

HAVMETER

The complete solution to HAV.

Ensuring that employees using vibrating power tools are protected from the dangers of over-exposure to Hand Arm Vibration (HAV).



The HAVmeter management solution.

Protecting your employees

The HAVmeter makes it easy for your organisation to meet the challenge of ensuring employees using vibrating power tools are protected from the dangers of over-exposure to Hand Arm Vibration (HAV).

Each tool operator is allocated a small electronic device which attaches to tools and automatically records their vibration exposure during a shift. Amber and red warning lights alert the user on reaching the HSE's exposure action and limit values.

In order to protect high risk employees or those with existing signs of HAVS, you can customise their points limit to further reduce their risk.

The HAVmeter system represents a HAV management solution that protects your employees, as well as your organisation.

Putting the system into practice couldn't be simpler.

HAVMETER

The HAVmeter is a small, durable device, carried throughout the working shift. **It has been designed with no buttons or switches to minimise employee input and ensure ruggedness.** The size of a pager, the HAVmeter magnetically attaches to hand held power tools via the Tool Tag and displays vibration exposure in line with the HSE's points system and alerts the employee on reaching legal limits. The rechargeable battery allows for ongoing daily use.



TOOL TAG

The green, amber and red colour-coded tool tags are small, extremely rugged components which are attached to every tool. The tool tag provides a base on which the HAVmeter is magnetically attached.



THE BASE STATION

Each base station accommodates up to eight HAVmeters. When a HAVmeter is docked in one of the bays for recharging, the exposure information it has recorded is automatically transferred to the base station's internal memory.



SOFTWARE

Toolminder Software provides an excellent platform for reporting your employee's exposure and tool usage at the touch of a button. Additional asset management and Health and Safety Risk assessment features are included.

Putting the system into practice couldn't be simpler.

1. Tool Tag. Attach colour coded tool tags to vibrating power tools and/or request this direct from your preferred tool supplier.

2. Unit Pick-Up. Employee signs out HAVmeter from Base Station using card or PIN.

3. Portable Device. HAVmeter is taken with employee for day's work, magnetically clips to any tagged tool and clocks up vibration exposure when tool is in use.

4. The Base Station. At the end of the day the employee returns the HAVmeter to the base station for charging, where it automatically downloads and stores data.

5. Reports. All information recorded is transferred to a PC for simple viewing of accurate employee HAV exposure and tool usage.



"Vibration is an extremely difficult health risk to manage safely and any new technological innovation such as this, which simplifies the process of risk management, has to be applauded." **Dr David Edwards, OPERC**

Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS).

Excessive and frequent use of vibrating power tools commonly results in the onset of **Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)**. HAVS is the umbrella term for a number of painful and disabling disorders of the blood vessels, nerves, joints and tendons in the hands and arms. **The most well-known condition is Vibration White Finger, whose notoriety was firmly established by the landmark 1999 court case against British Coal.** A settlement was reached with 40,000 miners suffering from the adverse effects of over-exposure to HAV and respiratory disease; the compensation fund now exceeds £3 billion.

With the disease very much in the public eye, the E.U. passed a 2002 directive on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to Hand Arm Vibration and Whole Body Vibration. **The UK enacts this European Directive as the Control of Vibration Regulations (2005), made under the Health and Safety at Work Act (1974).** Employers are required by law to ensure that certain steps are taken when employees reach their daily exposure action value and their exposure limit value.

Definitions

Exposure action value:
2.5m/s² A(8) or 100 points
using the HSE exposure points system at which level employers should introduce technical and organisational measures to reduce exposure.

Exposure limit value:
5.0m/s² A(8) or 400 points
the level of vibration exposure that workers should not exceed under any circumstances – they must stop using vibrating tools for that day.

Benefits

While its main and specific purpose is to protect workers by limiting their exposure to HAV, the associated benefits of the HAVmeter system are manifold...

Blanket installation of the HAVmeter system will cement a company's standing as a responsible employer who considers the health of its workforce paramount. Exemplary health and safety records and a good reputation for best practice are essential when it comes to winning contracts.

Replacing inaccurate and inefficient paper-based systems with the latest technology streamlines HAV management operations.

There is no need for manual input of data: exposure information is gathered and transferred electronically, and that means quickly and efficiently. Health and safety managers can compile any manner of report (be it for individual workers, gangs, departments or regions) at the touch of a button. As for the tool operators, they are able to concentrate on the task at hand confident that their risk to HAVS is controlled.

The HAVmeter system saves time and money. Working practices become more efficient and productivity can be maximised.

The HAVmeter is an advanced control measure for helping to avoid over-exposure to hand-arm vibration. Being equipped with the HAVmeter system can reduce the cost of insurance premiums for workers using vibrating equipment.

It doesn't stop at human resource management. The HAVmeter system doubles as an excellent asset tracking device. The tool tag offers the advantage of allowing tools to be scanned in and out of a central depot. Each tag is uniquely programmed with the tool description, vibration magnitude, and asset number. The HAVmeter communicates with the tool tags and returns data on the usage and location of each tool. All this information is carried over into the companion software package for review. Reports are generated automatically and maintenance schedules are simplified as a result.

- Raising company H&S profile
- Compliance with legislation
- Cost Savings
- Resource Management
- Operational Efficiency

"AXA recognises the role the HAVmeter system plays in reducing the health and safety risks associated with Hand Arm Vibration (HAV). Minimising this risk can greatly help to reduce a company's exposure to HAVS claims."

AXA Insurance



"Severfield Rowen Group are committed to ensure our employees work in a healthy and safe environment. We are therefore working with Reactec and their HAVmeter to reduce the risk of vibration to our employees within the steel fabrication industry. By measuring tool usage and exposure levels we are able to produce data to enable us to manage and control the individual's exposure to a more acceptable level."

Robert Skinner,
Group SHE Director of
Severfield Rowen Group

The complete solution to HAV.

“Speedy Hire’s understanding of customers and ‘can do’ attitude has ensured our position as ‘leading’ company in our sector. We are pleased to be a strategic partner to Reactec’s innovative HAVmeter system and provide the leading solution for the industry.”

Speedy



Employers are duty bound to safeguard their workforce against HAV. While the Control of Vibration Regulations specify a framework for HAV management, it is incumbent on all construction companies to build on that framework to establish a clear policy for health and safety managers to follow.

Monitoring HAV exposure across the workforce has created an administrative burden of considerable proportions. One approach is to keep a record of the time each employee spends using vibrating tools by asking them to fill in paper timesheets. This is problematic because the very nature of construction work makes it impossible for a tool operator to do more than provide a rough estimate of their tool usage. Vague estimates contribute to somewhat spurious calculations, compromising the validity of the time and money spent collating and processing the information gathered.

The HAVmeter is the ideal solution because it puts the employee at the centre of HAV management. It helps and encourages self monitoring;

employees are given an accurate, real-time reading of their own personal vibration exposure and quickly become accustomed to keeping within legal limits. A personal awareness of the risks associated with the use of vibratory equipment contributes to an overall understanding at company level.

The system is very easy to use and feedback from tool operators has been excellent. The colour coding system used in the green, amber and red tool tags gives a visual indication of the general vibration level of the tools. Furthermore, the HAVmeter’s traffic light mechanism gives the operator a ‘ready reckoner’, the blinking LEDs alerting them when legal limits are reached.

“Shepherd Construction Ltd have been involved in researching the best practices for Hand Arm Vibration management for some considerable time. Our company Health & Safety Manager, Mark Owen, represented the Major Contractors Group on the HSE’s HAVs forum. Reactec’s HAVmeter offering is straight forward and requires minimal man management. This is a positive step forward in our drive for zero ill health issues for the workforce.”
Shepherd





“Tarmac is committed to the health and safety of its workforce and are proud to have collaborated with Reactec on their innovative HAVmeter system. Tarmac was the first UK company to benefit from using this technology – the HAVmeter has set the standard for addressing the problem of Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome.”
Paul Fleeham, Executive Director, Tarmac National Contracting

“The saying, ‘If you always do what you always did, you’ll always get, what you always got’ is so true for the control of exposure from hand and arm vibration. In today’s work environment, guessing at an individuals exposure times is no longer an option and poor record keeping may involve some difficult justification. Whether you’re an employer, a supervisor or employee, the HAVmeter system from Reactec gives you the confidence that you are effectively managing personal exposure.” **Chris Webber, Health and Safety Manager, Sir Robert mcAlpine**



redefining / standards



TOOLMINDER
Safety and maintenance software