Hand arm vibration in the foundry industry

CHASAC Information Sheet 1 APPENDIX 1a – Sample risk assessment

R.A. Number	VWF1	SSOW Number	N/A	Date Completed	Names of those who completed the RA	
Department	All		Original Assessment	11-11-2007	J Doe	
Process/Task	HAVS risk assessment/policy		Date of Review	20-11-2012	Next Review	20-11-2015

Hazard Description	Who could be harmed? (Operator / Other) Possible Injury	Present Controls	Risk Rating H	Risk Rating L	Risk Rating R. F.	New Controls required / other assessments, etc.	Action By Who?	Comp Date
Poor selection of tools by purchasers. Using wrong tool for the job. High vibration tools. Incorrect use of tools by operators. Poorly maintained tools. Excessive material to remove from castings. Working in cold conditions. Wrong consumable being used for work piece. Excessive work pressure. Continual grinding.	Operator Hand arm vibration related symptoms such as Vibration white finger or Carpal tunnel syndrome.	Consideration of low vibration tools prior to purchasing. Pre testing undertaken to confirm lower in use vibration level. Training of employees on the choice of correct tool for the job and best grinding techniques. Regular preventative maintenance of all hand held tools carried out by external experts. Best material removal techniques prior to grinding to keep grinding to a minimum. Working temperature controlled and warm air blowers available to operators. Correct consumables purchased and used to give required standard of dressing. Regular rest breaks for operators of 10 minutes per hour as well as trigger time breaks whilst moving work pieces.	3	3	9	Investigate improved casting techniques to reduce the amount of fettling required. Continually consider alternative methods of dressing castings to a required acceptable standard. Continue to source better tools that lower vibration levels. Continue to maintain existing tools to ensure they work to their optimal performance. Continue to train and supervise operators whom use vibratory tools. Continue to work closely with tool supplier in the reduction of exposure levels to Users. Rotation set of tools implemented to ensure regular servicing. Each set is taken away and serviced whilst the rotation set is left with the operator. Improved management and traceability of tools to prevent miss-use. Trigger timing / exposure evaluation with the use of a monitoring system to be introduced to identify vibration hotspots.	All the Management team.	Ongoing 31/01/15

CHASAC is a tripartite group made up of representatives from the UK castings industry, trade unions and the Health and Safety Executive (HSE)

Mis-use of equipment.		Operators are encouraged to undertake finger exercises to assist blood flow. Operators are encouraged not to smoke at work. On site and off site monitoring of vibratory tools by external experts. Rotation of operators where applicable. Annual health surveillance by Company Nurse. Periodic review of HAVS sufferers by Company Doctor, increased surveillance of operators with progressive conditions. Removal of Operators from vibratory tools where symptoms worsen to stage three. Personal protective equipment, including insulation gloves to keep hands warm. Assessment and monitoring of specific jobs to identify higher risk areas. Standardisation testing of all operators using diagnostic testing equipment.						31/01/15

HAZARD	***LIKELIHOOD***	***RISK FACTOR***
1 = Up to and including first aid injury, no lost time	1 = Highly improbable	R.F. = H x L
2 = Less than 3 days lost time	2 = Remote but possible	
3 = 3 days or more off work	3 = Quite possible	
4 = Major injury or severe incapacity	4 = Likely	
5 = Permanent incapacity or death	5 = Almost certain	