



Occupational Health / Health Surveillance



Definitions

□ Occupational Health

“Assessing and advising on the effect work might have on employee's health and what effect an employee's health might have on his/ her work”

□ Health Surveillance

“Process of strategies and techniques to detect symptoms of work related ill health to employees exposed to specific health risks during the course of their work”



Risk Assessment

Two ways of tackling the health risk assessment:

Assess by **activity** and incorporate the potential health risks into your normal risk assessment format and identify the required control measures

OR

Assess by **occupation/ trade** and incorporate the potential risks into a trade specific risk assessment and required control measures.

HEALTH ASSESSMENT MATRIX

Task/Activity	Pre-Project Health Assessment (Health)	Task/Activity - Review for Job Assessment	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Job Health Assessment	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)	Health Monitoring (Control/Track)
SECTION 1 - JOB ROLE													
CONSTRUCTION MANAGER													
CONSTRUCTION WORKER													
BRICK LAYER													
CARPENTERS / JOINERS / SHOE FITTERS													
ELECTRICIANS SITE OPERATIVE - GENERAL													
ELECTRICIANS SITE OPERATIVE - SPECIALIST (see assessment)													
GLAZIER / WINDOW OPERATOR													
MULTIPLYING FITTERS / JOINERS													
PLASTERER													
GLAZIER / GLASS FITTER / WINDOW INSPECTOR													
JOY DRIVER													
PAINTER / DECORATOR													
PLUMBING OPERATIVE													
PLASTERER / GYPSUMER													
PLASTER OPERATIVE - GENERAL													
PLASTER OPERATIVE - CRANE DRIVER													
PLASTER OPERATIVE - MOBILE MACHINE DRIVER													
PLASTERER / JOY DRIVER													
PLASTERER / JOY DRIVER / MOBILE MACHINE OPERATOR													
RAIL TRACK													
ROAD CONSTRUCTION - ADVISOR / DRIVER													
ROCKDRILL DRIVER / OPERATOR													
ROOFER / SLATER / THATCHER / TILER													
SCAFFOLDING WORKER													
SITE FOREMAN / SUPERVISOR													
SITE MANAGER													
STEEL ERECTOR / STRUCTURAL FABRICATOR													
STEELER													
TUNNELLING WORKER / CONTRACTOR / E. Specialist													
WELDER													
SECTION 2 - HEALTH TASKS													
ASBESTOS (see assessment)													
CHEMICAL / TOXICITY (see assessment)													
CHEMICAL - SOIL (see assessment)													
CHEMICAL LEVELS													
EROSION													
EXTENSIVE WEATHER													
FIRE													
FORMWORKING													
MATERIAL HANDLING													
NOISE													
NOISE ASSESSMENT													
RADIATION													
TRUCKS													
WORKING AT / FROM / UNDER / NEAR / ON / OVERHEAD													
KEY TO COLOR													
A - HEALTH SURVEILLANCE - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
B - HEALTH MONITORING (BEST PRACTICE) - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
C - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
D - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
E - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
F - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
G - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
H - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
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K - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
L - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
M - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
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X - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
Y - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													
Z - HEALTH ASSESSMENT REQUIRED - Ongoing (12-18 months) with health & medical / risk assessment required													



Health Risks

- Hand – arm vibration
- Noise – induced deafness
- Skin Disorders
- Respiratory Disease (various)
- Musculoskeletal Disorders
- Work Related Stress
- Safety Critical workers

Health Surveillance??

Aim: To have a range of strategies and techniques in place to detect signs and symptoms of work related ill health at an early stage and act on the results. It is not an end in itself but shows whether control measures are working

- Certain activities already require surveillance to be carried out – Asbestos at Work; Control of Lead; Work in Compressed Air.
- For the other risks the **burden of proof** is on us to show that there is no significant residual risk to health after the control measures have been applied.



Health Surveillance is needed

HAV – If exposure action value of 2.5ms^2 is exceeded and where the exposure limit value of 5.0ms^2 is exceeded.

Noise – If regularly exposed to noise over the exposure action level of 85 dB(A)

Burden of Proof Question: Can you prove that your employee is not exceeding these legal levels?

Health Surveillance is needed

Skin Disorders – COSHH requirement that exposure to any agent known to cause skin damage would require surveillance skin checks. (R43 Risk Phrase: May cause sensitisation by skin contact)

Respiratory Disease – Where workers are exposed to substances and processes where occupational **asthma** is a known problem (R42 Risk Phrase: May cause sensitisation by inhalation)

Silica levels above $0.1\text{mg}/\text{m}^3$.

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease : cause by smoking, coal dust, silica, grain, wood dust, metal fumes

Burden of Proof Question: Can you prove that your employee is not exceeding these legal requirements/ levels?



Health Surveillance is needed

Safety Critical Workers – “where the ill health of an individual may compromise their ability to undertake a task defined a safety critical, thereby posing a significant risk to health and safety of others”

In construction the following have been defined as safety critical: **Hi speed road workers**

All mobile plant operators

* Occupational Health Standards for the UK Construction Industry



Occupational Health Service Providers

- Competence checks on service provider
- Confirm individual competency levels – usually current registration with the Nursing and Midwifery Council, as a minimum.
- Obtain a specific service level agreement in conjunction with your health assessment requirements.



Other issues to be aware of

- Pre placement requirements/ Questionnaire vetting
- Disability Discrimination
- Work Related Stress
- Alcohol and Drugs



Questions?