

Table 1: Application and interpretation of the generic vibration criterion (VC) curves (as shown in Figure 1)

Criterion Curve (see Figure 1)	Max Level (1) micrometers/sec,rms	Detail Size (2) microns	Description of Use
Workshop (ISO)	800	N/A	Distinctly feelable vibration. Appropriate to workshops and nonsensitive areas.
Office (ISO)	400	N/A	Feelable vibration. Appropriate to offices and nonsensitive areas.
Residential Day (ISO)	200	75	Barely feelable vibration. Appropriate to sleep areas in most instances. Probably adequate for computer equipment, probe test equipment and low-power (to 20X) microscopes.
Op. Theatre (ISO)	100	25	Vibration not feelable. Suitable for sensitive sleep areas. Suitable in most instances for microscopes to 100X and for other equipment of low sensitivity.
VC-A	50	8	Adequate in most instances for optical microscopes to 400X, microbalances, optical balances, proximity and projection aligners, etc.
VC-B	25	3	An appropriate standard for optical microscopes to 1000X, inspection and lithography equipment (including steppers) to 3 micron line widths.
VC-C	12.5	1	A good standard for most lithography and inspection equipment to 1 micron detail size.
VC-D	6	0.3	Suitable in most instances for the most demanding equipment including electron microscopes (TEMs and SEMs) and E-Beam systems, operating to the limits of their capability.
VC-E	3	0.1	A difficult criterion to achieve in most instances. Assumed to be adequate for the most demanding of sensitive systems including long path, laser-based, small target systems and other systems requiring extraordinary dynamic stability.

Notes:

(1) As measured in one-third octave bands of frequency over the frequency range 8 to 100 Hz.

(2) The detail size refers to the line widths for microelectronics fabrication, the particle (cell) size for medical and pharmaceutical research, etc. The values given take into account the observation that the vibration requirements of many items depend upon the detail size of the process.

Figure 1: Generic Vibration Criterion (VC) Curves for Vibration-Sensitive Equipment - Showing also the ISO Guidelines for People in Buildings (see Table 1 for description of equipment and uses)

