5.02				2.46	2.35	1.99	3.94			
13	3	cinc MN	7/06/201	14:07:21:874	1.99	4.64	1.46	5.25				2.11	2.29	1.93	3.66			
14	3	cinc MM	7/06/201	14:08:36:498	2.07	4.49	1.49	5.16				2.23	2.54	1.59	3.73			
15	3	cinc MM	7/06/201	14:09:26:374	1.61	3.83	1.53	4.42				1.72	2.81	1.30	3.54			
					a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 4.39 m/s ²				a_h (overall mean a_{hv}): 3.66 m/s ²									
					σ_R (single m/c): 0.55 m/s ²				σ_R (single m/c): 0.22 m/s ²									
					$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.90 m/s ²				$K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.36 m/s ²									
Single machine declared emission a_{hd} (= greatest a_h value): 4.39 m/s² $K_{(single\ m/c)}$ value: 0.90 m/s²																		

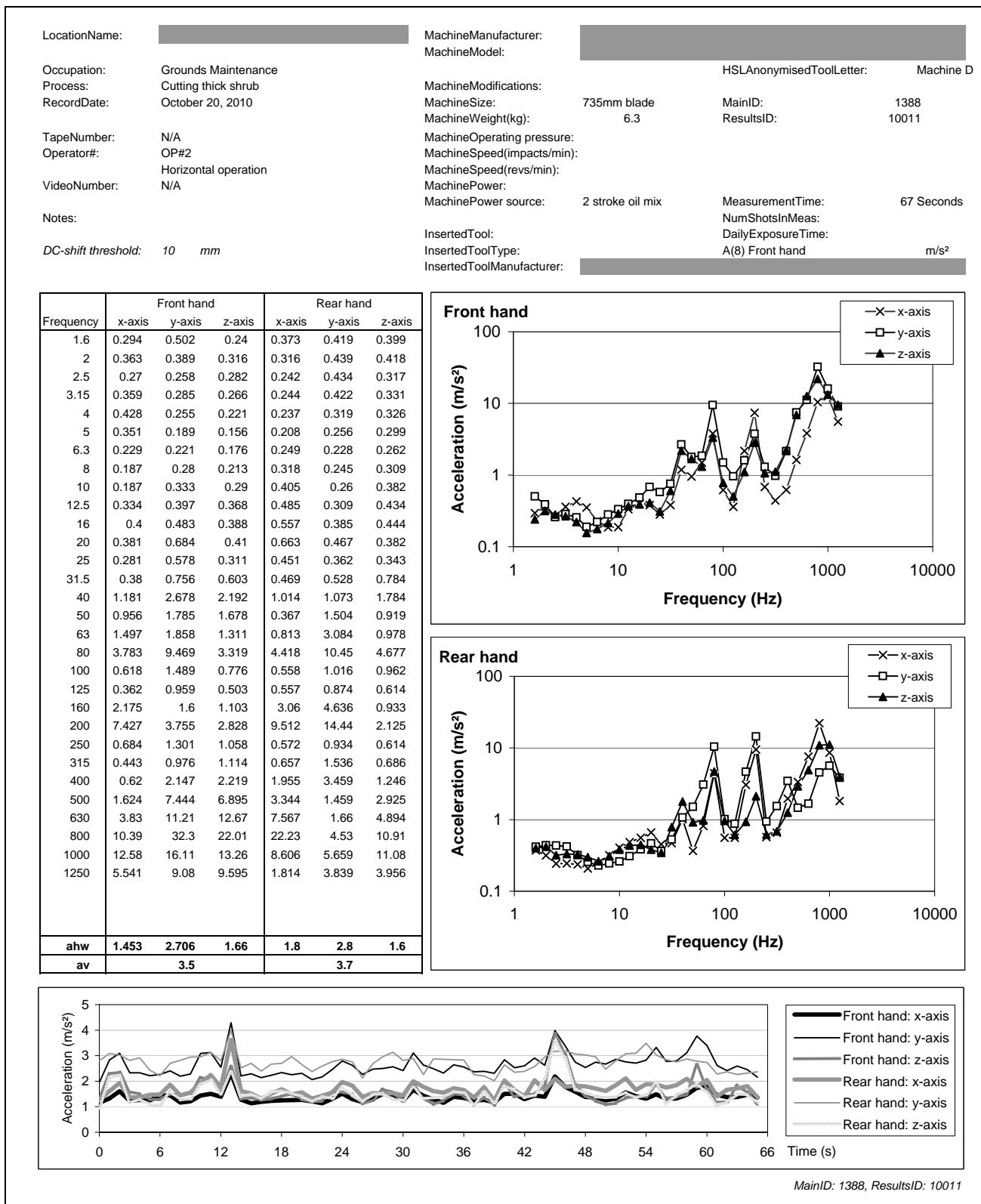
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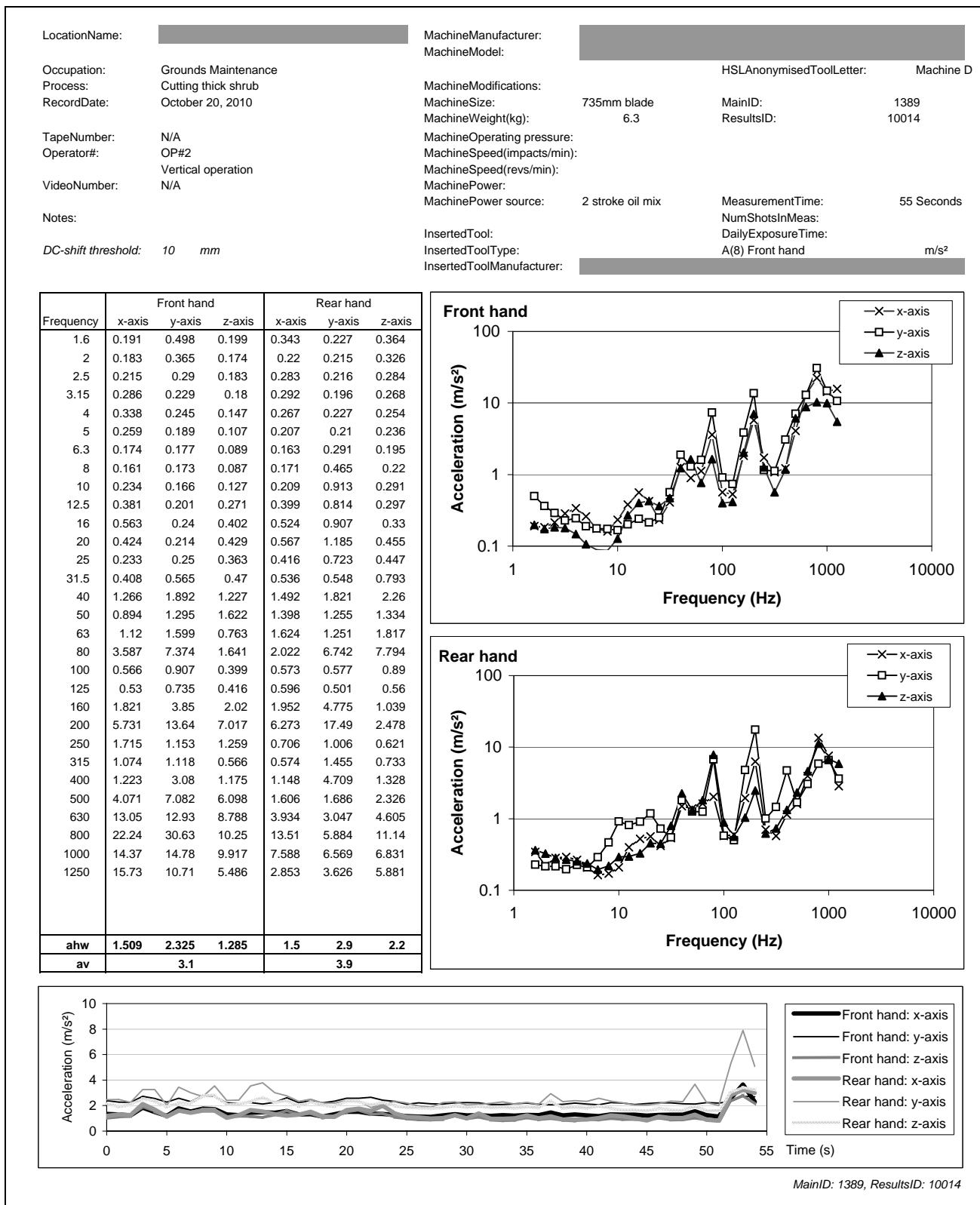
Spreadsheet: Version 1 11/6/2010

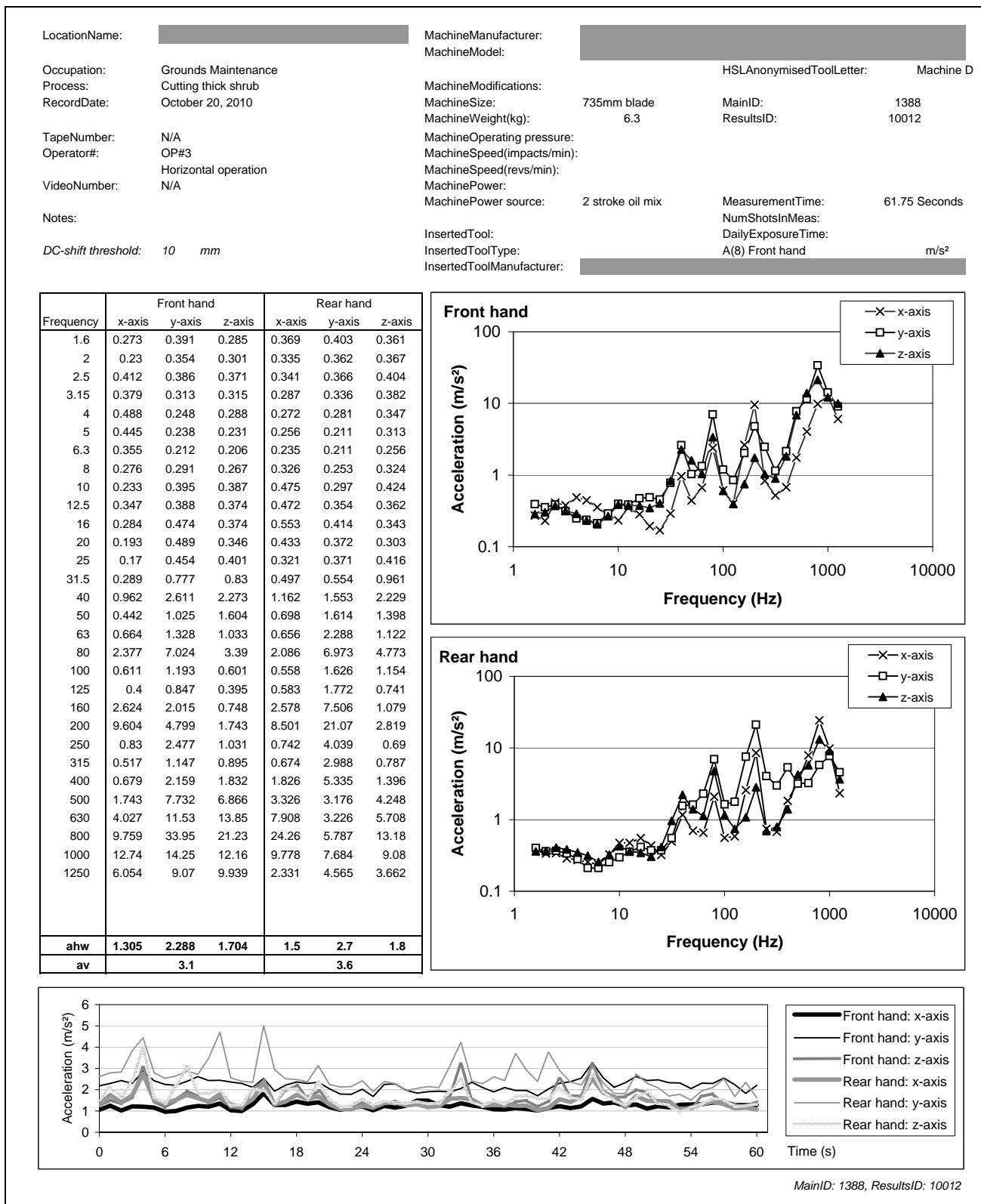


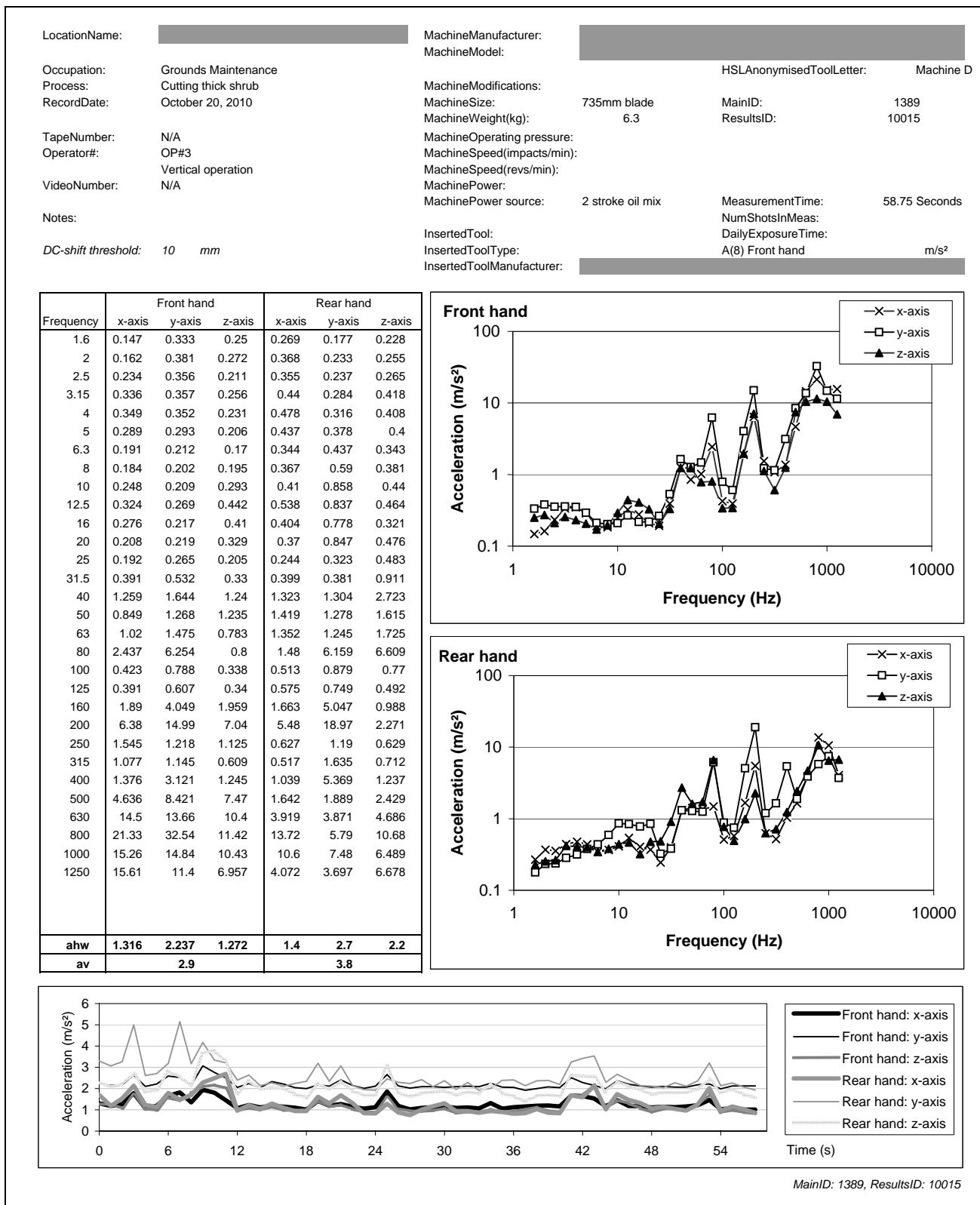


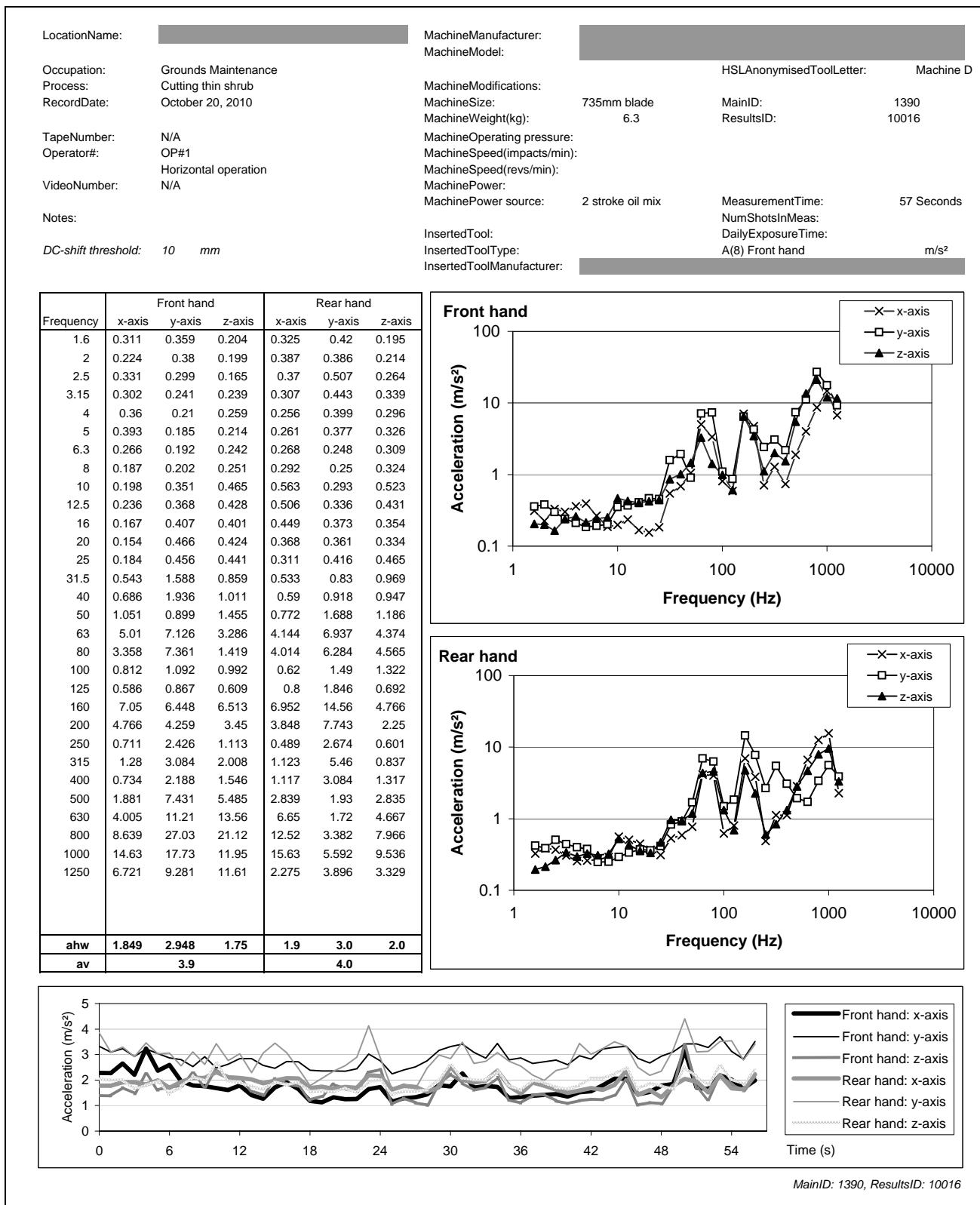


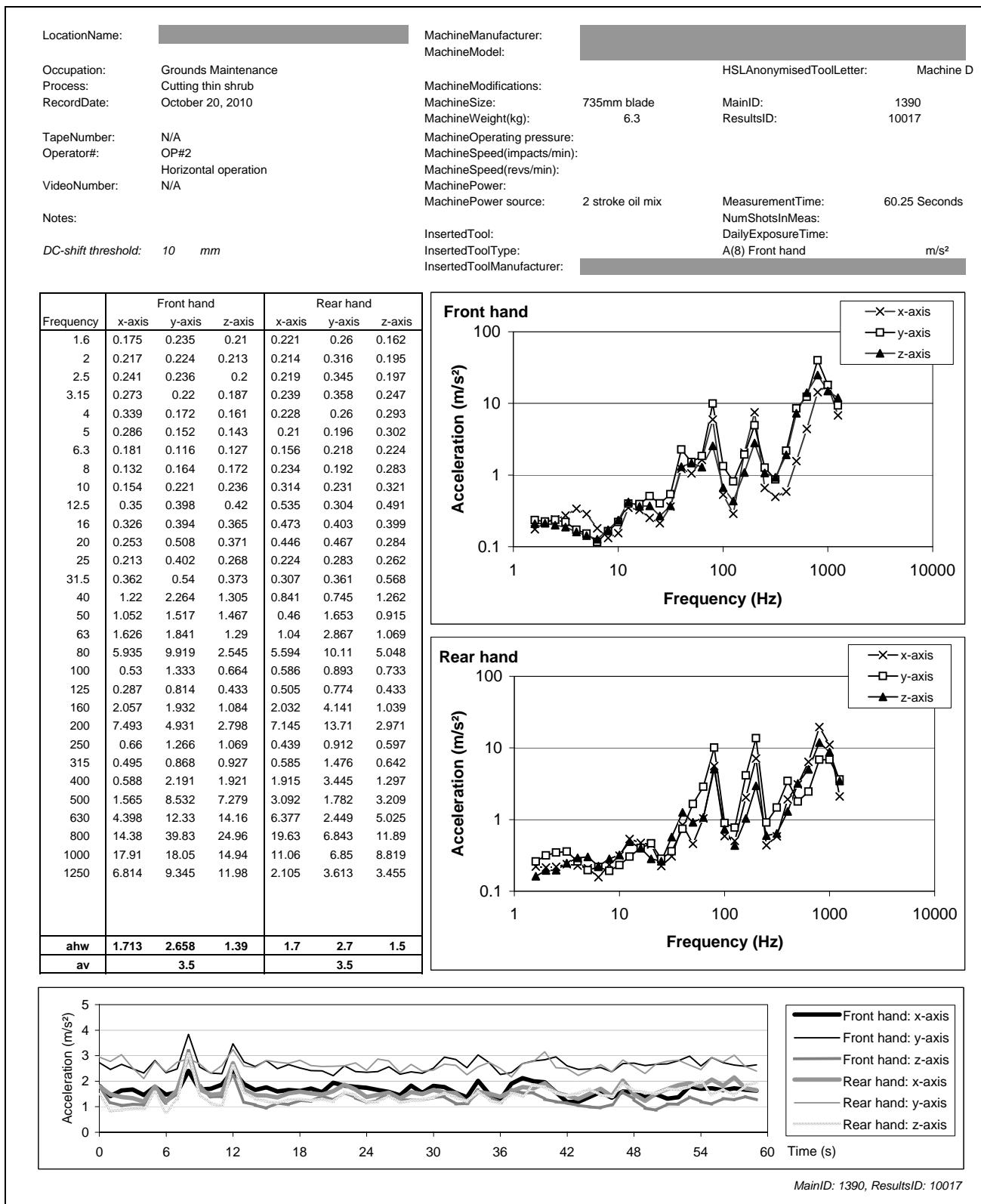


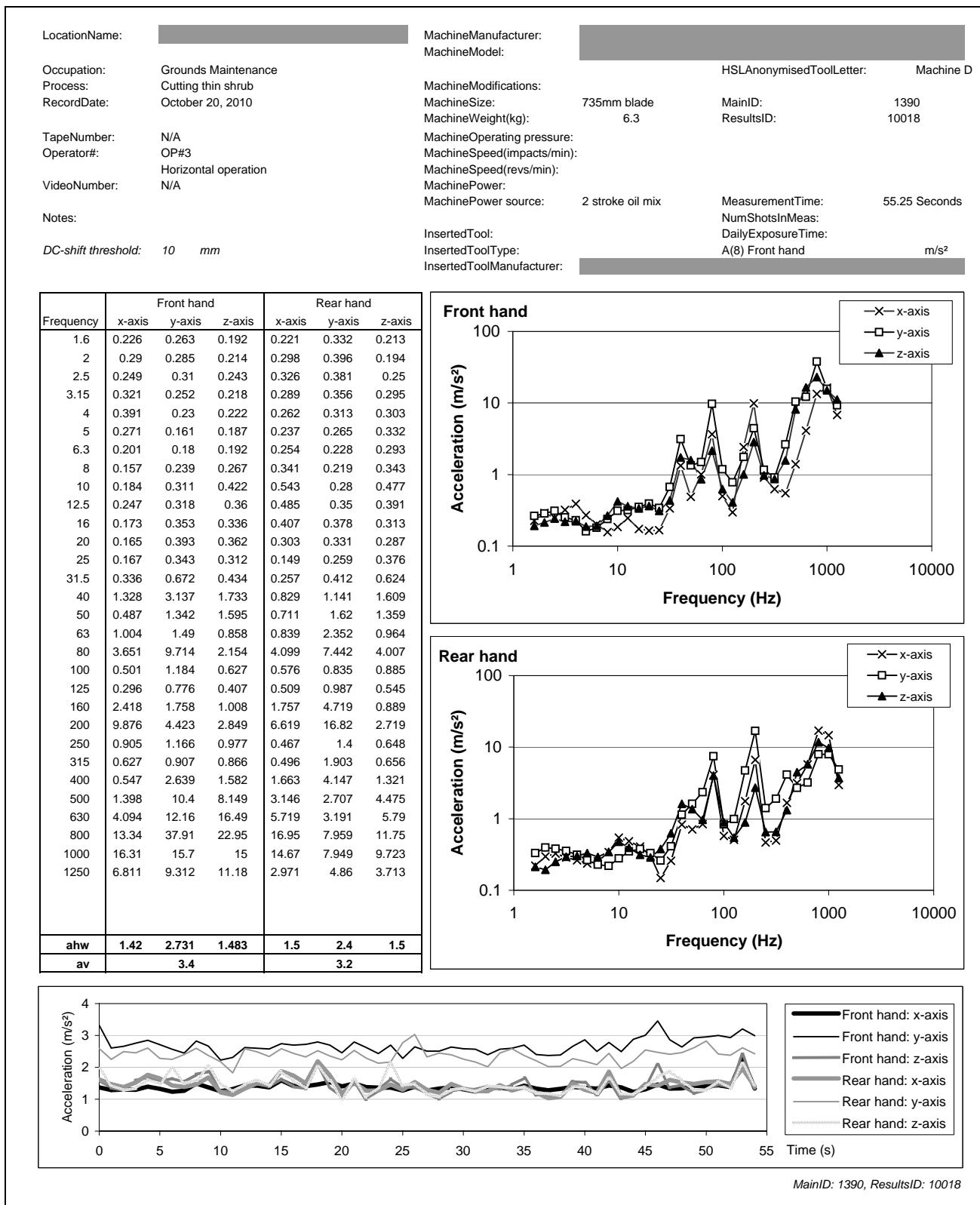


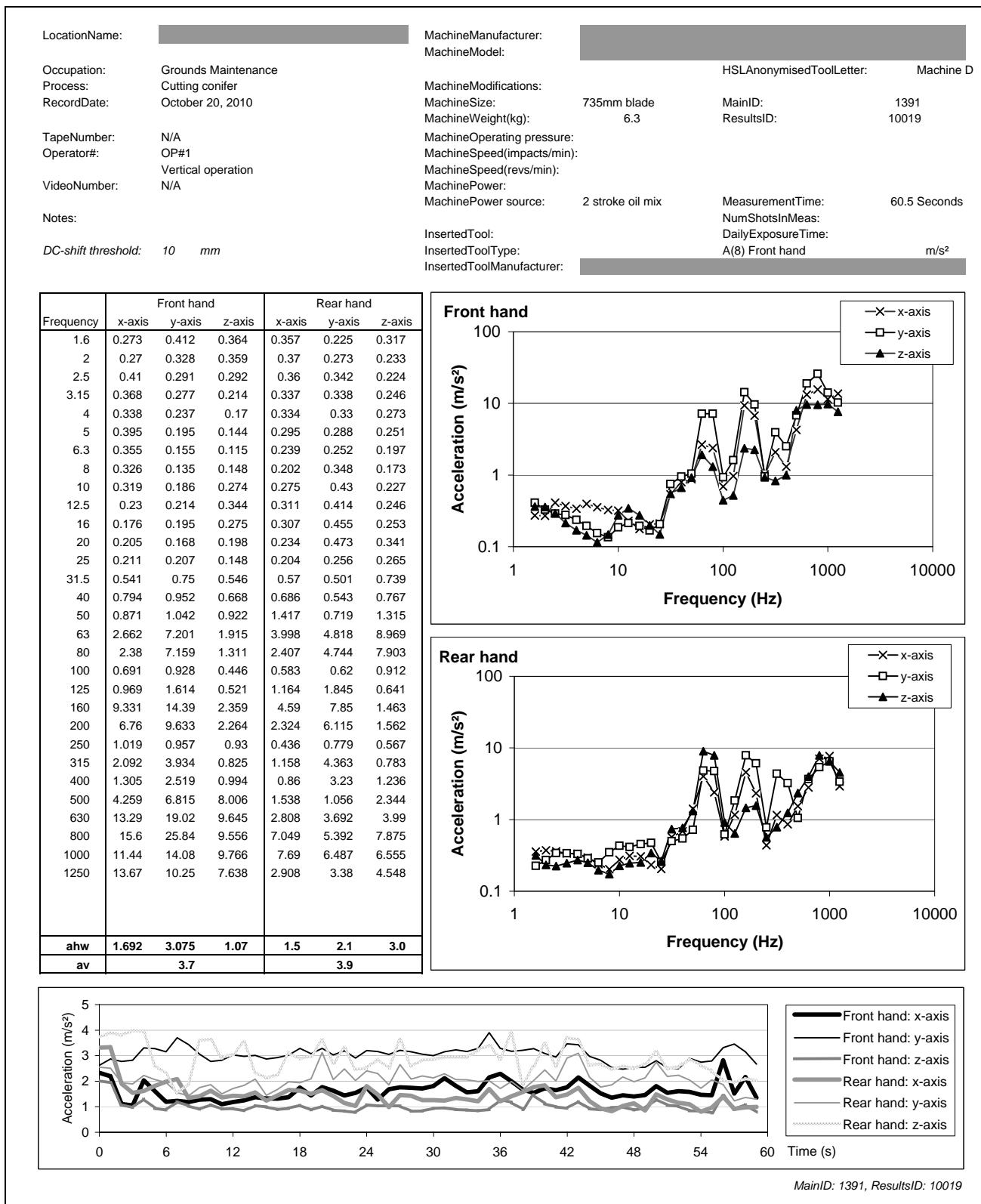


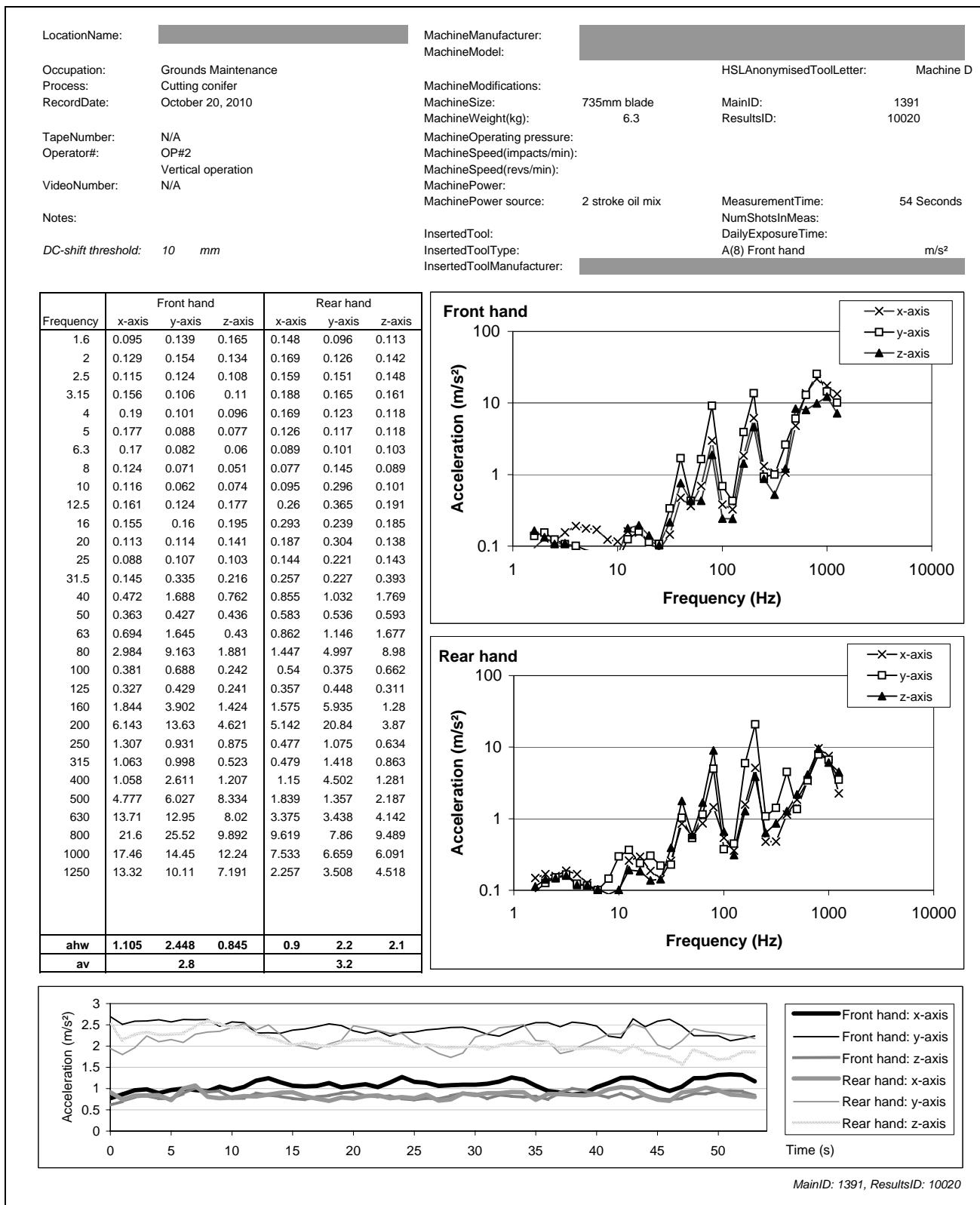


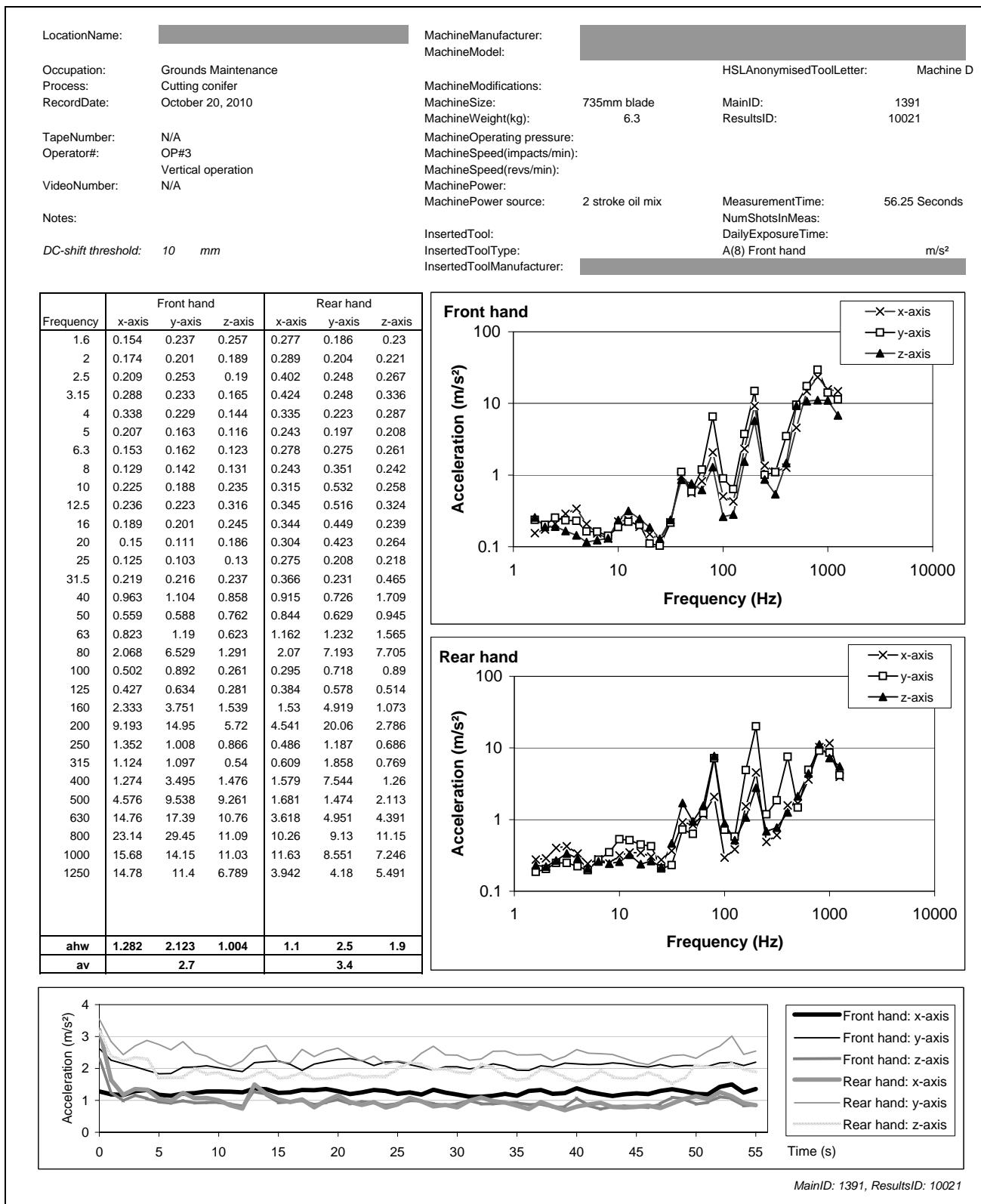












Hand-arm vibration of horticultural machinery

Part 2

In recent years there have been many cases of HAVS being reported for people who work in agriculture, horticulture and landscape gardening. HSE/HSL does not currently hold much information on vibration exposures in these areas of work.

The work described in this report assesses the standard test for hedge trimmers defined in BS EN ISO 10517:2009 for repeatability and ease of use and where possible for reproducibility (by comparing machine manufacturers' declared vibration against HSL measurements to the same standardised procedures). It also assesses the validity of the measurement techniques adopted in the vibration emission test, investigates some of the factors which are likely to influence the results of the test and compares the vibration emission values with vibration magnitudes measured under real operating conditions.

The report concludes that for three of the four hedge trimmers the vibration emissions slightly overestimate the upper quartile. For the fourth hedge trimmer the upper quartile is overestimated by approximately 50%. Placing of the vibration emissions during normal intended use of the machinery in satisfactory rank order cannot be assured by comparing the vibration emissions determined according to the test code, BS EN ISO 10517:2009. The test code inconsistently represents workplace vibration.

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