

Black Sluice Internal Drainage Board

Policy No: 38

Vibration at Work

Review Dates:

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Board Approved	30 October 2019
Due for Review	

Exposure to hand-arm or whole-body vibration at work may result in a number of ill health conditions or injuries. Personnel who are engaged in operations where they may be exposed to hand-arm or whole-body vibration, for example, when using hand held tools or when driving vehicles, as a part of their normal work, may be at risk. The purpose of this policy is to state who is responsible, and what they must do, in order to minimise any possible health and safety risks associated with vibration at work.

Manager responsibilities

1. You must ensure that, in the work areas for which you have responsibility, hand-arm or whole body vibration is avoided, so far as is reasonably practicable. This may involve ensuring that work equipment is appropriately selected for the intended use, maintained and used appropriately by those in your control.
2. You must ensure that, for any operation where hand-arm or whole body vibration is likely to lead to exposure, that the work equipment has been selected in order to reduce that risk, so far as is reasonably practicable. For example, when purchasing new work equipment, ensure vibration magnitude is a criterion for selection.
3. You must ensure that, where vibration exposure cannot be avoided, you have assessed the task and satisfied yourself that the vibration exposure cannot be avoided. This may involve carrying out a risk assessment if outside of the existing controls on the generic risk assessment.
4. You must ensure that, for those vibration exposures that remain, health and safety risks are reduced so far as is reasonably practicable. This may involve introducing job rotation schemes or health surveillance regimes, and will require that employees are instructed and trained why and how to detect and report signs of injury.

Employee responsibilities

1. You must use the work equipment as you have been shown and instructed to reduce exposure to vibration. Any deficiency in the equipment must be reported to your Manager.
2. You must assist your Manager in carrying out vibration risk assessments detailed above.
3. You must ensure that, for vibration exposures that remain, that they are reduced as far as is reasonably practicable in accordance with any training and instruction you have received.