



# The Safety Observer



Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

March 2015 - Issue 9

Welcome to the March 2015 edition of The Safety Observer, the newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The SAFETY OBSERVER contains information that is current, informative and useful to subscribers. We keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO UPDATE, the quarterly magazine, was circulated on 21 January last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April 2015. The last edition of SAFETY OBSERVER was distributed on 12 December 2015.

March 2015

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7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
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We are now also sending **The Safety Observer** to all contacts within member companies for which we have an email address.

**WANT additional employees added to our distribution list\***, or to **CHECK** the listing for your organisation, call or email <[info@niso.ie](mailto:info@niso.ie)>.

\* Corporate members only



## NISO to host Asbestos Management Seminar with HSA

NISO is holding a seminar on Asbestos Management in the Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1 on 26 February 2015.

[Read more](#)

## NISO to host Hand Protection seminar in Cork

NISO is holding a Hand Protection seminar in Club Niblicks, The Clubhouse, Fota Island Resort, Cork, on 26 March 2015.

[Bookings](#)

## Upcoming NISO events

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards 2015](#)

[NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz 2015](#)

**In this issue...**Safety news...Safety in images...In the courts...Publications/Guidance...Research reports...MCIB reports...Safety Alerts...Mobile apps...NISO training and events...

## IRISH NEWS

### New workplace vehicle safety campaign

When you zone out, people get hurt. The purpose of this campaign is to flag the dangers of switching off mentally or going on autopilot when operating workplace vehicles such as forklifts, trucks and vans. These vehicles are often driven in confined areas with co-workers in the immediate vicinity. It's vital for vehicle operators to keep their focus and stay alert.

<http://goo.gl/8vTXGW>

### What workplaces will be inspected in 2015?

The Health and Safety Authority has published its inspection and investigation programme for 2015 which will include 11,955 planned sectoral and planned activity inspections. Sectors targeted for inspections include agriculture, construction, healthcare, public sector, mines/quarries, docks, transport/storage, reactive and proactive inspections together with inspections and suits under chemicals legislation such as COMAH, REACH, ADR, Petroleum stores and occupational hygiene. View NISO's table of planned inspections.

<http://goo.gl/sL4gC8>

### Driving for Work Risk Management

Does your organisation have employees who drive for work?

You need to know the "Top Ten" items when tackling the task of Driving for Work Risk Management.

<http://goo.gl/16V0V5>

### **Farm Safety - Slurry course available**

A free short online course entitled "Spread Slurry Safely" is now available. This course provides farmers with an opportunity to increase their awareness of the dangers associated with slurry and how to prevent accidents occurring to themselves and to others.

<http://goo.gl/pBfuhq>

### **CLP Regulation**

With 3 months to go to 1 June 2015 deadline, formulators and importers are reminded that all hazardous chemical mixtures placed on the Irish market from 1 June 2015 must comply with the CLP regulation (Regulation 1272/2008).

<http://goo.gl/7xvmHd>

### **HSA appear before Oireachtas Committee on Farm Deaths**

In response to the background of 30 farm related deaths in 2014, the HSA outlined to the Oireachtas Joint Committee on Agriculture, Food and the Marine, on 29 January 2015, that about 20 percent of the Authority's budget was allocated to agriculture, which comprises about six percent of the national workforce. The CEO of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) said that farmers are more likely to die in work accidents, with dairy farmers particularly at risk. The Committee was encouraged by the HSA approach in working collaboratively with farmers, through knowledge transfer groups, for instance, to foster cultural change.

<http://goo.gl/7rINF4>

### **Farmer in the North urged to complete farm safety study**

The Ulster Farmers' Union (UFU) is calling on the 8,000 farm businesses, selected at random, to complete and return the voluntary Farm Safety Partnership Survey. The Partnership has produced a survey for farmers to complete and the results will be used to support its work in farm safety.

<http://goo.gl/NnBrv1>

### **Elderly Farmer deaths a factor in fatality figures for 2014**

Older farmers are accounting for a disproportionate amount of farm-related fatalities, particularly those who have returned to an agricultural setting following the economic crash. Research conducted by Teagasc and the Health and Safety Authority has revealed a marked increase in the incidence of farm deaths over the last five years, culminating in one of the worst years on record in 2014.

According to the project's lead researcher, Dr David Meredith, an NUI PhD student, fatalities amongst the population of farmers under 45 years of age since 2009 are below the long run average. By analysing the available data, the NUI Maynooth PhD student was also able to identify an increased risk posed for former construction workers returning to an agricultural environment.

<http://goo.gl/p3akjd>

### **Consultation on Seveso III Regulations**

The HSA has launched a second round consultation on the Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015. The purpose of these Regulations is to transpose Directive 2012/18/EU of the European Parliament and of the Council of 4 July 2012 on the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances, amending and subsequently repealing Council Directive 96/82/EC.

The Regulations revoke and replace, with effect from 1 June 2015, the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. No. 74 of 2006). The closing date for responses is 5.00 p.m. Friday 6th March 2015.

<http://goo.gl/2Lbdr3>

### **Explosion at Perth shopping centre kills Irishman**

A 30 year old Irishman was killed in an explosion at a shopping centre in Perth, Australia. The men responsible were reportedly carrying out routine maintenance near the electrical transformer at the time of the blast.

<http://goo.gl/mgXKxr>

### **R22 (HCFC) and Halon Critical Use Phase-out**

HCFCs have been used as refrigerant gases since the complete phase out of the older CFC refrigerants. The most commonly used HCFC refrigerant is known as R22 and has been in widespread use in applications in many economic sectors. However, all HCFCs were completely banned after 31 December 2014. Therefore, from 1 January 2015, the use of all R22 in the maintenance or servicing of existing refrigeration, air conditioning and heat pump equipment was prohibited. Although equipment containing R22 can continue to be used beyond 31 December 2014, there can be no maintenance or servicing carried out on the equipment that involves breaking into the refrigerant circuits.

Halon has been used as a fire extinguishing agent for many years, until it was prohibited under European law in 2003. However, halon can continue to be used in some limited situations and this is known as critical use. All halon used at airfields and airports on crash rescue vehicles and for the protection of aircraft in hangars and maintenance areas must cease by 31 December 2016.

<http://goo.gl/IFFZJM>

### **Farm Safety Seminar attended by over 100 farmers**

A farm safety seminar organised by the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) in Claremorris, Co Mayo, on 19 February 2015 was attended by over 100 farmers. A distinguished panel of six speakers imparted their knowledge about accident causes, livestock, children, chemicals, traumas, hospital admissions, lone working, stress, insurance, risk assessments, statutory inspections and the shocking reality. NISO wishes

to especially thank Aurivo and the IFA for promoting the event.

## UK NEWS

### Fit for Work Advice

A Government funded Fit for Work advice line has been launched in the UK. The service offers advice on returning to work issues. The aim of the advice line is to reduce sickness absence and has a two pronged approach. The first part is a free expert advice line available online or by phone. The second part of the scheme is the occupational health assessment where employees can be referred to their GP for an assessment with an occupational Health professional. The professional will identify obstacles preventing them from returning to work and produce a return to work plan tailored to the employee's needs.

<http://goo.gl/fx7MXa>

### Injury and ill Health Statistics - UK

Figures published show that Britain continues to be one of the safest places to work in Europe. However, too many workers are still being injured or made ill by work. Injury and ill-health statistics released by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) show that an estimated 28.2 million working days were lost due to work related ill health or injury in 2013/14.

<http://goo.gl/41hJdP>

### HSL launch new GRIP footwear range

Slips and trips continue to be the biggest cause of workplace injuries so HSL have launched a new footwear rating scheme called GRIP that provides free information to health and safety managers so that they can make informed, evidence based decisions before purchasing slip resistant footwear.

<http://goo.gl/POFxJl>

## EUROPEAN NEWS

### European Safety Week - Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress

European Safety Week 2015 continues with the same theme as last year: "Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress" and the relevant date is the week commencing 19 October 2015 - Week 43.

### ECHA Newsletter - February

This month's edition of the newsletter features interesting articles such as how to substitute SVHC's successfully, raising the awareness of chemicals used in textiles and clothing, further risk management actions for CMR substances and information on the search for chemicals which has greatly improved in January.

<http://goo.gl/KtL77o>

### Cross border traffic penalties lifted by European Parliament

The European Parliament has voted to approve a new law enabling police to enforce penalties on foreign motorists who break traffic rules. Non-resident drivers account for approximately 5% of road traffic in the EU but are responsible for 15% of speeding offences, according to European Commission figures. The law is expected to save at least 400 lives a year. The new rules cover offences including speeding, drink driving, using a mobile phone at the wheel and ignoring red lights. Ireland is one of three countries who have an additional two years to implement the new law.

<http://goo.gl/Q7CgZn>

### Public Consultation on Perfluorooctanoic acids (PFOAs)

ECHA calls for public consultation on proposed restriction of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and PFOA related substances. There is currently a proposal being considered by the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) to introduce a restriction on the manufacturing, import and use of Perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA), its salts and related substances, and articles containing these substances. Submissions can be made to the European Chemicals Agency before 17 June 2015.

<http://goo.gl/ToBBf7>

## SAFETY IN IMAGES

### Health and Safety Myths

HSE finds 45% of all health and safety myths are down to poor customer service.

<http://goo.gl/YkTH0Z>

Inadequate sanitation facilities for its construction workers.

<http://goo.gl/qyRY53>

## IN THE COURTS

### Cleaning contractor fined for endangering staff

A cleaning contractor was fined €500 and ordered to pay €2,000 in legal costs after he was found guilty at Dublin District Court of breaking the Safety and Health and Welfare at Work Act. The court heard that a “man-basket”, a mobile working platform, carrying the employee slid off a

teleporter's forks and fell to the ground resulting in him being hospitalised for 13 days.

<http://goo.gl/G3lTW4>

### Transport firm fined for safety breach

On 23 January 2015, Iggy Madden Transport Limited, was fined €20,000 after pleading guilty to a breach of Regulation 95(1)(a) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 contrary to Section 77(2)(c) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, in that they failed as an employer to ensure that work at height was appropriately supervised.

<http://goo.gl/v64UuQ>

### Garda injured taking down bonfire

A garda who suffered head injuries while dismantling a dangerous Halloween night bonfire site at a Dublin flat complex has been awarded €10,000 compensation in the High Court. The court heard that the Garda needed to take time off work and the wound had left a small permanent indentation on his forehead.

<http://goo.gl/PWgzTc>

### Multi million settlement for student after tree falls on car

A student left brain damaged and blind in one eye after a tree fell on his car as he drove home from college has settled his High Court action for about €3.75 million. The student had sued a Rathdrum [Co Wicklow] landowner, whose lands bordered the road, and Wicklow County Council as a result of the accident. Both denied the claim.

<http://goo.gl/XCjYR6>

### Compensation for Injuries at Petrol Station

A model has been awarded compensation (€9,000) for injuries at a petrol station after she was attacked by a sales assistant who claimed she had not paid for her petrol.

<http://goo.gl/2hD66h>

### Schoolboy in Playground incident awarded EUR25,000

An 11-year-old schoolboy, who injured several teeth in a courtyard fall while playing “bulldog” with a group of fellow pupils, has been awarded €25,000 damages in the Circuit Civil Court against his school in Ballmun, Dublin.

<http://goo.gl/tQDj5z>

### Woman loses claim against hotel for dance floor fall

A 76-year-old woman, who had been dancing in three-inch heels, has failed in her claim against the Gleneagle Hotel, Killarney, for slipping as she left the ballroom floor. The judge found that there was no failure on the part of the proprietor.

<http://goo.gl/QL3GE9>

### Suspended sentence for farming company director after elderly worker killed by bull

A Staffordshire dairy farm director has been handed a four-month prison sentence, suspended for a year, after safety failings led to a 75-year-old worker being crushed by a bull.

<http://goo.gl/QoXne0>

## PUBLICATIONS / GUIDANCE

### Reducing the Manual Handling of Glazing Units information sheet

This information sheet focuses on risk-reduction measures for systems of work used for the manual handling of glazing units from a storage area on site to the point of installation. It highlights the physical risk factors associated with the manual handling of glazing units and presents examples of how such risk factors can be reduced through the introduction of systems of work which reduce or eliminate the manual handling

of glazing units, thereby reducing the risk of injury, particularly back injury. It illustrates examples of good practice and bad practice in terms of systems of work for handling glazing units.

<http://goo.gl/jQ6Llo>

### Hazards in Port and Dock Operations Information Sheet

This information sheet provides guidance on some of the main hazards encountered in port and dock operations. It will be of assistance to employers when conducting a risk assessment of their or their employees' work activities in ports and docks. It will also be of interest to anyone who visits ports and docks during the course of their work.

<http://goo.gl/DNlimU>

### **Management of Health and Safety in Ports and Docks Information Sheet**

This information sheet provides basic information and guidance on the management of health and safety for people involved in port and dock operations, including port authorities, stevedoring companies, terminal operators (such as container, Roll-on Roll-off [Ro-Ro], Lift-on Lift-off [Lo-Lo] and passenger ferry companies), transport and logistics companies and shipping agents.

<http://goo.gl/43FbHO>

### **Managing Health and Safety in Fishing**

The aim of this HSA produced guidance document is to help improve standards of safety and health in the commercial sea/marine fishing sector. In an effort to aid prevention of accidents and ill-health among fishermen, this guidance document looks at the role of the Safety Statement in managing health and safety, the most common causes of death, injury and ill-health and gives basic information to help illuminate or control the risks involved in fishing.

<http://goo.gl/lgOcQm>

### **HSA Programme of Work**

This is the third programme of work prepared by the Health and Safety Authority under its strategy for 2013 to 2015. The programme for 2015 has a significant level of continuity with previous years as they build on the groundwork and achievements of earlier programmes.

<http://goo.gl/hoCtXy>

### **Revised printing industry guidance**

The UK's HSE has revised a number of publications for the printing industry:

Safeguarding paper converting and finishing machines in printing

<http://goo.gl/Y11Mtw>

Safeguarding bookbinding machines in printing

<http://goo.gl/MsNDEx>

Safeguarding cutting machines in printing

<http://goo.gl/v41uGx>

### **Health and Safety in Food and Drink Manufacturing**

This UK guidance entitled "A Recipe for Safety" covers the main health and safety hazards in the food and drink industry and gives practical advice on how to manage the associated risks. This latest edition has been revised by HSE and a working group and is for everyone in the industry, including workers, supervisors, managers, directors, health and safety professionals and health and safety representatives. The guidance covers the main health and safety hazards in the food and drink industries and gives practical advice on how to manage the associated risks. It provides a 'one-stop shop' reference document with links to more detailed guidance. The food and drink industries comprise around 30 different manufacturing sectors such as bakeries, meat and poultry processing, drink manufacture, dairy processing, fish processing, chilled food production, vegetable processing and grain milling / animal feeds.

<http://goo.gl/w9p2iN>

### **Four sided Moulding Machines**

The UK's HSE has published an information sheet gives practical guidance for employers on guarding and safe working practices for both new and older models of four-sided moulding machines. This revision also includes more detailed information on safe setting and adjustment. The information is aimed at employers and others who have control of how these machines are used. Machine operators will also find this information of use.

<http://goo.gl/ZQRVRx>

### **Safety of pressure systems: ACOP and guidance L122 – (2nd edition)**

The aim of the UK's Pressure Systems Safety Regulations (PSSR) is to prevent serious injury from the hazard of stored energy (pressure) as a result of the failure of a pressure system or one of its component parts.

The revised PSSR Approved Code of Practice (ACOP) and guidance is aimed at dutyholders under PSSR who are involved with pressure systems used at work. It is for users, owners, competent persons, designers, manufacturers, importers, suppliers and installers of pressure systems used at work.

Please note that while this guidance provided good advice and guidance, it is based on the UK's Pressure Systems Safety Regulations 2000.

<http://goo.gl/zbE118>

## **RESEARCH REPORTS**

### **An exploration of the current effectiveness of worker engagement practices in the quarry industry (RR1031)**

<http://goo.gl/MhbgzN>

### **EU-OSHA report investigates identification and prevention of work-related cancer**

The report evaluates current assessment methods and highlights gaps in our present knowledge of occupational cancer risk factors and work-related cancer. It also provides recommendations on how we can fill these gaps to help us move closer to preventive measures.

Summary Report:

<http://goo.gl/oJkeDP>

Full Report:

<http://goo.gl/rTCWAm>

#### **Exposure to carcinogens in surface engineering: Supplementary report (RR1042)**

This report examines the efficacy of gloves, the use of surfactants and local exhaust ventilation in chromium plating, and the potential for transfer of contaminants outside the workplace.

<http://goo.gl/SkJLXj>

#### **Safe use of Acetylene - Research**

Research has been carried out into how ventilation in the rear of enclosed vans affects the build-up of acetylene gas. Whilst acetylene cylinders should normally be carried in open vehicles this provides essential information to those assessing the risk of carrying acetylene in vehicles. This will include employers, managers, supervisors, employees and the self employed involved in the use of acetylene where this might involve carrying bottles in vehicles.

<http://goo.gl/lGDDcH>

### **STATISTICS**

At 28 January 2015, three persons have been killed in workplace accidents. There have been two farming fatalities and a quarry fatality in Freshford, Co Kilkenny accounting for the other death. A man has also died when a roof collapsed at a farm near Craigavon, Co Armagh.

<http://goo.gl/CG5QSw>

### **MCIB REPORTS**

The report "Investigation into the loss of the Sail Training Passenger Vessel, STV Astrid, on 24th July 2013" was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<http://goo.gl/Zf1gBn>

The report "Report of investigation into the fatal incident involving MFV Dean Leanne" in the vicinity of Brownstown Head, Co Waterford, on was published recently by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

<http://goo.gl/4EWgbg>

### **SAFETY ALERTS**

#### **Equestrian Helmets**

The European Commission has informed member states that standard EN 1384:2012 [Helmets for Equestrian Activities] is no longer a harmonised standard under the Directive 89/686/EEC on Personal Protective Equipment. This means that EN 1384:2012 can no longer be used to support CE marking of helmets by manufacturers; therefore helmets marked with reference to EN 1384:2012 only do not provide an adequate level of safety. It is advised that all new helmets being placed on the market and all helmets in use should be checked to ensure that they are manufactured to higher standards than EN 1384:2012.

<http://goo.gl/QiulYv>

#### **Concerns about blower-driven air to remove dust**

The UK's Institute of LEV Engineers (ILEVE) and others have expressed concerns about the use of blower-driven air for removing dust, fibres, grit etc from clothing and hard surfaces. This is because of the danger of redistributing dust into a person's breathing zone.

<http://goo.gl/mGMxow>

### **MOBILE APPS**

#### **iSnag 2**

This mobile app iSnag 2 is a mobile and web-based workflow management solution, primarily used in construction for quality management, snagging and defect management, permits to work, inspection and hand-overs, health and safety, site observations and condition surveys.

iSnag 2 is available for iOS and Android.

iOS: <http://goo.gl/rW4INV>

Android: <http://goo.gl/lFQFC7>

Note: NISO has not reviewed this app and therefore cannot comment on its usefulness.

## **NISO MEMBER SUBSCRIPTIONS 2015**

Many thanks to you if you have paid your annual subscription to NISO for 2015 . Outstanding subscriptions can be paid online [check emails of 19 to 22 December with subject line "NISO Membership Fee 2015 Renewal Fee" for link] or request the link / copy invoice by contacting us. Remember you need to be a subscribed corporate member to use the [NISO Member logo](#).

## **TRAINING**

[Manual Handling Basic](#) (half day); 5 March

[Occupational First Aid Certificate](#), QQI Level 5 (3 days); 11-13 March

[Occupational First Aid Re-Certification](#), QQI Level 5 (1 day); 23 March

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#) (1 day); 13 April

[Manual Handling Instructor and Assessors Course](#), QQI Level 6 (5 days: 3 days week 1 and 2 days week 2)

## **SEMINARS AND EVENTS**

[Seminar: Management of Asbestos](#); The Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1; 26 February

[Hand Protection Seminar](#); Club Niblicks, The Clubhouse, Fota Island Restort, Cork; 26 March

NISO AGM; The Gresham Hotel, Dublin 1; 23 April

[All Ireland Safety Quizzes](#)

Diary date: NISO Annual Conference and Safety Awards Dinner: 2 October; Galway

In addition to sending this publication to the membership contact, we are now in a position to send it to all contacts within member companies for which we have an email address. WANT additional employees added to our distribution list\*, or CHECK existing list, please give us a call or email <[info@niso.ie](mailto:info@niso.ie)>

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