

# Worker Involvement – Noise and HAVS Health surveillance

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## Health Effects - HAVS

- Numbness and tingling in the fingers
- Reduced sense of touch
- Blanching of the fingers in the cold
- Joint pain, reduced grip strength and stiffness

## Visual symptoms of HAVS – vibration white finger





## Why is it important

Health surveillance is there to:

- Identify new employees whose health may place them at greater risk,
- Protect existing employees from further harm,
- Allow employers to identify how effective their control measures are.



## When does it apply

### HAVS

- Regular exposure above  $2.5 \text{ m s}^{-2}$  (A8)
- Irregular exposure above  $2.5 \text{ m s}^{-2}$  (A8) but frequency and severity is a risk
- When Individuals already diagnosed with HAVS

### Tiers

- Tier 1 Pre-exposure baseline
- Tier 2 Annual screening
- Tier 3 Clinical assessment
- Tier 4 Formal diagnosis
- Tier 5 Optional tests

## How to apply health surveillance



- In consultation with your employees and their safety representative
- Using your risk assessment
- In consultation with your occupational health provider

## Roles of employers/employees



### Employers

- Develop policies
- Provide training
- Act promptly
- Maintain health records
- Riddor

### Employees

- Need to be honest
- Understand long term impact
- Reporting ill health symptoms

## Noise



- Does not require extensive medical training
- Health surveillance has simplified classification scheme 1 through to 4
- Referral process is to GP