



Cobblers Cottage, Packet Lane, Rosudgeon, Penzance, Cornwall TR20 9QD
Tel: 01736 762016 Mobile: 07875 648191 Email: info@tchsafety.co.uk

Vibration

The EU published Directive 2002/44/EC, Physical Agents (Vibration) in July 2002. This directive sets out the principles for the protection of workers from injuries associated with Hand Arm Vibration (HAV) and Whole Body Vibration (WBV). The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) have implemented this directive by means of new UK legislation called The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005, which became statute on 6th July 2005.

The key responsibilities for employers are:

1. Evaluation of risk and, if necessary, measurement of exposure.
2. A programme of technical and/or organisational measures to minimise exposures and the attendant risks.
3. Information and training for vibration exposed workers.
4. Appropriate health surveillance.

Hand Arm Vibration (HAV)

The HSE estimate that 4.8 million workers in the UK are exposed to HAV, widely accepted as the primary cause of Vibration White Finger (VWF) as well as other injuries. VWF is a risk for many groups of people including; construction site and factory workers, shipwrights, motor mechanics, and carpenters, to name a few.

Recent figures issued by the HSE estimate that 1.8 million employees in the UK are exposed to vibration dose above the Exposure Action Value (EAV), with half as

many exceeding the higher Exposure Limit Value (ELV).

Whole Body Vibration (WBV)

The HSE estimate that 9 million people are exposed to WBV at work, most of whom are drivers of vehicles and machine operators. Unfortunately, the correlation between WBV and lower back pain is not well understood, and there is currently a lack of data on typical exposure levels. However, the HSE are currently formulating some guidance on the assessment of WBV to assist employers with initial assessments.

Exposure Limit Values and Action Values

Criteria	HAV	WBV
EAV	2.5 m/s ² A(8)	0.5 m/s ² A(8)
ELV	5.0 m/s ² A(8)	1.15 m/s ² A(8)

How do I ensure my organisation has vibration under control?

TCH Safety Consultants, are local specialists in Noise and Vibration, and can help guide organisations through the new Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 by providing a friendly, professional, and cost effective service.

TCH Safety Consultants can undertake vibration dose assessments. Furthermore, we do not sell products and do not have affiliation with preferred suppliers. You can be assured of unbiased professional advice.