

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

Issue	Expectation	Further information (links on HSE website)
Selection of work equipment	<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"> • There is no reasonably practicable alternative method with no (or less) vibration exposure (see Table 1) • Equipment is generally suitable for the job (safety, size, power, efficiency, ergonomics, cost, user acceptability, etc.) • Reduced vibration designs are selected provided the tools are otherwise suitable (e.g. grinders with automatic spindle balancing) • Declared vibration emission is not high compared with competing machines of similar capacity to do the job • Information on likely vibration emission in use (e.g. from manufacturer, hire company, databases) • Available information from the manufacturer or elsewhere on control of vibration risks through: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • maintenance (e.g. servicing grinders, sharpening drills and chisels) • selection of consumables (abrasive discs, chisels, drills, etc.) • correct operation and operator training (see below) • maximum daily trigger times or maximum daily work done with the tool • etc. 	<p>Selecting equipment</p> <p>Employers' leaflet on HAV</p>
Limiting daily exposure time	<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>
Other risk controls	<p>Control of HAVS risk by means other than reducing vibration exposure:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ergonomic aids such as tensioners or balancers to support weight of tool and reduce forces applied by operator • Suitable workplace temperature or provision of warm clothing and gloves • Regular breaks from work involving vibration and encourage operators to exercise fingers 	<p>Gloves and warm clothing</p> <p>Other measures</p> <p>Employees' leaflet on HAV</p>

Issue	Expectation	Further information (links on HSE website)
Information, instruction and training	<p>Employees at risk from vibration should have received information on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the risks from HAV and how to help reduce them (see above) • the importance of correct operation and maintenance of equipment • arrangements for health surveillance and their duty to cooperate. <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>
Health surveillance	<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"> • use of a periodic health screening questionnaire – ideally annually and for new employees • arrangements for referral of relevant cases to an occupational health provider with HAVS expertise for diagnosis and on-going monitoring • arrangements to receive medical advice on management of affected employees • arrangements for RIDDOR reporting of HAVS cases • arrangements to receive anonymised information to demonstrate effectiveness of controls 	<p>Employers' leaflet on HAV</p> <p>Health surveillance guidance</p>