



The Safety Observer



Monthly Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

July 2012 - Issue 3

New

Welcome to the third issue of the new look monthly newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation. The SAFETY OBSERVER is exclusive to NISO Members and contains information that is current, informative and useful to members. Each month we will keep you up to date on what is happening in occupational safety and health. NISO UPDATE, the quarterly 16 page magazine, was circulated on 18 July to members.

July 2012

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NEW: In addition to sending this publication to the membership contact, we are now also sending 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>.

* Corporate members only



2012 Annual Conference & Awards

Date for your diary

The [NISO Annual Conference](#) entitled "Safety and Health is your Wealth" will be held on Friday, 5 October 2012. The speakers to date feature a line up of national and international speakers.

The conference is supported by the Health and Safety Authority and sponsored by [Abbott Ireland Sligo](#), [Bord Gáis Networks](#), [Kilcawley Construction](#) and [Shell E&P Ireland Ltd.](#)

Three award competitions still await your entries.

[Safety Representative of the Award](#) [NISO in association with [NIFAST](#)]

[Construction Safety Innovation Award](#) [NISO in association with the [Construction Safety Partnership](#)]

[European Good Practice Awards](#) [European Agency for Safety and Health at Work]

HSA Annual Report 2011

During 2011 there were 32 prosecutions for health and safety breaches with penalties including five suspended sentences and €819,700 in fines imposed.

[Read more](#)

Creating your own Safety Statement has got even easier!

Over 7,500 small Irish businesses are using the recently improved BeSMART website. BeSMART.ie is a free online risk assessment and safety statement tool provided by the Health and Safety Authority. Sign up now to receive a BeSMART memory key with lots of useful health and safety information.

[Read more](#)

Summary of Workplace Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics 2010- 2011

The Health and Safety Authority's annual summary of statistics presents the most frequently sought information and statistics on occupational injury, illness and workplace fatalities in Ireland.

[Read more](#)

Draft "Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)" - A Guide for Business

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) requests comments and observations on its draft "Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR)" - A Guide for Business. The closing date for submissions is 5:00pm on Tuesday, 7 August 2012.

[Read more](#)

Businessregulation.ie - One place for regulatory information

A new website has been launched aimed at reducing the burden of red tape on business by bringing together in one place clear information on regulations imposed by over 30 Government bodies, including the Health and Safety Authority.

[Read more](#)

Health and Safety pays even in difficult times

In its latest annual report, EU-OSHA continues to argue for investment in workplace health and safety, for economic as well as ethical reasons. Highlights of the year include the flagship Foresight project on green jobs; secondary analysis of the data collected by the ESENER survey; the official launch of the OiRA risk assessment tool and the last year of the Safe Maintenance Campaign.

[Read more](#)

Report on mainstreaming OSH into teacher training

Ideally teachers need training on how to deliver risk education to pupils in schools. While it is challenging to get risk education properly embedded in school curricula, it is even more difficult to get it into the busy training programmes for future teachers. But it is not impossible and a new EU-OSHA case studies report presents various approaches and methods that could be considered or elaborated upon to prepare teachers to deliver risk education.

[Read more](#)

REACH Update

The next REACH registration deadline is 31 May 2013. By then, all substances manufactured in, or imported into, the EU at between 100 and 1000 tonnes per annum must be registered.

[Read more](#)

SIPTU opposes cuts to HSA budget

SIPTU has condemned Government plans to cut the annual budget of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) during a period when the number of deaths at work is increasing.

[Read more](#)

UK figures show workers fatally injured largely unchanged

Official statistics show the number of workers fatally injured in Britain last year remains largely unchanged. 173 workers were killed, a rate of 0.6 per 100,000 workers.

[Read more](#)

UK's HSE to commence charging for investigations and enforcement matters

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has confirmed that its cost recovery scheme, Fee for Intervention (FFI), will start on 1 October 2012 subject to Parliamentary approval. Will the Health and Safety Authority adopt a similar approach in the future?

[Read more](#)

Certain employee safety incentives may be illegal in U.S.

The U.S. Occupational Safety & Health Administration has warned U.S. employers that some safety incentive programs might discourage workers from reporting injuries, and therefore might "discriminate" against workers who wish to exercise their legal right to report injuries to their employer.

[Read more](#)

The US issues a hazard alert for workers in hydraulic fracturing

OSHA and NIOSH have issued a hazard alert on ensuring workers in hydraulic fracturing operations have appropriate protections from silica exposure.

[Read more](#)

Over five per cent of cancer deaths may be attributable to the workplace

For 2005, 5.3% (8,023) of cancer deaths were attributable to occupation (men: 8.2% (6,366); women 2.3% (1,657)) according to a study funded by the UK's Health and Safety Executive.

[Read more](#)

Scientists establish link between autoimmune diseases and nanoparticles

New groundbreaking research by scientists at Trinity College Dublin has found that exposure to nanoparticles can have a serious impact on health, linking it to rheumatoid arthritis and the development of other serious autoimmune diseases.

[Read more](#)

IARC - Diesel Exhaust Fumes cause cancer

The International Agency for Research on Cancer (IARC) has classified diesel engine exhaust as carcinogenic in humans.

[Read more](#)

New Health Eating Guidelines Launched

Two publications which provide general information and advice which complement the actions of Government in tackling obesity have been launched. The main changes to the food pyramid is that the top shelf of the food pyramid has changed.

[Read more](#)

The Six Principles of Persuasion

According to Dr Robert Cialdini, "People's ability to understand the factors that affect their behavior is surprisingly poor." Most people can't explain why they made a particular decision. The power of persuasion is invaluable in the occupational health and safety world. Dr. Robert Cialdini outlines six principles to help EHS professionals enhance their persuasion skills.

[Read more](#)

Farm injuries have risen by 35% in the last 5 years

New data presented by Teagasc shows that injuries on farms have risen by 35% in the last 5 years.

[Read more](#)

Recent Legislation

New Regulations [S.I. No. 75 of 2012] were introduced with effect from 1 April 2012 that increase the ordinary speed limit prescribed for Heavy Goods Vehicles from 80 kilometres per hour to 90 kilometres per hour, when driven on a motorway.

[Read more](#)

Limitation of Emissions of Volatile Organic Compounds [S.I. No. 186 of 2012] - These Regulations, signed by Minister for the Environment, Community and Local Government on 31 May, transpose Directive 2010/79/EU on the limitation of emissions of volatile organic compounds (VOCs). Directive 2010/79/EU amends Directive 2004/42/EC by inserting a new Annex III concerning analytical methods used to determine the VOC content of certain products.

[Read more](#)

Signals of Distress (Ships) Rules 2012 (S.I. No. 170 of 2012) - These Rules, signed by the Minister for Transport on 24 May 2012, prescribe the distress signals for ships and specify the circumstances in which such signals may be used.

[Read more](#)

Hygiene Rules for Food Business Operators [S.I. 168 of 2012] - These Regulations are intended to define "marginal, localised and restricted activity" laying down specific hygiene rules for food of animal origin. These Regulations apply to food business operators supplying food of animal origin from a retail catering establishment or retail bakery to other retail establishments. This regulation is effective from 1 June 2012.

[Read more](#)

Recent Accidents

A boy was killed in a farm incident in Co Donegal when he became trapped under a tractor at his uncle's farm near Kerrykeel on Saturday, 14 July.

[Read more](#)

A Co Down father-of-two died after he fell into a slurry tank while working on his farm.

[Read more](#)

Irishman dies in quarry accident in Australia - A County Wicklow quarry worker was buried in sand when he fell into a sandpit at a quarry in Talgai, near the city of Toowoomba.

[Read more](#)

Recent Court Decisions

Two 18 month suspended prison sentences were handed down to a roofing contractor on 29 June at the Criminal Courts, Dublin. The contractor was before the Courts after an accident where two of his employees were seriously injured after falling through an 8 metre high roof.

[Read more](#)

A pig farm, JMW Farms, was fined a Northern Ireland record of £187,500 plus £13,000 costs at Belfast's Laganside courthouse in May for corporate manslaughter, a gross breach of a duty of care.

[Read more](#)

An elderly woman was awarded €30,000 damages for a fall incurred on a travelator in a shopping centre in Walkinstown, Dublin.

[Read more](#)

A man who slipped on a baby wet-wipe on the floor of a Dublin store has been awarded €17,500 damages in the Circuit Civil Court.

[Read more](#)

A boy, who suffered an injury to his lip in a creche when he was three years old, has been awarded €17,700 damages in the Circuit Civil Court.

[Read more](#)

Membership Subscriptions

Subscriptions for membership of NISO are now due. Many thanks to all who have paid.

Events

[NISO Annual Conference](#): Safety and Health is our Wealth; Radisson Blu Hotel, Sligo; Friday, 5 October 2012.

Training

[Safe Pass Course](#); Friday, 10 August and 24 August 2012.

[Manual Handling Instructors Course](#) FETAC Level 6, commences 10 September 2012.

[Health and Safety Representation Course](#) FETAC Level 5, commences 17 September 2012.

[Basic Manual Handling Course](#); 29 August 2012.

[VDU/DSE Assessors Course](#); 21 August 2012.

[Safety and Health at Work Course](#) FETAC Level 5, commences 9 October 2012.

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