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| **CAL-HS-PD-3500** |
| **Hand Arm Vibration** |
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| **Procedure** |
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###### Contents

[1.0 PURPOSE 1](#_Toc181035813)

[2.0 ASSESSMENT 1](#_Toc181035814)

[3.0 INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING 1](#_Toc181035815)

[4.0 CONTROL MEASURES 1](#_Toc181035816)

[4.1 General 1](#_Toc181035817)

[4.2 Health 1](#_Toc181035818)

[4.3 Exposure Levels 1](#_Toc181035819)

[4.4 Work Procedure 2](#_Toc181035820)

[4.5 Work and Shift Patterns 2](#_Toc181035821)

[4.6 Personal 2](#_Toc181035822)

[4.7 Work Equipment 2](#_Toc181035823)

[4.8 Tool Selection 2](#_Toc181035824)

[4.9 Exposure Control 2](#_Toc181035825)

[4.10 Vibration Levels 2](#_Toc181035826)

[4.11 PPE 2](#_Toc181035827)

[4.12 Health Surveillance 2](#_Toc181035828)

[5.0 PROCEDURE 3](#_Toc181035829)

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# PURPOSE

1. To purpose of this procedure is to help reduce the level of the vibration that operatives are exposed to, therefore reducing the risk of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

# ASSESSMENT

1. The Company must, under the “Management” Regulations, make a suitable and sufficient assessment of the task to identify the risks to employees.
2. Consideration should be given to special category employees, such as young persons, as well as to the physical and mental ability of the individual.
3. The significant findings of the assessment must be recorded.
4. The findings of the assessment must be communicated in a comprehensible form to those who may be affected. This is achieved by use of the Procedure Summary.

# INFORMATION, INSTRUCTION AND TRAINING

1. Sufficient information on the risks and the measures introduced to control these must be given to the exposed employee.
2. The employee at risk must be given sufficient information, instruction and training to ensure the effectiveness of any protective control measures.
3. All vibrating tool users should undergo the awareness programme.

# CONTROL MEASURES

## General

1. Manufacturers’ data on noise and vibration for all tools purchased should be checked for inclusion in the data base.

## Health

1. Account shall be taken of those individuals or groups who may be particularly at risk, such as smokers.

## Exposure Levels

1. Hand-arm vibration

* Daily exposure limit value 5 m/s2 A(8)
* Daily exposure action value2.5 m/s2 A(8)

1. Where exposure varies markedly it may be aggregated weekly, provided the aggregate does not exceed the exposure limit value.

## Work Procedure

1. The level of use of vibrating hand power tools should be reviewed and alternatives, such as remote operation, investigated before any task is allotted.

## Work and Shift Patterns

1. Individuals working patterns and job rotations shall be arranged so as to limit exposure to the maximum practicable extent.

## Personal

1. When selecting procedures and tools, due attention should be given to the individual’s physical characteristics, as well as the weight and other tool factors.

## Work Equipment

1. In accordance with the requirements of PUWER, all tools will be subject to recorded inspection and maintenance.

## Tool Selection

1. The purchase of new tools should be limited to those which exhibit improved levels of vibration.
2. The selection of tools with which to carry out a task should take into consideration the levels of vibration exhibited by different tool types and sizes.

## Exposure Control

1. Where exposure cannot be avoided, the length of individual exposure should be restricted to within the permitted exposure time per shift.

## Vibration Levels

1. Unless more exact vibration levels are available, exposure will be based on 140% of the manufacturers’ figures.

## PPE

1. There is little beneficial effect from the use of specialist gloves for vibration control.
2. Gloves should be worn to keep hands warm.
3. Additional protection to keep operators warm and dry shall be provided.

## Health Surveillance

1. Employees identified as being at particular risk shall be subject to medical surveillance.
2. Employees displaying pre-existing symptoms shall be subject to health surveillance.

# PROCEDURE

1. Each Company to check inventory of tools against database – add in any not already there after consulting manufacturer data. Tagging by colour: Red (over 10m/s2) Amber (5-10m/s2) Green (up to 5m/s2). Tag tools with appropriate colour and trigger time/ points. Reduce use of red tagged tools to bare minimum. Reduce use of Amber tools where possible. Green tools should be safe to use 8 hours or more.
2. Brief by letter then issue Medical Questionnaire to all employees who in the course of their work operate Vibrating tools.
3. Collate Questionnaires and establish any significant findings which merit further review or referral to medical specialist.
4. Issue daily dose records to employees who operate Vibrating tools.
5. Collate findings, use database figures and HAV calculator to establish individual exposures.
6. From final figures establish monitoring/medical surveillance requirements and exposure reduction strategy.

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| M2 Safety Consultants Ltd |
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