Your Company Ltd

HAVS ASSESSMENT

Landscaping and Ground Maintenance

Reference	EX0018
Issue	1
Assessment Date	14/11/2026
Review Date	14/11/2027
Client	Your Client Ltd
Site Location	5 commercial sites
Assessor	Your Name, Health & Safety Manager

Executive Summary

This Hand-Arm Vibration (HAVs) Risk Assessment evaluates the exposure of 3 grounds maintenance operatives conducting regular weekly operations across 5 commercial sites. The work involves the use of petrol-driven hedge trimmers, strimmers, chainsaws, and leaf blowers. The assessment indicates that a single operative undertaking a mixed-tool daily workload will exceed the Exposure Action Value (EAV) of 100 points, triggering mandatory requirements for health surveillance, exposure reduction, and information/training. The primary risk mitigation strategy recommends transitioning from petrol to modern battery-powered (lithium-ion) commercial landscaping equipment, which significantly reduces vibration magnitudes, alongside strict trigger time management and task rotation.

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1. Assessment Details

Client:	Your Client Ltd	**Site Location:**	5 commercial sites
Review Date:	14/11/2027	**Assessor:**	Your Name, Health & Safety Manager

2. Daily Exposure Summary

Total Daily Exposure Points

251

EAV
100 pts
Action Level

ELV
400 pts
Limit Value

Recommendation
The cumulative daily exposure (estimated 251 points for an operative undertaking all tasks) exceeds the EAV of 100 points but remains below the ELV of 400 points. Mandatory action is required: introduce a health surveillance programme, rotate tasks among the 3 staff members to distribute exposure, and begin a phased replacement of petrol tools with battery-powered alternatives.

3. Vibrating Tools

1. Petrol Hedge Trimmer (Double-sided)

Category	Hedge Trimmer	**Vibration Magnitude**	6 m/s²
Trigger Time	90 mins	**Exposure Duration**	1.5 hrs
Daily Points	108	**Maintenance Status**	Requires daily blade inspection
Alternative Available	Yes: Commercial 36V Battery Hedge Trimmer (vibration magnitude typically < 2.5 m/s²)		
Control Measures	• Ensure cutting blades are kept sharp and properly lubricated to reduce required cutting force and machine vibration • Implement a job rotation schedule so no single operative uses the hedge trimmer for more than 1 hour continuously • Maintain anti-vibration rubber mounts on the handle block, replacing them if they show signs of perishing or cracking • Train operatives not to over-grip the handles; use a light but safe grip to minimise vibration transmission		

2. Petrol Brushcutter / Strimmer

Category	Strimmer	**Vibration Magnitude**	5 m/s²
Trigger Time	120 mins	**Exposure Duration**	2 hrs
Daily Points	100	**Maintenance Status**	Regular servicing required
Alternative Available	Yes: Battery-powered brushcutter or using ride-on/pedestrian rotary mowers for larger verges to eliminate strimmer use		
Control Measures	• Use a correctly fitted and adjusted full-body harness to take the weight of the machine, reducing the grip force required by the hands • Select the correct cutting attachment (line vs. blade) for the vegetation type to prevent excessive tool strain and vibration • Inspect the strimmer head for balance issues or grass build-up before use, as unbalanced heads cause severe vibration spikes • Limit continuous trigger time by alternating strimming duties with non-vibrating tasks (e.g., raking, sweeping)		

3. Petrol Rear-Handled Chainsaw

Category	Chainsaw	**Vibration Magnitude**	5.5 m/s²
Trigger Time	30 mins	**Exposure Duration**	0.5 hrs
Daily Points	30	**Maintenance Status**	High maintenance priority
Alternative Available	Yes: Telescopic pole saws (keeps vibration source further from operator) or battery-powered chainsaws		
Control Measures	• Ensure the chain is professionally sharpened and correctly tensioned; a blunt chain forces the operator to push, drastically increasing vibration • Ensure depth gauges are set correctly to prevent the saw from 'grabbing' and causing juddering • Warm up the saw prior to use and ensure the operator's hands are warm before starting work to maintain good blood circulation • Check that the saw's integrated anti-vibration springs/rubbers are intact before every shift		

4. Petrol Backpack Leaf Blower

Category	Leaf Blower	**Vibration Magnitude**	2.5 m/s²
Trigger Time	60 mins	**Exposure Duration**	1 hrs
Daily Points	13	**Maintenance Status**	Good condition
Alternative Available	Yes: Wheeled pedestrian blower for large hard-standing areas (transfers vibration to the ground, not hands)		
Control Measures	• Adjust backpack straps securely to prevent the engine unit from swaying and transmitting secondary vibration • Use the throttle lock (if safe to do so) on long open stretches to relax the trigger finger grip • Ensure the impeller is clean and free of debris, as imbalance inside the blower tube causes significant handle vibration		

4. Health Surveillance

Health Surveillance Required

Surveillance Tier
Tier 2 - Annual health questionnaire with Tier 3 referral pathway for symptomatic individuals

Frequency
Initial Tier 1 screening before starting work, followed by Tier 2 annually. 6-monthly reviews if symptoms are reported.

Record Retention Period
For as long as the employee is under health surveillance, and longer if the employer chooses (HSE L140, paragraph 193)

5. PPE Requirements


Head protection


Face shield


Ear protection


Gloves


Safety footwear

- Thermal, water-resistant gloves (EN 511) to maintain hand warmth and blood circulation (primary PPE for HAVs management)
- Anti-vibration gloves (EN ISO 10819) where appropriate, noting they offer limited protection predominantly for higher frequencies
- Safety boots with reinforced toecap and midsole (EN ISO 20345 S3)
- Hearing protection (EN 352-1 or EN 352-3 attached to helmet) due to high noise levels from petrol engines
- Chainsaw protective trousers (EN 381-5 / EN ISO 11393-2) and boots (EN 381-3) when conducting tree pruning
- Forestry helmet combination with face visor and ear defenders (EN 397, EN 166, EN 352)

7. Risk Matrix Reference

	Negligible (1)	Minor (2)	Moderate (3)	Major (4)	Catastrophic (5)
Almost Certain (5)	5	10	15	20	25
Likely (4)	4	8	12	16	20
Possible (3)	3	6	9	12	15
Unlikely (2)	2	4	6	8	10
Rare (1)	1	2	3	4	5

1-5 Low 6-12 Medium 15-25 High

8. Competency Requirements

Qualification	Description	Required For	Verification
HAVs Awareness Training	Understanding of the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005, the HSE points system, symptom recognition, and reporting procedures	All 3 operatives using vibrating hand-held tools	Training certificate review, toolbox talk attendance record, refresher every 2 years
Lantra Awards / NPTC Chainsaw Maintenance and Cross-Cutting	Formal competency qualification for safe chainsaw operation, maintenance, and cutting techniques	Any operative undertaking tree pruning with a chainsaw	Valid NPTC/Lantra skills card/certificate

Qualification	Description	Required For	Verification
Brushcutter / Trimmer Operational Training	Safe use of strimmers and hedge trimmers, including harness fitting, blade selection, and maintenance	All operatives using strimmers and hedge trimmers	Lantra certification or documented in-house competency assessment by a qualified instructor

9. Regulatory Compliance

Regulation / Standard	Section	Relevance to This Assessment
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 5 - Assessment of the risk to health and safety	Legal duty to assess vibration risks for employees regularly exposed to hand-arm vibration during grounds maintenance
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 6 - Elimination or control of exposure	Mandates the implementation of control measures (Hierarchy of Control) when the EAV (100 points) is exceeded
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 7 - Health surveillance	Requires a health surveillance programme as the operatives' exposure exceeds the EAV threshold
Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998	Regulation 5 - Maintenance	Ensures all landscaping equipment is maintained in an efficient state, working order, and good repair to prevent excessive vibration

10. Inspection & Monitoring

Supervision Arrangements
Site Supervisor to proactively manage task rotation among the 3 operatives to ensure no individual exceeds the ELV, and ideally stays below the EAV.

Inspection Schedule
Daily pre-use visual checks by operatives (blades, AV mounts, harness). Monthly formal inspection by the supervisor. Annual servicing by a qualified plant mechanic.

Responsible Person
Grounds Maintenance Manager / Site Supervisor

Review Triggers
- Introduction of new or different models of landscaping tools
- Any operative reporting symptoms of Hand-Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) or Carpal Tunnel Syndrome
- Changes to the work schedule, such as increasing from weekly operations to daily continuous operations
- Annually as a minimum scheduled review interval
- Following any significant tool repair that may alter the vibration output

11. Applicable Legislation

- Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005
- Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974
- Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
- Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)
- Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations 1992 (as amended 2022)

12. Emergency Procedures

Nearest Hospital / A&E:	To be confirmed before work starts
Emergency Services:	999. Stop work, make the area safe, administer first aid, report to the site manager.

13. Staff Acknowledgment

I confirm that I have been inducted, understand the vibration exposure risks identified, and agree to follow the control measures outlined in this assessment.

Name	Position	Date Signed	Verification
No staff acknowledgments recorded yet.			

Assessor Declaration & Client Acceptance

I confirm that this assessment has been prepared by a competent person and represents a suitable and sufficient assessment of the risks associated with the described work activity, in accordance with the Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999.

Prepared By (Assessor)

Your Name, Health & Safety Manager
Name & Position

Signature

Date

Accepted By (Client / Principal Contractor)

Name & Position

Signature

Date