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Occupational Health and Safety Manual Specialist Risk Assessment – Hand-Arm Vibration

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Issue record

Issue	Date	Comments
01	August 2006	New issue.

Implementation

This component of the Occupational Health & Safety Manual shall be implemented within all functions of Network Rail with effect from 5 August 2006.

Compliance

This component of the Occupational Health & Safety Manual (OHSM) is mandatory and must be complied with by all functions within Network Rail from 7 April 2007.

When this procedure is implemented, it is permissible for all projects, which have formally completed GRIP Level 4, to continue to comply with the Issue of any relevant Network Rail Standards current when GRIP Level 4 was reached and not to comply with requirements contained herein unless the designated Procedure Owner has stipulated otherwise in the accompanying Briefing Note.

Where the Procedure Owner has specified that all projects will comply with the requirements, specific authority not to comply can be sought in the usual manner using the appropriate non-compliance authority processes described in Network Rail Standard, [NR/SP/STP/045](#) Managing the Process for Non-compliance Authority (formerly RT/LS/P/045).

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Supply

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1 Purpose

This document details the process by which Network Rail will:-

- undertake Specialist Risk Assessments for Hand-Arm Vibration in support of NR/SP/OHS/00102, Work Activity Risk Assessment; and
- ensure risk assessment is undertaken in compliance with the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 for Hand-Arm Vibration.

2 Scope

The procedure applies to all business functions within Network Rail in the evaluation and control of risks posed to its employees by exposure to hand arm vibration.

3 Reference documentation

SI 2005:1093	The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005
L140	Hand-Arm Vibration, The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005, Guidance on Regulations
INDG175 (rev2)	Control the Risks from Hand-Arm Vibration, Advice for employers on the Control of Vibration at Work regulations 2005
INDG296 (rev1)	Hand-Arm Vibration, Advice for Employees
BS EN ISO 5349-1&2:2002	Mechanical Vibration-Measurement and Evaluation of Human Exposure to Hand-transmitted Vibration
NR/GN/RSC/00401	Managing Safety Risk
NR/SP/OHS/00102	Work Activity Risk Assessment
NR/SP/OHS/00113	Health Screening and Surveillance for Hand-Arm Vibration

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4 Definitions

Additional control measures

Control measures, over and above Existing Control Measures, that have been introduced in order to reduce risks from an identified hazard to SFARP.

Consequences

The estimated outcome of an occurrence.

Exposure action value (EAV)

The level of daily exposure to HAV as detailed in Regulation 4 of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 for any worker which, if reached or exceeded, requires specified action to be taken to reduce risk. Currently set at 2.5m/s^2 A(8).

Exposure limit value (ELV)

The level of daily exposure set out in Regulation 4 of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 for any worker which must not be exceeded, save as set out in Regulation 6(5). Currently set at 5.0m/s^2 A(8).

(The provisions of regulation 6(5) allow a weekly exposure to be used where exposure is usually below the exposure action value but varies markedly from time to time and may occasionally exceed the exposure limit value.)

Existing control measures

Control measures that are already applied in an attempt to reduce the risk.

Hand-arm vibration (HAV)

Vibration transmitted from work processes into workers' hands and arms. It can be caused by operating hand-held power tools, such as road breakers, and hand-guided equipment, such as rail grinders, or by holding materials being processed by machines, such as pedestal grinders.

Hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)

A group of disorders which can affect the blood vessels, nerves, muscles and joints of the hand, wrist and arm. They can become severely disabling if ignored. The best known form is vibration white finger (VWF), which can be triggered by cold or wet weather and can cause severe pain in the affected fingers.

Mechanical vibration

Vibration occurring in a piece of machinery or equipment as a result of its operation.

Nominated risk assessor(s)

Person(s) within a Function who have been specifically identified as having the competence and authority to prepare new risk assessments and carry out scheduled and unscheduled reviews of existing risk assessments.

Nominated reviewer(s)

Person(s) within a Function who has been specifically identified as having the competence and authority to review and approve new or revised risk assessments.