

<b>Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS)</b>
<p>Health surveillance is a system of ongoing health checks for employees exposed to specific hazards in the course of their work activities. Its purpose is to safeguard the health of employees through the early identification of ill health to prevent further progression.</p> <p>Health surveillance check the long-term effect of control measures put in place by the employer.</p> <p>The purpose of HAVS health surveillance is to confirm that the employee is fit (and remains fit) to work with exposure to hand transmitted vibration.</p> <p>Specialist training is required to carry out adequate clinical assessment for HAVS.</p> <p>The Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005 set out the minimum legal duties and the Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) text and guidance within <a href="#">L140</a> give practical advice on how to comply with the Regulations. L140 21 assists in the decision as to whether an employee need be classified.</p>
<b>Work Activity Requiring Health Surveillance</b>
Use of hand held vibratory equipment.
<b>Relevant Regulation</b>
<a href="https://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/regulations.htm">https://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/hav/regulations.htm</a>
<b>Who Requires HAVS Health Surveillance?</b>
Employers of anyone exposed to hand held vibratory equipment as a result of work activities must conduct a risk assessment to determine when an employee needs to be placed under health surveillance. The Regulations identify an exposure value above which the employee should be under health surveillance as well as the timing of health surveillance for exposed workers.
<b>How Often is HAVS Surveillance Required?</b>
<p>There is a tiered approach to HAVS health surveillance.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Baseline assessment – as close to start of employment as possible</li> <li>• Annually thereafter. The annual assessments could be by completion of a questionnaire (Tiers 1 and 2) or clinical assessment (Tiers 3 and 4) depending on the findings.</li> </ul> <p>Or as directed by the specialist overseeing the surveillance programme.</p>
<b>Any Documents or Questionnaires required before, during or after the appointment</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Before:</i> the completed questionnaires should be available for review by the suitably trained occupational health practitioner conducting the clinical assessment.</li> <li>• <i>After:</i> the employer will received a report on the employee’s fitness to work with hand transmitted vibration, any restrictions advised and the timing of future assessments.</li> <li>• The employee will be provided with a copy of <a href="#">A guide for employees</a></li> </ul>

**How to book an Appointment.**

An appointment can be made by either email [openquiries@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk](mailto:openquiries@nhslothian.scot.nhs.uk) or phone the appointments line on 0131 536 1135, Select Option 1 then Option 3