



**HAVMETER**

## Dorset County Council case study

## CASE STUDY

### **Dorset County Council** **Grounds and Arboricultural Services**



Dorset County Council's Grounds and Arboricultural Services team regularly use a range of vibration emitting equipment for their grounds maintenance operations including chainsaws, strimmers, hedge cutters, long reach trimmers and lawnmowers. Adopting Reactec's HAVmeter system to monitor hand arm vibration (HAV) has resulted in a significant increase in worker protection and tool efficiency, as well as an annual cost saving in excess of £18,000.

Steve Maros, Arboriculture Manager for Dorset County Council said: "Hand arm vibration ranks highly on our safety agenda, so we regularly review our monitoring practices. Previously, we had been using a paper based system for HAV monitoring in-line with HSE guidelines, but we found that self-monitoring by individual employees was not the most accurate way of working and this certainly wasn't an auditable system."

The council implemented the HAVmeter system, the industry standard for monitoring and managing Hand Arm Vibration exposure and operator tool management, in 2010 as a way of easily and accurately recording employees' exposure to vibration. The HAVmeter completely automates the entire monitoring, data collection and reporting process – from operator exposure levels to detailed records of tool usage – so managers can proactively manage HAVS risk, plan efficient tool allocation, and improve worker efficiency.

Steve said: "Since introducing the HAVmeter, we have found that vibration exposure recordings are far more accurate and the system is very easy to use. We have seen increased productivity amongst our employees, resulting in significant cost benefits to the council along with increased confidence that we are not exposing our staff to excessive levels of vibration."

The council also had a blanket policy of replacing equipment every one to three years, based on the assumption that all similar tools are equally used and would require replacement within the same time frame. Thanks to the reports produced by the HAVmeter, they are now able to monitor tool usage, and more accurately monitor the need for tool replacement.

Steve said: "We would normally replace all strimmers every two years, but since using the HAVmeter we have identified variation in use and found that a number of strimmers didn't need to be replaced for another year. On this finding alone, we've been able to make a cost saving of £4,500 over the course of a year.

"If we roll this out across hedge cutters, leaf blower and chainsaws too, our annual cost savings are in excess of £18,000 – a really significant amount."

## TESTIMONIALS

### AMEY North Lanarkshire Gerry Kennedy, Roads Manager

"Before the HAVmeter, we relied on manual input, with a guy basically using his memory at the end of the day for the time that he has spent using vibratory tools. With the HAVmeter, we have an accurate, user friendly piece of kit which allows us to manage HAV more easily. It really is a Health and Safety Management tool. We have been able to make major savings through cutting out administrative costs."

### ATR Group Keith Moorhouse, Managing Director

"Now we're not just dealing with our clients' tool assets, we're dealing with their people – providing outsourced HSE support with respect to HAV monitoring and recording. The fact that the HAVmeter empowers employees to manage their exposure in real time, and automatically collects the HAV data, gives ATR Group a strong foundation to support clients in the adoption of best practice in HAV management."

### Tarmac Paul Fleetham National Contracting Director

"Paper based systems never really worked, the HAVmeter replaced that system with the latest technology which allows us to accurately measure and monitor our employees' exposure to HAVS."

"After rolling it out we are seeing a positive result from the workforce who like the system and think it is easy to use. It's great for self monitoring and the tool tags can also be used as a tracking device. It's very difficult to quantify what sort of amount of exposure an individual has had – the HAVmeter is the perfect solution"

### BAM Nuttall Roy Jackson Senior Safety Advisor

"BAM Nuttall has always tried to stay on top of the issue of HAVS and ensure the safety of our workforce. In the past, we were trying to accurately estimate the amount of vibration that staff were exposed to ourselves, but this was a lengthy and time-consuming process and we knew that we needed a better system."

"When we first introduced HAVmeters two years ago, we saw them as the best option to use to stay ahead of the game on vibration safety. The devices give us a valuable monitoring system that makes sure we know who is working with what machinery and for how long - and provides us with accurate, detailed records of what our teams are exposed to."

"We now use HAVmeters in every project where our staff operate vibrating equipment and it is easily the best system on the market for monitoring HAV exposure. By using this equipment, we ensure that we not only keep our workforce safe from injury but also have a robust defence in place to protect ourselves from liability when it comes to vibration issues."

### Carillion, Neil Dunlop Health and Safety Manager

"Carillion has been using the Reactec HAVmeter system on Network Rail Framework projects in Scotland since June 2009. Health and Safety is Carillion's number one priority. We are committed to continually improving health and safety of the workforce."

### Wood Group PSN Ron Martin Lead HSE Advisor (Real Estate Services)

"Wood Group PSN trialled then introduced the HAVmeter into our client contracts 2 years ago as we had gone as far as possible using a mainly 'paper based' HAVS management system. The improvement and accuracy of recording vibration exposure among our power tool users was instant and dramatic ... given that 'Trigger Times' could be, up to 80% over-estimated when reliant on operators trying to remember usage times at the end of a shift."

The introduction of the HAVmeter into Wood Group PSN operations has proved to be accurate and a cost-effective means of controlling and recording vibration exposure among our personnel and being ATEX approved has allowed us to utilise the system across both onshore and offshore operations.

I would not hesitate to recommend the HAVmeter to any company who is interested in vastly improving their HAVS Management System."

## REACTEC CREDENTIALS

Established in 2001 as a spin- out from Edinburgh University, Reactec started out as a vibration engineering consultancy firm with a difference: not only did it consult on and provide advice to vibration problems; it also delivered practical onsite solutions. This unique service proved most successful with major blue- chip companies seeking our expertise to solve their vibration issues. Although dealing with many differing sectors, Reactec Consultancy developed particular solutions for the Renewable Energy sector (particularly wind and marine).



Upon the HSE's release of the Control of Vibrations at Work Regulations 2005; Reactec engineers commenced development of a hi-tech yet practical solution, which would provide total health protection for the worker as well as real cost benefits for the employer. Using our vast engineering and vibration knowledge and experience: the HAVmeter was developed.

Since being launched into the marketplace in 2008, the HAVmeter has been proven as the system of choice for companies serious about the health of their workers and is now established as the global market- leader in Hand Arm Vibration monitoring. Key to the HAVmeter's success has been the automated approach to report generation and the accuracy and detail obtained from using the HAVmeter to monitor and protect workers' HAV exposure. Proving particularly successful with top- end companies in all HAV related sectors, the HAVmeter is fast becoming the industry standard by which all other solutions are measured.

### HIRE PARTNERS



Preferred supplier for Allianz and recommended by:



### MEMBERS & AWARDS



You can't manage what you can't measure  
and bad data means bad decisions for your  
workers and your company.

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