Your Company Ltd

HAVS ASSESSMENT

Road Breaking and Concrete Cutting

Reference	EX0017
Issue	1
Assessment Date	14/11/2026
Review Date	14/11/2027
Client	Your Client Ltd
Site Location	Footpath and kerb lines, drainage works
Assessor	Your Name, Health & Safety Manager

Executive Summary

This Hand-Arm Vibration (HAVs) risk assessment details the exposure risks associated with road breaking, concrete kerb cutting, and trench backfill compaction over a 3-week drainage installation project. Four operatives are assigned to the works. Given the inherent vibration magnitudes of pneumatic breakers, cut-off saws, and compactor plates, the cumulative daily vibration exposure points will exceed the Exposure Action Value (EAV) of 100 points, necessitating strict job rotation amongst the team to ensure the Exposure Limit Value (ELV) of 400 points is not breached by any single individual. Preventative controls include the provision of properly maintained equipment, mandatory Tier 2 health surveillance, and active daily monitoring of trigger times.

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1. Assessment Details

Client:	Your Client Ltd	**Site Location:**	Footpath and kerb lines, drainage works
Review Date:	14/11/2027	**Assessor:**	Your Name, Health & Safety Manager

2. Daily Exposure Summary

Total Daily Exposure Points

298

EAV
100 pts
Action Level

ELV
400 pts
Limit Value

Recommendation
Daily exposure per operative is calculated at 298 points, exceeding the EAV of 100 points but remaining below the ELV of 400 points, strictly on the condition of job rotation among the 4-person gang. All operatives must be enrolled in a Tier 2 health surveillance programme. Daily trigger times must be logged to ensure ELV is never breached.

3. Vibrating Tools

1. Heavy-Duty Pneumatic Breaker

Category	Breaker	**Vibration Magnitude**	15 m/s²
Trigger Time	30 mins	**Exposure Duration**	0.5 hrs
Daily Points	225	**Maintenance Status**	Pre-use checks required; ensure anti-vibration damping is intact
Alternative Available	Yes: Excavator-mounted hydraulic pecker or Brokk remote-controlled demolition robot (eliminates hand-arm vibration entirely)		
Control Measures	• Implement strict job rotation among the 4 operatives to limit individual trigger time to a maximum of 30 minutes per day • Ensure chisels and points are kept sharp; replace blunt tooling immediately to reduce the time needed to break concrete • Train operatives not to grip the tool too tightly and to let the breaker do the work • Direct cold exhaust air away from the operator's hands to maintain blood circulation • Provide thermal gloves in cold weather to keep hands warm and maximise blood flow		

2. Petrol Cut-Off Saw

Category	Circular Saw	**Vibration Magnitude**	6 m/s²
Trigger Time	20 mins	**Exposure Duration**	0.33 hrs
Daily Points	24	**Maintenance Status**	Weekly mechanic inspection; daily visual blade check
Alternative Available	Yes: Hydraulic block splitter or pre-cast bespoke kerb sections to minimise site cutting		
Control Measures	• Use high-quality, task-specific diamond blades and ensure they are not worn or warped, preventing excessive vibration • Maintain the engine and anti-vibration mounts to manufacturer specifications • Utilise wet cutting techniques which lubricate the blade, slightly reducing resistance and vibration whilst suppressing dust • Limit continuous trigger time; rotate the cutting tasks amongst the team • Avoid applying excessive downward pressure; allow the blade's rotation to perform the cut		

3. Vibratory Compactor Plate

Category	Compactor	**Vibration Magnitude**	7 m/s²
Trigger Time	30 mins	**Exposure Duration**	0.5 hrs
Daily Points	49	**Maintenance Status**	Serviced monthly; vibration dampers checked daily
Alternative Available	Yes: Remote-controlled trench roller (eliminates operator vibration exposure)		
Control Measures	• Select HAUC-approved low-vibration compactor plates where practicable • Do not over-compact the ground; stop the machine once optimal compaction is achieved to avoid equipment bounce • Operators must guide the compactor rather than push or hold it forcefully • Ensure the drive belt is correctly tensioned and eccentric bearings are properly lubricated • Include the compactor usage in the cumulative daily HAVS calculation and job rotation schedule		

4. Health Surveillance

Health Surveillance Required

Surveillance Tier
Tier 2 - Annual health questionnaire with Tier 3 clinical referral pathway if symptoms are reported

Frequency
Annual screening (or 6-monthly if symptoms are reported or baseline indicates heightened risk)

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


Eye protection


Ear protection


Respiratory protection


Gloves


Safety footwear

- Thermal gloves for cold-weather working to maintain peripheral blood circulation (EN 511)
- Anti-vibration gloves (EN ISO 10819) where assessment shows attenuation of high-frequency vibration is beneficial
- Safety footwear with metatarsal protection (EN ISO 20345 S3 M)
- Hearing protection (EN 352) mandatory as noise exceeds upper exposure action values during breaking and cutting
- Impact-resistant safety goggles (EN 166 1B) for cutting and breaking operations
- Respiratory Protective Equipment (RPE) FFP3 mask (EN 149) for silica dust protection during cutting/breaking

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 Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005, the HSE points system, symptom recognition, and reporting procedures	All 4 operatives using the breakers, saws, and compactors	Review of training certificates and site toolbox talk attendance records; refresher every 2 years
Abrasive Wheels Training	Competence in the safe mounting, handling, and operation of diamond discs on petrol cut-off saws	Any operative operating the petrol cut-off saw	Valid Abrasive Wheels certificate (within last 3 years)
Plant and Equipment Operation	Safe operation of pedestrian-operated compaction equipment and heavy pneumatic breakers	All operatives handling the compactor or breakers	NPORS, CPCS, or formal in-house competency assessment records

9. Regulatory Compliance

Regulation / Standard	Section	Relevance to This Assessment
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 5 - Assessment of risk	Legal requirement to assess vibration risks for employees exposed to pneumatic breakers, saws, and compactors, and to calculate daily exposure points.

Regulation / Standard	Section	Relevance to This Assessment
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 6 - Elimination or control of exposure	Mandates the hierarchy of control, requiring the reduction of exposure to as low a level as is reasonably practicable, and strict adherence to the ELV.
Control of Vibration at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 7 - Health surveillance	Mandates health surveillance as the daily exposure points (298) exceed the EAV (100 points).
Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 (PUWER)	Regulation 5 - Maintenance	Requires all vibrating tools to be maintained in an efficient state, in efficient working order, and in good repair to minimise vibration magnitude.
Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005	Regulation 6 - Elimination or control of exposure to noise at the workplace	Addresses the concurrent hazard of high noise emissions generated by the breaker and cut-off saw, mandating hearing protection.

10. Inspection & Monitoring

Supervision Arrangements
A competent Site Supervisor must actively monitor gang activities to enforce the job rotation schedule and ensure no individual exceeds their allocated trigger times.

Inspection Schedule
Daily pre-use visual inspection of tools (checking AV mounts, handles, and blades). Weekly formal inspection of plant by a fitter. Vibration magnitude verification from manufacturer data prior to site deployment.

Responsible Person
Site Supervisor / Project Manager

Review Triggers
- If daily tasks take longer than anticipated, necessitating a recalculation of exposure points
- If a new tool or different model of plant is hired for the works
- Following any report of tingling, numbness, or HAVS symptoms from an operative
- If maintenance records indicate tool degradation that could increase vibration output
- At the conclusion of the 3-week project as part of post-works review

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
- Construction (Design and Management) Regulations 2015
- Control of Noise at Work Regulations 2005
- Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations 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