

## Managing Noise and Vibration at Work

Approximately 1 million UK employees are exposed to levels of workplace noise which puts their health at risk; for hand-arm vibration around 5 million are exposed and about 2 million to levels where there are clear risks of developing hand-arm vibration syndrome (HAVS). The effects of these conditions can be significant: to the individual, to the employer and to society at large. They also account for substantial numbers and costs of compensation claims in the civil courts.

Although many organisations acknowledge the problems they do not always implement the appropriate solutions – many of which are practicable and well established.



### The IOM Solution

We can help you assess the risks associated with noise and vibration in your workplace. Our occupational hygienists can carry out measurements to identify the significant sources and produce effective action plans, enabling you to comply with the Regulations.

Where the use of vibrating or noisy equipment cannot be avoided we can assist with the management of the risk. Health surveillance is required for those with significant exposure: we can provide both audiometry and HAVS health surveillance. This includes specialist physician services. We can also provide advice, information, instruction and training.

In cases where exposure results in legal action, the IOM can provide experienced consultants who are able to act as expert witnesses.

### RESEARCH CONSULTING SERVICES

Multi-disciplinary specialists in Occupational and Environmental Health and Hygiene

## The IOM and Noise & Vibration

The IOM's occupational hygienists and occupational health team have extensive experience and expertise in these areas. We can provide practical help and solutions. For example, in several noisy workplaces intervention by IOM occupational hygienists and psychologists has successfully improved compliance with noise reduction using methods readily available within the workplace.

In the field of vibration we have provided advice about exposure measurements and risk assessments, tool selection and job design and undertaken health surveillance for workers in a range of industries in accordance with HSE's tiered approach.

Such practical solutions have been used in a variety of workplaces to identify and control the risks from noise and vibration and have helped to prevent damage to health. In addition, our toolbox talks and training help all concerned to understand the risks and hence the need for control.

## Our Commitment to You

IOM has great depth and breadth of experience in the measurement and the control of noise and vibration in the workplace. We have been measuring and assessing these for over 25 years and have made a difference in many workplaces.

This is backed up with similar expertise in health surveillance for HAVS and noise exposure, thus ensuring that we can provide a full range of occupational health and hygiene solutions to help solve your noise and vibration problems.

## Our noise and vibration services include:

- Measurement of noise in the workplace and in the general environment
- Measurement of hand arm vibration (HAV)
- Measurement of whole body vibration (WBV)
- Risk assessments of exposure to noise and vibration
- Compliance surveys
- Assessment of current control measures
- Advice on legislation and required control measures
- Review of existing noise assessments
- Preparation of action plans
- Selection of ear defenders
- Health surveillance, including audiometry and HAVS
- Specialist physician services for the assessment of HAVS
- Investigation of nuisance noise
- Training of noise assessors
- Awareness training and seminars
- Assessors training
- IOA course
- Expert witness services in noise, HAVS and WBV

## Did you know?

You are only a phone call or a mouse click away from accessing the full range of **IOM Solutions**. These are founded on an unrivalled body of knowledge, resulting from more than three decades of research, consulting and service provision. We can bring the full weight of the IOM's knowledge and experience to bear on a wide range of occupational and environmental hazards that may pose a risk to health. These include:

- Asbestos and other fibres
- Dusts
- Chemicals
- Air pollution
- Noise and vibration
- Pesticides
- Nanomaterials, including nanoparticles and nanotubes

Our work extends to the assessment of the health consequences of exposure encompassing:

- Allergy and asthma
- Silicosis and other pneumoconiosis
- Other lung diseases
- Cancer
- Asbestos-related diseases
- Dermatitis
- Musculoskeletal disorders
- Noise-induced hearing loss
- Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome
- Workplace Stress

Our purpose is to safeguard and improve standards of occupational and public health. Our teams of scientists, clinicians and consultants include a number with international reputations in their fields of expertise. We give you access to real experts, who listen, understand and focus on providing the solutions you seek.

**For further information please contact**

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