

Curriculum Vitae – Dr David Usher

PERSONAL PROFILE

I began working as a professional ergonomist in 1980 when I was involved in power station control room design. In 1991, I founded the consultancy Interaction of Bath, now registered with the UK Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors for the provision of the full range of ergonomics services, including process control room design, manual handling risk assessment, software tool development and expert witness work.

My academic background is strong: I am a Chartered Physicist as well as a Fellow of the Chartered Institute of Ergonomics and Human Factors. I take particular care with the quality of my written output; my reports have been commended as correct, clear and concise.



Dave Usher

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EXPERT WITNESS EXPERIENCE

The legal cases for which I have provided expert evidence include:

- A forklift truck driver's claim for back injury
- A claim against a hairdresser for 'beauty parlour syndrome': stroke caused by neck trauma
- A claim against a pharmaceutical company for injury from handling medicines
- A hairdresser's claim for RSI caused by overwork at fashion shows
- Defence against an improvement order for the workstations used for computer training
- A claim for upper limb injury from handling trolleys in the catering industry
- A production-line worker's claim for degenerative injury of the arms
- A claim for compensation for back injury from handling large window frames
- A production worker's claim for RSI caused by operating a magazine insertion machine
- A cleaner's claim against her employer for Carpal Tunnel Syndrome caused by using a floor polishing machine
- A claim of RSI arising from unpacking boxes of clothing in the logistics industry.

In most cases I have taken the lead in producing a Joint Statement with the ergonomist for the other party, and I am experienced in presenting clearly the differing points of view. I have also acted as a Single Joint Expert on many occasions.

SPLIT

To date, my ergonomics expert witness work has been split as follows:

- 85% for the Claimant
- 5% for the Defendant
- 10% as a Single Joint Expert.

GENERAL ERGONOMICS EXPERIENCE

One of the advantages of maintaining a portfolio of work extending outside the legal domain is the perspective it gives of current employment practices in industry and elsewhere. This allows me to gauge the extent of foreseeability of an injury and whether it could reasonably have been mitigated.

The following examples illustrate my experience of different industries:

- The Human Factors analysis of weapon handling systems for Royal Navy submarines
- A EU-funded project concerned with the human, societal and ethical factors in the resilience of public buildings against terrorist attack
- The design and assessment of a secure mail opening facility, to mitigate musculoskeletal injury and enhance productivity
- Operability analysis of railway maintenance depots
- Production of a system for automatic handwriting recognition and support for medical coding.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS

Professional Bodies	Fellow, Chartered Institute of Ergonomics & Human Factors APIL First Tier Expert (the highest tier) Member, HCI group, British Computer Society Chartered Member, Institute of Physics
Doctorate	D Phil Department of Physics, University of York, 1981
Degree	Physics (with honours) 2.i Imperial College of Science and Technology, London, 1977
A-levels	Maths (A), Physics (A), Chemistry (A), Applied Maths (B), Maths Pure & Applied (B)

STANDARDS

I am familiar with all ergonomics standards, including ISO 9241 (Display Screen Equipment), ISO 10075-2 (mental workload), ISO 11064 (control-room design) and ISO 11228 (Manual Handling).

Health and Safety legislation such as the Manual Handling Operations Regulations 1992 and the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998 is central to my work as an ergonomist.

My legal reports follow the legal format specified in Practice Direction Part 35 and (for civil claims) the Protocol for Instruction of Experts to give Evidence in Civil Claims.

Interaction of Bath is certified to the quality standard ISO 9001, providing traceability and adherence to process.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

I was born in Bath in 1954. I am married, with two children. My interests are music (particularly opera), politics and food. I do not smoke.

Foreign languages: French (O level), Italian (colloquial), German (rudimentary).