





WHAT DOES IT MEAN?

- EU Physical Agents (Vibration) Directive 2002/44/EC was introduced on 6th July 2005. This directive has gained legal status across Europe and is now law in the UK under the Vibration at Work Regulations.
- The aim of the law is to reduce or prevent the most commonly reported industrial disease HAVS (Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome) and in particular its best known form Vibration White Finger (VWF).







- HSE estimates 300,000 people (in the UK) with advanced stage VWF.
- Several hundred millions of compensation have been awarded already ... HSE estimates that much larger compensations will yet be sought and awarded.





- The employer by law must:
 - Assess the risk of every employee subjected to vibrations.
 - Keep the assessment updated and filed.
- Minimise the risk to every employee.
- Ensure that the legally permissible limit is not exceeded.
- Manage the danger to every employee.
- Advise every employee, who is at risk, of the potential danger to his health!





EAV = EXPOSURE ACTION VALUE 2.5 m/s² (A8)

- If a worker is found, through risk assessment to be receiving a hand arm vibration dose, above EAV, the following steps must be taken immediately:
 - The risk must be acknowledged.
 - The worker must be informed.
 - The risk must be monitored.
 - Medical examination must be offered.
 - Practical ways must be sought to reduce the exposure.



ELV = EXPOSURE LIMIT VALUE 5 m/s² (A8)

- Working above this level will not be permitted.
- Working above the limit ELV is likely to affect health!
- If a worker is found to have been exposed to vibration above ELV, the following steps must be taken by the employer immediately:
 - Prevent exposure by seeking alternative working methods.
 - Advise the employee.
 - Offer regular health checks.
 - Advise the authorities as soon as damage to the employee's health has been identified!





DANGER

- Electro pneumatic rotary hammers and breakers cause extremely high vibrations!
- When using rotary hammers to drill larger diameter holes the limits EAV and ELV are reached in a frighteningly short time!



How can the employer reduce vibrations with rotary hammers?

- **HSE recommends** = consider alternative methods i.e., diamond drilling instead of hammer drilling.
- **Hilti recommends** = consider alternative working methods such as diamond drilling instead of hammer drilling.
- **Bosch recommends** = consider alternative working methods i.e., diamond drilling instead of rotary hammer drilling.
- **Makita recommends** = consider alternative working methods i.e., diamond drilling instead of hammer drilling.





- The vibration figures provided by the power tool industry are average figures based on a variety of holes from small to large.
- The figures are based on new and sharp drill bits and quite often on an average of materials from soft to hard!
- As soon as hard English concrete is being drilled with large diameter bits or TCT cores, the vibration skyrockets!
- If blunt TCT cores were to be used, the vibration levels would increase even more dramatically!





Example:

 Drilling of unreinforced concrete, 45 newton, limestone aggregate, 300 mm depth, Ø 82 mm.

Maximum number of holes by one man

to real exposure action value (EAV).

Makita HR 4011-c AVT	1.3 Holes *		
Vibration dampened (new machine)			
Ø 82 mm TCT core (New)			
Marcrist DDM3 with DS150 Drill Stand	605 Holes *		
Ø 82 mm Diamond core			

 Vibration levels measured and certified by "Fivesquared Vibration Management Solutions" one of Britain's leading vibration management institutions.



THE SOLUTION

- Diamond drilling with quality diamond cores.
- 506 holes per day in 45 newton concrete, Ø 82 mm, 300 mm depth.



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ALLOWABLE MAXIMUM NUMBER OF HOLES *										
Drill Type	Diameter (mm)	Machine	Hand-held or rig mounted	Wet or dry	Material	Time to drill 80 mm	Time to drill 300 mm	Max allowable time	Max allowable no of holes (300 mm depth)	
Marcrist Diamond Core CCU850X	78	DDM3	Hand-held	Dry	Concrete	0.55	3.26	06:00:00	104.7	
Marcrist Diamond Core CCU805X	78	DDM3	Hand-held	Dry	London Brick	0.19	1.11	16:00:00	808.4	
Marcrist Diamond Core WCU	82	DDM3	Rig Mounted	Wet	Concrete	0.38	2.22	23:59:00	605.9	
Marcrist Diamond Core WCF	35	DDM3	Rig Mounted	Wet	Concrete	0.39	2.26	20:00:00	492.3	
TCT Hammer Bit	82	Makita	Hand-held	Dry	Concrete	3.36	13.30	00:17:00	1.3	
SDS Masonry Drill	35	Makita	Hand-held	Dry	Concrete	1.08	4.15	00:40:00	9.4	

* Measured and Certified by Fivesquared Management Solutions (February 2009)