CONTROL OF HAND ARM VIBRATION SYNDROME (HAVS)

Purpose:

This procedure details the arrangements that shall be in place to ensure that people are not exposed to excess levels of vibration to comply with Health & Safety Legal requirements. This will range from assessing the vibration levels of equipment being used, to visually indicating these levels by use of coloured tags, and ensuring where required, the recording of exposure times.

Scope:

This procedure is mandatory and will require that all equipment being used has had its vibration level checked, and that the appropriate coloured tag has been fitted. This will include, but will not be limited to, Wacker Plates, Stihl saws, Powered Hand Tools etc.

Responsibilities:

All Employees and Subcontractors

tRIIO employees, and sub-contractors who are contracted to work to the tRIIO EHSMS, will comply with this procedure. That is, all Operational Staff including Sub Contracting Staff who may be exposed to excess vibration levels, all those operating hand held vibratory equipment.
Contractors not working to the tRIIO EHSMS will be required to assess the vibration levels of any equipment being used by their operatives. It will be the contractors’ responsibility to brief out these findings to their operatives, and to ensure that the appropriate control measures are in place.
Employees must:
- Read and understand this procedure and adhere to it at all times.
- Consult with your line manager if you do not understand any part of this procedure.
- Ensure that you correctly use any equipment provided to you in order to ensure adherence to this procedure.
- Ensure that any work equipment provided is inspected prior to use and maintained at the required intervals.
- Ensure that the equipment to be used is the correct tool for the task.
- Ensure that if any work equipment provided proves to be faulty, it is brought to the attention of your line manager.
Area Managers / Site Managers (Senior Agents / Agents) / Supervisors / Team Leaders

All Area Managers / Senior Agents / Agents / Supervisors / Team Leaders will ensure that:
All tRiiO and Sub Contracting Staff, under their control, are aware of, and fully understand the requirements of this procedure. Agents / Supervisors are to ensure strict adherence to this procedure.

Area SHE Advisors

Will, through their site visits, ensure that all equipment being used on this project has been appropriately tagged for the vibration level of that piece of equipment, and will provide guidance on the accuracy of the information supplied.
Where a piece of equipment has not been tagged, the SHE Advisor will advise the responsible Manager of the vibration level of that equipment based on the available data, so that the equipment can be tagged with the appropriate coloured tag.

Definitions:

Hand – Arm Vibration:
Is the mechanical vibration transmitted into the hands and arms during a work activity.

Daily Exposure:
This is the amount of mechanical vibration to which a worker is exposed to during a working day, which is equated to an 8Hour reference period, which accounts for the magnitude and duration of the vibration.

Exposure Action Value (EAV):
This is the level of daily exposure, measured over an 8Hour period for any worker which, if reached or exceeded, requires action to be taken to reduce the risk.

Exposure Limit Value (ELV):
This is the level of daily exposure, measured over an 8Hour period, for any worker which must not be exceeded.
Procedure:

The regulations require that an employer must carry out a suitable and sufficient assessment of the health risks, due to the use of vibratory tools/equipment to their employees.

If their employees are likely to be exposed to levels above that of the ‘Exposure Action Value’ (EAV) they must introduce controls to eliminate the risk, or, reduce the exposure to as low a level as is reasonably practicable.

If they are likely to be exposed above the daily ‘Exposure Limit Value’ (ELV), he must immediately take steps to reduce the exposure to below that limit value.

This procedure sets out to inform people of the control measures to be in place when using vibratory equipment.

Each piece of vibratory equipment will be tagged with the appropriate coloured tag to indicate the vibration risk level of that piece of equipment. Each piece of equipment will be tagged with either a green or red tag.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TAG COLOUR</th>
<th>VIBRATION MAGNITUDE (M/S²)</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>GREEN</td>
<td>&lt; 2.5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>AMBER</td>
<td>2.5 – 5.0</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>RED</td>
<td>&gt; 5</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

The colour coding is designed to show at a glance, whether the equipment to be used is rated as being either a low risk, or a medium to high risk.

A green tag will indicate that the equipment is a low level risk, that is, the vibration magnitude of that piece of equipment is less than 2.5m/s². At a magnitude of 2.5m/s², it will take 8 hours to reach the EAV, and >24 hours to reach the ELV.

An amber tag will indicate that the equipment is categorised as a medium risk. This will apply to any equipment with a magnitude of between 2.5m/s² and 5.0m/s². At 5.0m/s² it will take 2 hours to reach the EAV and 8 hours to reach the ELV.

Any piece of equipment with a vibration magnitude greater than 5m/s² will be tagged with a red tag to denote that the equipment is deemed to be high risk.
Crib sheets showing the vibratory levels of the equipment being used, and the time it will take to reach both the EAV and ELV, will form part of the work pack. The crib sheets are designed to help employees understand the various levels of vibration produced by different types of equipment.

Information on the vibration level of any equipment which it is intended to hire or purchase, will be obtained and taken into account before hiring or purchasing takes place.

Where such information is not obtained, the SHE Team must be informed so the vibration level of that equipment can be displayed with the appropriate coloured tag. Where any equipment for use on the contract is delivered to the depot prior to use, the yard supervisor will inform the responsible Manager upon its arrival. The responsible Manager will then ensure that the equipment is tagged correctly. They will also ensure, through their site inspections, that any equipment on site has been fitted with the appropriate tag.

Within the hierarchy of controls, the first control measure will always be to eliminate the hazard; for example, equipment which emit low to medium vibration levels will be sourced where possible, that is, equipment with a vibration level of less than 5m/s².

Where personnel are required to work with vibratory tools/equipment, the Supervisor will ensure that the relevant information is obtained and available before work commences. Where the information required is not readily available, or where the equipment has not been tagged, the Supervisor will contact the SHE Advisor for guidance.

Where people are diagnosed with, or are known to be suffering from HAVS, there will be restrictions put on them with regard to the use of vibratory tools/equipment. These restrictions will be determined by the Occupational Health Department in consultation with the affected person and their line Manager. These restrictions will then be passed onto the appropriate personnel, in order that the use of vibratory tools/equipment by the affected person can be appropriately restricted.

**Monitoring & Recording of exposure:**

The effectiveness of this procedure will be monitored through regular site visits carried out by the Management and SHE Teams. Monitoring will also be undertaken as part of the Supervisors/Team Leaders daily briefings.

Where people have been diagnosed with HAVS, they will be required to log their use of vibratory tools/equipment to ensure they do not exceed their agreed exposure.