

**Vibration Testing of Open Spaces Equipment
Open Spaces Committee 23 May 2017**

Recommended

- (i) that the quotation obtained for vibration assessments for Open Spaces Equipment and the associated training talk is accepted**
- (ii) that the additional price for conducting noise assessments is accepted.**

Introduction

1. The Control of Vibration At Work Regulations 2005 require employers to protect their employees from the risk of hand-arm vibration. Hand-arm vibration is vibration transmitted into the operators' hands and arms; this can come from equipment such as chainsaws, strimmers, brushcutters and powered lawnmowers
2. Appendix 1 to this report is the HSE brief guide to hand-arm vibration at work.

Background Information

3. There is no record that any of the Town Council's equipment has been subject to a formal vibration assessment process and none of the current Town Council staff have received any guidance or training on this specific area of health and safety.
4. As part of South Somerset District Council's on-going support, they have provided advice on how they meet their responsibilities regarding the vibration regulations and introduced us to a company who can undertake the equipment assessments etc.
5. To comply with the Vibration Regulations the District Council's implements the following:
 - Annual testing of equipment using an external specialist company,
 - Training of staff in use of a simple points-per-minute system, through which they can record daily & weekly vibration exposure
 - Monitoring of personal vibration logs kept by staff, to ensure that daily and weekly maximum exposure limits are not being exceeded
 - Health screening of operators via Occupational Health, to identify any symptoms of hand/arm vibration syndrome (HAVS)
 - Where possible, replacing kit which gives excessively high vibration readings with alternatives (this happened at the beginning!)
 - Considering manufacturer's vibration levels when buying new equipment.
6. As a starting point for ensuring the Town Council's compliance with the vibration regulations, a price has been obtained for the following:
 - Attend site at Ilminster TC and carry out detailed vibration inspections to hand held powered works tools and equipment x 12 and ride on equipment x 1
(NB a list of tools / equipment has been supplied by the Senior Open Spaces Warden)

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- All items of equipment to be fully tested in actual working conditions carrying out normal work task, using consumable normally used.
- Author and supply detailed test reports on completion of the testing activity, including vibration levels, EAV & ELV exposure times alongside a HSE approved points system.
- Manufacture and supply colour coded safety tags for all items tested to include vibration levels and points for ease of operator use.
- Carry out toolbox talk training to 3 employees, including course notes and individual certification on completion.
- Supply 5 No employee weekly vibration log books for vibration exposure recording
- noise assessments on the tools, plant and equipment including a detailed report and the noise data adding to the colour coded safety tags.

The prices obtained are attached to this report, for Councillors, as Confidential Appendix 2

Report Prepared: 16.05.17

For further Information contact: The Town Clerk,
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