

Occupational health surveillance framework for construction

B&CE

This B&CE Occupational health surveillance framework for construction has been developed based on evidence from the Health and Safety Executive, research and best practice. The Framework makes it easy for employers to comply with health and safety legislation. It also enables any required health surveillance to be identified, so that ill health effects are detected early.

The employer must carry out a risk assessment, which will identify:

- any health hazards in the workplace,
- who is at risk, and
- the measures taken to control the hazard.

Where the hazard cannot be removed totally, and is likely to cause a health condition, a health surveillance programme is required – this is a **legal obligation**. This occupational health surveillance framework forms the basis of that programme and is designed to meet the requirements for all construction workers who are regularly exposed to dust, chemicals, noise and vibration.

The occupational health service providers who responded to our consultation told us that it wasn't clear what should happen for the estimated 10% of workers who are:

- exposed to specific hazards or
- have early symptoms of work-related illness and will require additional health surveillance (eg for silica, lead, etc).





So we're adding to this framework to show what's needed for these workers as well.

"Safety critical worker" assessments are not included in the framework as this is **not** a legal requirement. The construction industry agreed that it caused confusion and that we should remove it.



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A face-to-face baseline health surveillance appointment is recommended when a worker first joins the industry or becomes exposed to a new hazard. This is followed by a three-year rolling programme. Full details are set out in the table below:

 Year 0	 Year 1	 Year 2	 Year 3
Face-to-face	Online	Online	Face-to-face
Baseline health surveillance appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health surveillance questionnaire • Blood pressure • Vision • Hearing surveillance (if required) • Respiratory surveillance (if required) • Skin surveillance (if required) • Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) surveillance (if required) 	Health surveillance questionnaire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing surveillance questions (if required) • Respiratory surveillance questions (if required) • Skin surveillance questions (if required) • HAVS surveillance questions (if required) 	Health surveillance questionnaire: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hearing surveillance questions (if required) • Respiratory surveillance questions (if required) • Skin surveillance questions (if required) • HAVS surveillance questions (if required) 	Health surveillance questionnaire and face-to-face appointment: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Health surveillance questionnaire • Blood pressure • Hearing surveillance (if required) • Respiratory surveillance (if required) • Skin surveillance (if required) • Hand Arm Vibration Syndrome (HAVS) surveillance (if required)

Where the results of health surveillance indicate that there may be a work-related health issue, the scheme guidance will set out the required frequency of health surveillance until the issue is stable.

When a worker changes employer, they will fill in an online health assessment questionnaire to determine whether they have a health condition which may impact their work, and if adjustments are required.

Find out more at:

www.bandce.co.uk/occupational-health

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