



### HSE updated hand-arm vibration exposure calculator

The HSE have recently updated their free-to-download hand-arm vibration calculator tool. The updates have made a useful tool much easier to use and of particular value to landscape professionals.

The new tool features a drop-down menu facility, which allows the user to choose up to 6 items of equipment for assessment. Mowers, chainsaws and brush cutters with varying attachments can be selected from a list and, together with predicted exposure periods, the tool can be used to identify the risk to operatives.

The law states employers must:

- Make sure risks from vibration are controlled
- Provide information, instruction and training to employees on the risk and actions being taken to control risk
- Provide appropriate health surveillance

Vibration regulations highlight two distinct values which must be adhered to: Exposure action value (EAV) and exposure limit value (ELV).

Once a daily exposure action value of  $2.5 \text{ m/s}^2$  has been exceeded, this represents a risk that must be managed. The limit (ELV) is  $5 \text{ m/s}^2$ , which represents a high risk to employees which must not be exceeded. Of course, the exact exposure depends on a wide variety of factors including the type of equipment, its age, how it is used and the length of time it is used for.

Unfortunately, and despite significant developments in equipment, a significant proportion of hand-held landscape equipment poses a risk to operatives in terms of hand-arm vibration. In most cases the length of time operatives use landscape-related equipment must be managed by their employer.

The vibration calculator tool allows employers to calculate the risk to employees by taking into account length of time and the type of equipment used.

The tool may be downloaded from the following page:

[http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/HAV/vibrationcalc.htm#utm\\_source=govdelivery&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign=Jack\\_knife&utm\\_term=headline&utm\\_content=exposure-calc](http://www.hse.gov.uk/vibration/HAV/vibrationcalc.htm#utm_source=govdelivery&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Jack_knife&utm_term=headline&utm_content=exposure-calc)

A guide to hand-arm vibration can be downloaded free of charge from the following page:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/pubns/indg175.htm>