Occupational Health Bulletin No. 1

Date: 9 May 2017

GallifordTry

MANAGEMENT OF OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH – VIBRATION AND HAND ARM VIBRATION SYNDROME (HAVS)

Following the news that one of our employees has recently been diagnosed with Early Stage 1, Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS). We are issuing this Occupational Health Bulletin to remind everyone that unless suitable controls and health surveillance is carried out, our employees are at risk of developing HAVS. In this case, the diagnosis has been made at a very 'early stage' and with appropriate controls the condition can be managed to ensure that it does not progress into a more serious and potentially debilitating condition.

Hand-arm vibration comes from the use of hand-held power tools and is the cause of significant ill health (painful and disabling disorders of the blood vessels, nerves and joints).
HAVS is preventable, but once the damage is done it is permanent.

As part of the Galliford Try Group's HS&S Management System we have included both an overall Occupational Health Standard O1 as well as a Vibration Management Standard V01. These Standards identify the requirement to identify those at risk of developing any occupational health problems and to ensure that these persons are regularly monitored and advised of the risks and the controls to minimise any risks.

In particular the Vibration Standard includes specific requirements for the management and monitoring of those persons who may use equipment, which if not selected, used and managed correctly, may lead to persons developing HAVs. These HS&S Standards should be read and understood by all those persons with responsibility for planning and managing our projects and their requirements implemented as necessary, these controls include:

- Where employees are identified as regular users of vibration equipment, they should be subject to regular monitoring (V01-02) of HAVS, at commencement of work and every 12 months thereafter;
- Vibration assessments (V01-03) must be carried out where the hand held vibratory tool has a vibration level that exceeds 2.5m per second"
- Employees identified as regular users of hand held vibratory tools should complete a Personal Exposure record form (V01-01) after every exposure until the Vibration Risk Assessment can be reviewed; and

There is no need for further continual monitoring and recording of vibration exposure, what you must do is decide what operatives' exposure is likely to be as part of a Vibration Risk Assessment (V01-03). A period of monitoring to understand how long operatives use particular tools in a typical day (V01-01) should assist in the planning stages for your vibration control arrnagements to provide practical steps to reduce the exposure and the risks.

There is no requirement to provide 'tool vibration metres' for every worker however, hand arm vibration measurement devices should be used to determine accurate vibration data of the particular tool. Verification of results by comparison with data from other sources is strongly recommended, such as HSE guidance, tool manufacturers etc

Projects need to demonstrate positive action to reduce the exposure and the risks by: change of work process to avoid, modify the work to improve ergonomics, tool selection to lower vibration. All Business Units are requested to review their own arrangements and ensure they have suitable means of monitoring vibration hazards in their workplace.

Graham Summersgill
HS&S Manager (NW)
Galliford Try Plc

Communication Required:

Toolbox Talk ☐ Notice Board ☐ Supply Chain ☐ Review of Site Activities ☐ Information only ☐

Actions Completed by: …… Date ……