

Managing Vibration Risks

Practical Advice From the Battlefield

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Aims

- Scope of the problem
- 3 Steps to managing vibration risks
- Managing claims

Scope of the Problem

- 1,000,000 exposed at hazardous levels
- 300,000 (+?) currently suffering injury
- Costs to employers
 - Time
 - Money
 - Key workers
 - inconvenience

Risk Factors

- Magnitude
- Duration
- Others
 - Grip
 - Work/rest
 - Individual
 - Nature of exposure

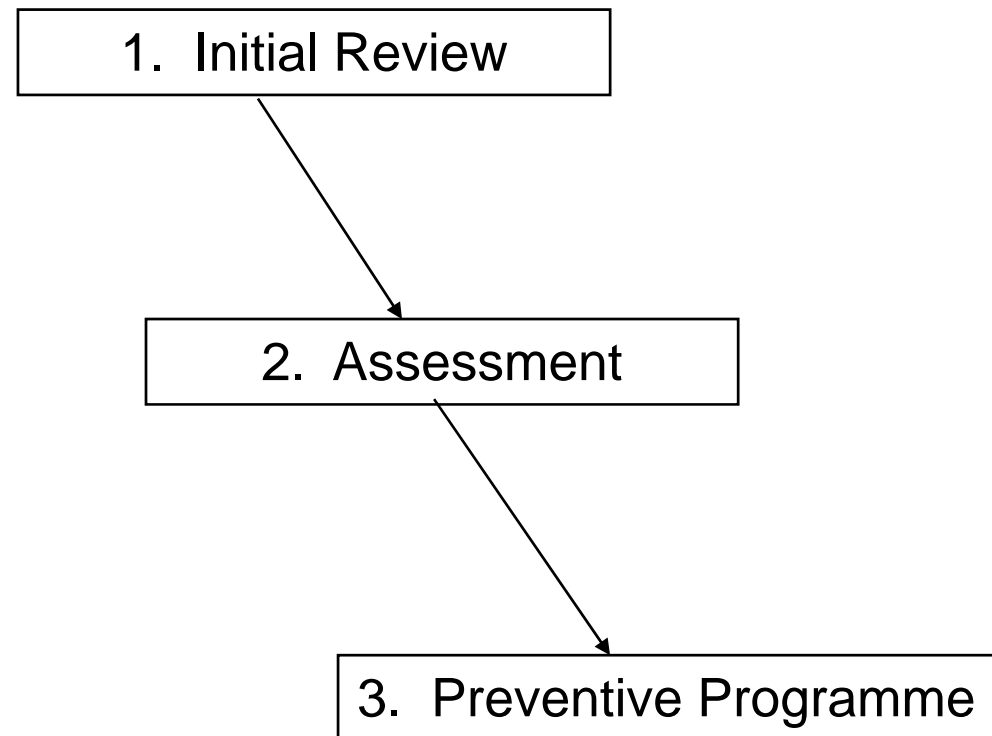
Quantifying Vibration Exposure

- Magnitude - units m/s^2
- Daily exposure time(s)
- 8 hr vibration exposure - $A(8)$ m/s^2

2.8m/s² - The Magic Number?

- Action Level
- Not a limit
- Not a ‘safe level’
- Effect of Physical Agents Directive
 - Triaxial measurement
 - Exposure limit value
 - Revised Action level

3 Steps to Managing Vibration Risks



Initial Review

- Reported symptoms?
- Claims history
- Tools with known risk
- Rules of thumb
 - ½ hour percussive tools
 - 2 hours rotary tools
 - Tingling/numbness 5 – 10 mins use

Assessment

- Manufacturer's data
- Prevalence survey
- Exposure assessment
 - Duration
 - Magnitude

Do Exposures Exceed the 'Action Level'?

Exposures < Action Level

- Risk potentially significant
- Are exposures reduced as far as possible?
- Provide information (and low level health surveillance?)
- Investigate any reported incidence
- Record your findings

Exposures > Action Level (or other indications)



- Preventive Programme
- Elements of preventive programme
 - ‘Hardware’ controls
 - ‘System’ controls

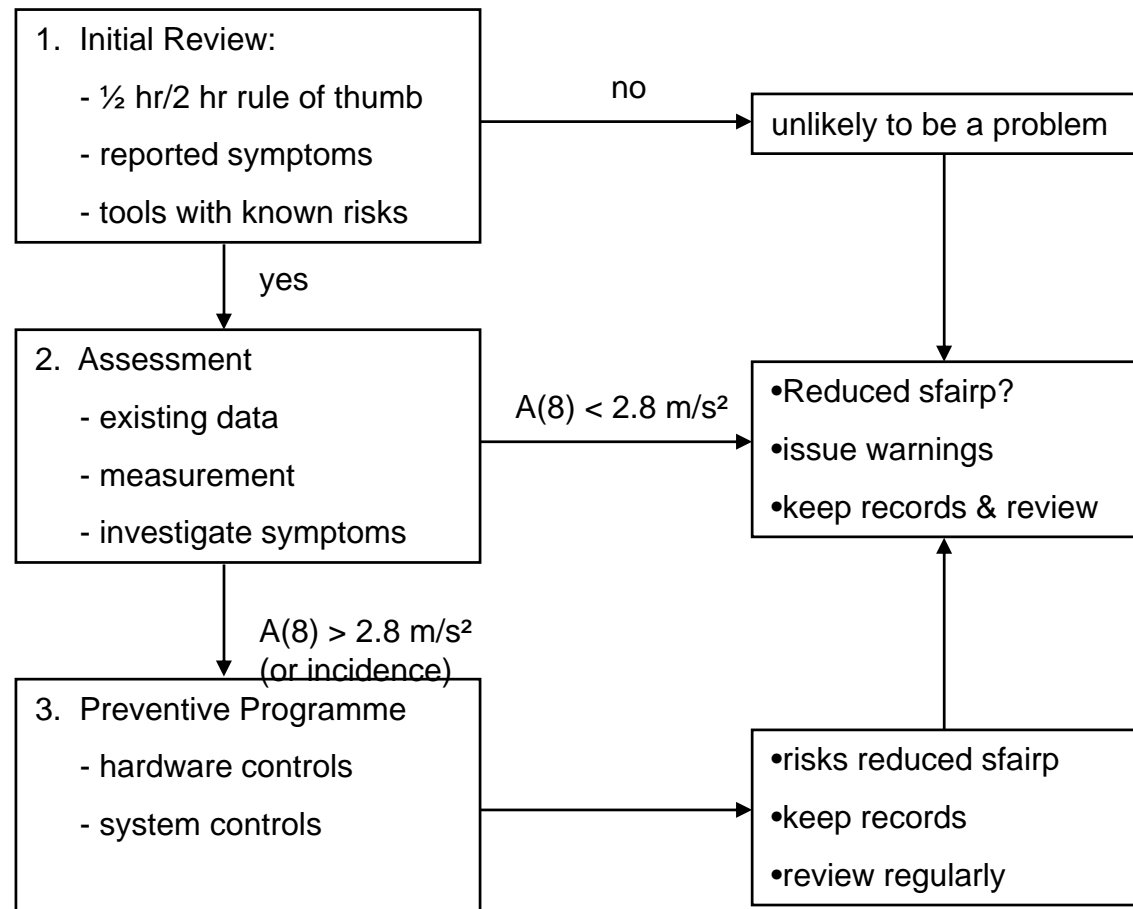
‘Hardware’ Controls

- Purchase policy
- Substitution
- Maintenance
- Tool selection
- Not anti vibration gloves

‘System’ Controls

- Work rotation
- Tool categorisation (high, medium, low risk)
- Time limits
- Information, instruction and training
- Health Surveillance

3 Steps to Managing Vibration Risks



Summary

- Scope of the problem
- 3 Steps to managing vibration risks
- Managing claims