

Dear Health and Safety Industry of New Zealand

My name is Jason Johnstone and I have hand arm vibration syndrome.

Some of you may know about hand arm vibration or whole body vibration, some won't. But believe me, vibration workplace harm is a real thing and categorized as a schedule two disease under New Zealand legislation, see number 14 & 25:

<https://www.legislation.govt.nz/act/public/2001/0049/latest/DLM105458.html>

Why are nuclear power plant worker monitored for workplace radiation exposure daily, because radiation is very harmful, this is well known. Sure, radiation and vibration are completely different energy sources, but both are categorized as schedule two events under occupational disease legislation in New Zealand so why don't we take workplace vibration more seriously? Is the life of nuclear power plant employee valued more than say a road worker, builder, or engineer?

Back in 2005, the United Kingdom introduced the Control of Vibration at Work Regulations, but hand arm vibration injuries still do occur with companies facing prosecution. Although the rates of hand arm vibration injuries have reduced the fact remains, hundreds of people are still being harmed each year by workplace vibration. Their legislation is very clear on monitoring for workplace vibration, but only requires a one or two-day snapshot of workplace exposure. If New Zealand wants to reduce the burden of workplace vibration, then we must monitor for workplace vibration daily. It's really that simple.

Imagine this, a worker is using a drill, they are drilling away at concrete and then hit a steel rod imbedded within the concrete. Because we only measured one day's worth of tool vibration exposure, we don't see this event occurring. So, the employee continues working while been over exposed to vibration. Workplace vibration is a daily event for many New Zealanders and by measuring vibration frequency once or twice yearly we will continue to harm our people. Again, this a real fact, I am living proof.

While studying occupational health and safety, I met others with the signs and symptoms of hand arm vibration, most didn't even know what hand arm vibration was or that the tools they used daily caused their injury. I decide to do something about it.

I investigated overseas solutions and said to myself I could do much better, Vibration Action was born. I've developed an everyday workplace glove system that detect vibration frequency from hand power tools and machinery at the point of contact, the fingertips. The glove design is based on normal workplace gloves to cover each sector, they are not special apart from the smart technology imbedded within their construction. All data is then uploaded to the cloud in real time with real time alerts and reports. Alerts are sent by TXT and email once a user reaches 80% of the daily vibration exposure levels as set by Work Safe NZ. It's very simple to use with a low-cost point compared to overseas products making it more accessible to individuals.

The same technology used within the glove system can be used to detect whole body vibration with different hardware. Vibration Action solutions have been designed on feedback I've received from each industry. With your help i.e. pre orders for devices, or sponsorship etc., we can make a difference to the way we protect our workforce. REMEMBER, what we don't measure we can't protect against...

Any questions please contact me directly -Jason Johnstone jason@vibration-action.com