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Publication of the Occupational Health Assessment matrix

An at-a-glance guide to occupational health assessments for construction workers has been launched.

Although breaches of safety regulations hit the headlines when accidents occur, many more working days are actually lost due to occupational ill health.

Now, Constructing Better Health, the industry backed occupational health scheme, has published an Occupational Health Assessment matrix of standards providing information on a range of health assessments matched with specific job profiles.

The matrix is aimed at both construction industry employers and occupational health service providers to employers, as it summarises in an easy to view format what health surveillance (dependant on risk assessment) should be undertaken.

The proposed 21 standards are all coded and identified as one of the following four key categories:

- Statutory health assessments.
- Strongly recommended assessments - possible legal requirement.
- Recommended - no legal requirement.
- Safety critical role worker assessments (a proposed 'increased risk worker' category has now been removed from the final standards).

Statutory health assessments include respiratory health, hearing, hand-arm vibration syndrome and chest x-rays among the listed standards.

The category for safety critical workers is relevant to all mobile plant operators, high-speed road workers, rail track side workers and others identified by risk assessment.

Michelle Aldous, Chief Executive of Constructing Better Health said:
“Constructing Better Health will help generations of construction workers and their families – this matrix though just one small element of the work undertaken makes a significant contribution.”

Copies of the matrix are available to purchase from Construction Industry Publications Ltd (CIP), at £10 per copy. Order from CIP, 3 Gatelodge Close, Round Spinney, Northampton, NN3 8RJ. Tel 0870 078 4400, or via their website www.cip-books.com

Notes to editors:

1. CIP can be contacted:
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2. Constructing Better Health (CBH) is the industry backed occupational health scheme for construction. www.constructingbetterhealth.co.uk