

**Steel fabrication/shipyards Table 2: Management of HAV risks where use of vibrating equipment is unavoidable**

Issue	Expectation	Further information (links on HSE website)
<b>Selection of work equipment</b>	<p>Tool selection can make a substantial difference to the vibration level (see Table 1, column 2) but the tool must be suitable for the task and used correctly.</p> <p>Employers should demonstrate a sound procurement policy for power tools and hand-guided machines, showing they have considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is no reasonably practicable alternative method with no (or less) vibration exposure (see Table 1)</li> <li>• Equipment is generally suitable for the job (safety, size, power, efficiency, ergonomics, cost, user acceptability, etc.)</li> <li>• Reduced vibration designs are selected provided the tools are otherwise suitable (e.g. grinders with automatic spindle balancing)</li> <li>• Declared vibration emission is not high compared with competing machines of similar capacity to do the job</li> <li>• Information on likely vibration emission in use (e.g. from manufacturer, hire company, databases)</li> <li>• Available information from the manufacturer or elsewhere on control of vibration risks through:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• maintenance (e.g. servicing grinders, sharpening drills and chisels)</li> <li>• selection of consumables (abrasive discs, chisels, drills, etc.)</li> <li>• correct operation and operator training (see below)</li> <li>• maximum daily trigger times or maximum daily work done with the tool</li> <li>• etc.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	<p>Selecting equipment</p> <p>Employers' leaflet on HAV</p>
<b>Limiting daily exposure time</b>	<p>Restricting exposure time ("finger-on-trigger" time) may be required to bring exposures below the ELV, even after all reasonably practicable measures to reduce vibration levels are in place.</p> <p>Maximum times can be determined using the exposure points system or supplier's "traffic lights" tool categories, but these should be derived from sound "real use" vibration emission values.</p> <p>Note: Employers tend to ask "How long can we use this tool?" The exposure must be reduced to the <u>lowest level that is reasonably practicable</u> (Reg 6(2)), so the ELV should not be used as a target, if a lower exposure is reasonably practicable.</p>	<p>Reduce the period of exposure</p> <p>Exposure points system and ready reckoner</p>
<b>Other risk controls</b>	<p>Control of HAVS risk by means other than reducing vibration exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ergonomic aids such as tensioners or balancers to support weight of tool and reduce forces applied by operator</li> <li>• Suitable workplace temperature or provision of warm clothing and gloves</li> <li>• Regular breaks from work involving vibration and encourage operators to exercise fingers</li> </ul>	<p>Gloves and warm clothing</p> <p>Other measures</p> <p>Employees' leaflet on HAV</p>

Issue	Expectation	Further information (links on HSE website)
<b>Information, instruction and training</b>	<p>Employees at risk from vibration should have received information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• the risks from HAV and how to help reduce them (see above)</li> <li>• the importance of correct operation and maintenance of equipment</li> <li>• arrangements for health surveillance and their duty to cooperate.</li> </ul> <p>Look for evidence that tools are being used correctly, as recommended by the manufacturer. This may require operators to receive specified training – are operators and their supervisors aware of the need? For example, percussive tools with suspension systems designed to absorb vibration must be used correctly, and with appropriate force, or the potential reduction in vibration will not be achieved.</p>	<p>Employees' leaflet on HAV</p> <p>Information and training</p>
<b>Health surveillance</b>	<p>Required where the EAV is likely to be exceeded [Chris see my comments in main text ]. Expect to see, as a minimum:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• use of a periodic health screening questionnaire – ideally annually and for new employees</li> <li>• arrangements for referral of relevant cases to an occupational health provider with HAVS expertise for diagnosis and on-going monitoring</li> <li>• arrangements to receive medical advice on management of affected employees</li> <li>• arrangements for RIDDOR reporting of HAVS cases</li> <li>• arrangements to receive anonymised information to demonstrate effectiveness of controls</li> </ul>	<p>Employers' leaflet on HAV</p> <p>Health surveillance guidance</p>

**PLEASE FAX COMPLETED FORM TO: 020 7717 6681**  
**Management of HAV risks for Heavy Steel Fabrication – Feedback Form**

Your views are important to us so that we can improve the way we communicate information on managing the risks from hand arm vibration. We would be grateful if you could spare a couple of minutes to fill in this form and fax it back to us at the above number. Any information you provide will be treated in confidence and will only be used for research purposes. You do not have to give your contact details.

Please rate the following statements by ticking the box which most closely represents your level of agreement or disagreement with each statement.

	<i>Strongly Agree</i>	<i>Agree</i>	<i>Don't Know</i>	<i>Disagree</i>	<i>Strongly Disagree</i>
The issues listed covered those that I was concerned with					
The information given was useful in helping my organisation decide whether it should be taking action					
I was able to understand the information on Management of HAV risk					
I think the references/related guidance given are useful					
I think the information given in this table is sufficient for my purposes					
My organisation intends to take action to meet the risk management expectations listed here					

**If you have any comments you would like to make, please do so in the space below:**

**About you:**

Please tick the primary business of your organisation

Foundries	Construction	Manufacturing
Quarry/masonry		
Agriculture/forestry	Engineering supplier	Other <i>Please specify</i>

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What is your role/job in your organisation?

Employee	Middle Manager	Senior Manager
Supervisor/Foreman	Health & Safety Professional	Union representative
Self employed	Other <i>Please specify</i>	

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How many people work in your organisation?

Less than 50 employees	Between 51 and 250	Between 251 and 500
Between 501 and 1000	More than 1000	

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**Thank you very much for your feedback. Please fax this to the number given at the top of the page**

HSE are always looking for new ideas and solutions to hand-arm vibration problems. If you are willing to share your experience with others please give your details below so that we can discuss this with you.

**Name:** ..... **Company:** .....

**Telephone number:**..... **Email:** .....