



HAVMETER

William Hare case study

CASE STUDY



William Hare

William Hare is a Bury-based structural engineering firm, which exports and erects fabricated steelwork throughout the world and in all major structural market sectors. Thanks to recent exemplary practices, the firm is leading the way for effective hand arm vibration (HAV) management in the workplace, contributing to improved business practices and an injury free culture.

Brian Hughes, Director of Safety for William Hare, explains the actions taken to protect his workforce against hand arm vibration syndrome (HAVS) and the numerous business benefits encountered along the way.

He said: “Following a work study, including on-site testing to measure vibration exposure, it became clear that a formal assessment of tools being used was required, as well as an examination of the quality and level of training given to staff on how to use these tools, and the risk of over exposure.

“A large volume of grinding was being undertaken for various projects, but the tools we used for this gave a high vibration output. We decided to replace all high vibration tools and equipment, and reinvest in the latest low vibration and ergonomically designed tools, to demonstrate to our employees, customers and competitors that we are committed to preserving the health of our workers. This made it possible to reduce vibration exposure to less than 2.5m/s² for all tool users.

“Still, health surveillance remains an integral part of our company culture, so we continuously approach our workforce to make sure they are fully informed of the health damage associated with over-exposure to vibration.”

Not content with just conforming to HSE guidelines, William Hare introduced Reactec’s HAVmeter system with the specific aim of reducing exposure action value to below 100 points per day. 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.

Brian said: “The HAVmeter allows us to check that the systems and procedures that we had previously implemented are working as they should, as well as to reduce exposure for those showing first stage symptoms of HAVS down to just 50 points per day.

“Reactec’s solution has given us the comfort of knowing that we are constantly and effectively managing the risk of HAVS, and our employees are operating within HSE guidelines of 100 points per day, taking personal responsibility for their own welfare. Instant access to data reports and other features such as tool tracking are also very useful.

“We’re reaping the rewards of our health and safety expenditure; reducing the risk of HAVS and protecting our workforce has paid dividends for us, and we’ve found that improving working conditions has also helped us with our asset management and resulted in worker efficiency, tool efficiency and a generally positive working environment.”

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.

Reactec Ltd
5 Vantage Point
3 Cultins Road
Edinburgh EH11 4DF
T: +44(0)131 221 0920
F: +44(0)131 229 9051