

Case Study

Client

NSG - Pilkington UK

Sector

Manufacturing

Services

Exposure monitoring, workplace noise and hand arm vibration risk assessments.

Project Overview

The NSG Group is one of the world's leading manufacturers in three major business areas: Architectural Glass, Automotive and Technical Glass.

AEC's Approach

The NSG Group operate a strong health and safety culture and the manufacturer appointed AEC to deliver a regular programme of services including occupational hygiene exposure monitoring, workplace noise and hand arm vibration risk assessments.

Due to the nature of the business, NSG regularly undertake operations involving COSHH regulated substances, and which can also generate potential elevated noise levels and vibration risks.

AEC provided:

1) Occupational Hygiene Exposure Monitoring

AEC have undertaken exposure monitoring within a number of differing areas across NSG Pilkington UK sites for a range of substances including silica, diesel fumes, RCF, metals, NO_x, SO₂ etc.

Each time the main objective of monitoring works was to assess both operative exposure and background levels through a programme of personal and fixed-point sampling. This was to determine if current control measures in place were suitable.

During assessments samples to determine airborne concentrations were collected and compared to any relevant workplace exposure limits, as well as any relevant information relating to existing control measures, including LEV, working practices, or RPE.

Following the monitoring exercise findings, observations and recommendations along with an action plan are presented highlighting any improvements that could be implemented to the on-going health, safety and well-being of operatives.



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2) Hand-arm vibration assessments

HAV assessments have also been carried out to determine if operatives undergoing various activities that involve the use of powered hand-tools or the like, are being exposed to elevated levels of vibration above those detailed within current guidance.

On-tool measurements were collected in order to evaluate levels of HAV present, with measurements being made either during standard tasks, or if required with activities being replicated in order to simulate exposure levels.

Operator exposure levels were then calculated along with a points per hour usage value, plus the length of time any particular tool could be used or activity undertaken before both the exposure action value and exposure limit value would be reached.

Observations and recommendations along with an action plan were presented highlighting any ongoing risks or concerns and what action needed to be taken to ensure the on-going health, safety and well-being of operatives.

3) Noise Assessments

Workplace noise risk assessments were also carried out to measure the sound exposure levels, which operatives undertaking various activities across sites were exposed to.

During the assessments AEC carried out:

Spot measurements across all areas in order to build up a picture of workplace noise levels during typical day to day operations, including personal sampling on a wide range of operatives in order to calculate their daily exposures whilst they carried out their typical daily routines.

As with all works, following the assessments, the monitoring data, observations, and recommendations were presented along with advice and guidance where required.

AEC continue to support Pilkington UK with both their regular compliance programme as well as one-off assessments as required, delivering services on time and within budget to enable Pilkington UK to maintain high levels of compliance and to ensure the on-going health, safety and well-being of operatives at all times.


Testimonial


“AEC carry out all of our monitoring from noise assessments, to air monitoring for respirable silica and hand-arm vibration assessments for tools used across our sites. The hygienists are very knowledgeable and flexible to our shift patterns and the monitoring is always carried out in a safe manner.

The reports are returned quickly and although they are of a technical nature, a simple summary with recommendations is very useful to share with the team. AEC are highly recommended and we will continue to use them in the coming years. ”

Contact

If you would like to discuss compliance within your workplace, please contact our team

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