



Risk Assessment

IMS Form048
Issue 01 Dated Oct 2020

Operation / Task:	Hand and Arm Vibration (HAV)	Name of Assessor:	Rhys Milton
Assessment Ref:	RA012	Date of Assessment:	02.01.2024
Persons at Risk:	ASW Employees	Reviewed by	R. Milton
Location / Area:	ASW Health and Safety Assessment 2024	Review date	31.12.2024

Ref	Activity	Hazard	Risk	Pre-Control Risk Rating			Control Measures	Post-Control Risk Rating			Comment
				L	S	LxS		L	S	LxS	
1	Vibration being transmitted to the body created by handheld power tools (e.g. grinders/breakers); hand-guided equipment (e.g. lawnmowers); or by holding materials being worked by hand-fed machines (such as pedestal grinders or forge hammers).	Hand Arm Vibration syndrome (white finger) Carpel Tunnel Syndrome Permanent and painful numbness and tingling in the hands and arms Painful joints and muscle weakening Damage to bones in the hands and arms	Permanent ill-health Permanent and painful numbness and tingling in the hands and arms Painful joints and muscle weakening Damage to bones in the hands and arms	3	4	12	Personnel should be competent to use the equipment and refer to manufacturer's guidelines for use. Pre-User checks to take place to ensure equipment is in good condition and maintained to prolong its best low vibration performance, and the cutting bit is sharp thereby avoiding undue grip and pressure. Maintain good blood circulation by keeping warm and dry. Operative should wear gloves to keep hands warm and to prevent contact with cold surfaces. Avoid or reduce smoking. Personnel to receive relevant instruction, information and training on HAV – speak to your supervisor or H&S Advisor if you are unsure. Look out for symptoms of Hand and Arm Vibration Syndrome and Carpel Tunnel Syndrome including: - tingling and numbness in the fingers which can result in an inability to do fine work (for example, assembling small components) or everyday tasks (for example, fastening buttons); - loss of strength in the hands which might affect the ability to do work safely; - the fingers going white (blanching) and becoming red and painful on recovery, reducing ability to work in cold or damp conditions, eg outdoors. Operating time of equipment is usually very short, so it is highly unlikely that EAV is not exceeded. If task duration is extended ensure job rotation and/or sufficient rest breaks to minimise exposure. To calculate exposures for hand-arm vibration, refer to HSE HAV calculator: http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/vibrationcalc.htm (note: tool manufacturers manual are now to include this calculation) Any signs of vibration injury shall be reported to site management for investigation. Operatives experiencing symptoms shall be temporarily placed on other work or have periods of vibration exposure reduced pending improvement and/or medical advice. A system of health surveillance shall be established should vibration exposure regularly exceed the action level or where an operative has a history of HAVS.	4	4	4	

