

NISO Safety Observer  
December 2022; Issue 69

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

December 2022 - Issue 69

Welcome to the December 2022 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 6 December 2022 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid January 2022. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 28 November 2022.

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## OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY QUIZ

## NISO AGM

## NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH & WELFARE AT WORK

### NISO NEWS

#### 60th Anniversary of NISO

NISO celebrates its 60th anniversary in 2023! Visit [niso.ie](http://niso.ie) to stay up to date on NISO's activities to mark this special occasion throughout 2023.

#### NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz

The All Ireland Safety Quiz Regional Heats will be taking place across NISO's eight regions and Northern Ireland in spring 2023. Upcoming dates and online bookings available soon - visit the [NISO shop](#) for updates.

#### NISO Annual AGM

The Annual General Meeting of the National Ireland Safety Organisation will take place on 1 April 2023 in the Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo.

#### NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Wellbeing at Work

NISO's flagship course is commencing Online/Dublin, Athlone, Castlebar, Cork, Limerick and Waterford in spring 2023. Further details/book online [HERE](#)

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- **ETSC: Teenage lorry drivers would worsen road safety**
- **EU Commission recommends recognising COVID-19 as an Occupational Disease**
- **World news: More than 1 in 5 suffering violence at work**

## **IRISH NEWS**

### **HSA Programme of Work 2023**

The HSA's Strategy Statement 2022–2024 is entering its second year of implementation. This Programme of Work sets out the key priorities for the HSA in 2023.

<https://bit.ly/3G2ZpJ5>

### **Safe Pass renewals to move online from January 2023**

Safe Pass card renewals for construction workers will be available online from 23 January 2023. This will result in faster processing times and lower costs for renewals.

<https://bit.ly/3PAD6xJ>

### **Majority of workers have experienced discrimination in work**

The 2022 Workplace Equality Survey has found that almost three in four workers have experienced some form of discrimination in their employment, a 54% increase on last year's findings. Of those who have experienced prejudice at work, ethnic discrimination was found to be one of the most common forms identified by 30% of respondents and sexual harassment identified by 29% of respondents. Other key areas of discrimination identified by

respondents related to gender, religion, age and pay.

<https://bit.ly/3uZpiqL>

### **Taking a stand against bullying at work**

This article takes a look at the impact of bullying at work and includes the experience of a victim of workplace bullying, the findings from research on this topic and advice from the HSA.

<https://bit.ly/3iEfawX>

### **Men five times more likely to die on a farm than women**

At a recent Teagasc farm safety conference, delegates were shown statistics which suggest that men are five times more likely to die in farm-related accidents than women. Delegates heard that the most common causes of fatalities on farms are machinery/equipment, livestock and falls and that researching and compiling “sensitive data” is necessary to raise awareness about the most common causes of farm accidents and fatalities.

<https://bit.ly/3HfdcqG>

### **New H&S guide for horse racing industry published**

Horse Racing Ireland (HRI) has launched a health, safety and wellbeing guide for the horse breeding and racing sectors. The guide is a useful resource for the industry covering key health and safety legislation, detailing best practice, and providing links to additional resources.

<https://bit.ly/3YBWb6A>

### **16 Days of Action to tackle violence against women**

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions has joined unions around the world in supporting the international day for the elimination of violence against women and the 16 Days of Action up to International Human Rights day - calling on governments to guarantee a world of work free from gender-based violence and harassment. Congress has called on the Tánaiste to uphold his pledge to ratify Convention 190, which is crucial to eliminate gender-based violence and harassment in the world of work, before the end of 2022.

<https://bit.ly/3BaW3AT>

### **HSA farmer health and wellbeing campaign**

The HSA held a week-long farm inspection campaign focussing on farm health and wellbeing in November. Research consistently finds that farmers in

particular and those working on the land suffer greater work-related health issues than those working in many other sectors, according to the HSA. During this campaign the HSA advised farmers to get physically active, protect your back, protect your hearing, protect your skin, protect your lungs and mind your mental health.

<https://bit.ly/3BbIJfP>

## **UK NEWS**

### **Manufacturer fined £2.15m following fatality**

A chipboard manufacturer has been fined £2.15m following a workplace fatality in 2016 in which a 64-year-old man sustained severe burns to 90% of his body and died in hospital the next day from his injuries. The company was found guilty on two health and safety charges.

<https://bit.ly/3VAV19E>

### **Chocolate factory fined £800k for H&S breaches**

A chocolate factory has been fined £800,000 after an employee suffered life-changing injuries at one of its factories in the UK. The company pleaded guilty of breaching the Provision and Use of Work Equipment Regulations 1998. An investigation into the incident found that the company had not properly assessed the risks associated with the machine that caused the injury.

<https://bit.ly/3FqKcBs>

### **Company fined £800k after employee suffers serious burns**

A chemicals company has been fined £800,000 after a worker suffered life-changing injuries in an explosion. The employee spent eight days in intensive care on life support and was off work for 16 months following the incident. He had been making paint in a large mixing vessel which involved the use of flammable liquids when an electrostatic spark was generated causing a large explosion. An investigation into the incident found that the company failed to put sufficient measures in place to control the risk. The company pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3uqJwFL>

### **Building contractor and director fined £600k over fire risk**

A building contractor has been fined £600,000 and its director has been ordered to complete 100 hours of unpaid work and fined £4,200 following serious and

repeated failings in managing the risk of fire during work at a construction site. In January 2018 the HSE undertook a proactive inspection to investigate health and safety failings at the construction site after a concern was raised that people were sleeping on the site. A subsequent investigation identified failings in fire management at the site which created risks to workers and members of the public. The building contractors and company director pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3Y09Yne>

### **IOSH joins the HSE's Working Minds campaign**

The Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) has joined the Health and Safety Executive's (HSE's) Working Minds campaign. The campaign aims to improve mental health in the UK's workforce by encouraging employers to start to tackle work-related stress, talk to their staff and take steps to support the mental health of employees.

<https://bit.ly/3HftQNs>

### **Menopausal women to be offered flexible working**

Menopausal women working in NHS England will be able to work flexibly should they need to under new guidance. Launching the first national NHS guidance on menopause, the NHS England chief executive has called on other employers to follow suit to help "break the stigma". She said many employees were "silently suffering" and faced a "lack of support". The guidance aims to boost awareness and support the introduction of practical measures and is designed to be transferable to other workplaces.

<https://bit.ly/3P6GL66>

### **New HSE guidance to support disabled people at work**

New guidance from the HSE stressed the importance of making sure workplaces are accessible, staff communication is clear and inclusive and appropriated occupational health support is available to help employers support disabled people and those with long-term health conditions thrive at work.

<https://bit.ly/3uMOn4x>

### **Top Gear "fully investigating" accident**

Freddie Flintoff, presenter of BBC's Top Gear, was taken to hospital to receive medical treatment after being involved in an accident while shooting the motoring show. Top Gear has stressed "all health and safety procedures" were

followed ahead of the presenter's injury during filming and confirmed the incident is being "fully investigated". The HSE UK has said that it is "aware" of the incident and is making enquires.

<https://bit.ly/3G5sqNa>

## **EUROPEAN NEWS**

### **ETSC: Teenage lorry drivers would worsen road safety**

The European Commission is coming under pressure from the road transport industry to decrease the recommended minimum age of professional drivers in all sectors to 18 with training allowed from age 17. The European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has said that evidence shows that younger drivers would increase risks to all road users. The ETSC says the minimum driving ages for all vehicle categories should not be decreased further and the lorry driver shortage should be addressed through improvements to working conditions, not by targeting youngsters.

<https://bit.ly/3UJEsHu>

### **Call for evidence on ECHA's investigation report on PVC and its additives**

In this call for evidence the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is requesting information on PVC and on the substances used in PVC selected for a closer scrutiny. The ECHA is requesting the uses, EU volumes per use sector and end-use, end-of-life information per use and, where available, experimental/measured release and exposure information. The closing date for providing input is 6 January 2023.

<https://bit.ly/3utuqYM>

### **Recognising COVID-19 as an occupational disease**

The European Commission has adopted an updated Recommendation on occupational diseases on the need to recognise COVID-19 as an occupational disease. The Commission recommends that Member States recognises COVID-19 as an occupational disease if contracted by workers in certain situations. The Commission also stresses the importance of supporting workers infected by COVID-19 and families who have lost members because of work exposure to the disease.

<https://bit.ly/3W1prID>

## **WORLD NEWS**

### **More than 1 in 5 suffering from violence at work**

The first global study on experiences of violence and harassment at work, a joint analysis of data worldwide, has found that more than one in five people employed, almost 23%, have experienced violence and harassment in the workplace. This study aims to provide a better understanding and awareness of an issue rooted in complex economic, social and cultural factors. It also assess the extent of the problem and looks at the factors that may prevent people from talking about their experiences.

<https://bit.ly/3h0yEeV>

### **Qatar's migrant workers remain voiceless and invisible**

This article takes a look at the issues surrounding the treatment, conditions and experiences of migrant workers in Qatar. This issue was one of the most dominant controversies in the build-up to the World Cup but one that was rarely mentioned as the tournament progressed, suggesting that the situation has become normalised.

<https://bit.ly/3hE4luG>

## **GENERAL SAFETY NEWS**

### **Smart Ring Buoys launched**

An innovative new Smart Ring Buoys project aimed at saving lives has been launched. New life-saving technology has been developed which has resulted in a low-cost sensor which provides real-time alerts when life buoys are stolen or tampered with. Six hundred plus sensors will now be installed in eight local authorities.

<https://bit.ly/3Y1mXF5>

## **FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS**

### **Man dies while working at a house in Co. Wexford**

A father of two has died while working at a house in Co. Wexford. The man was discovered by people he had been working alongside when he disappeared out of sight for several minutes. Emergency services attended the scene but the man was pronounced dead a short time later. Two separate investigations have been launched by an Garda Síochána and the HSA.

<https://bit.ly/3FfadCx>



### **Man dies in farm accident in Co. Donegal**

A man in his 70s has died following a traffic farm accident in Co. Donegal. It is understood the man was struck by a vehicle. He was rushed to hospital by ambulance but died a short time later. A Garda spokesperson confirmed that their investigation into the incident is ongoing.

<https://bit.ly/3h9ACtj>

### **Man killed in workplace accident in Co. Cavan**

A man in his 50s has died in a workplace accident at a business premises in Co. Cavan. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA and An Garda Síochána have launched separate investigations into the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3Y5vNSs>

### **Man dies in farm accident in Co. Kerry**

A man in his 70s has died in a farm in Co. Kerry. An Garda Síochána and emergency personnel were in attendance but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA and An Garda Síochána have launched separate investigations into the fatality.

<https://bit.ly/3iOw5Nz>

### **Roofer dies in Limerick farm accident**

A man in his 50s had died after he fell from a roof on a farm in Limerick. The man was an experienced roofing contractor and steel fabricator. He was working on a shed on the farm at the time of the accident and it is understood he fell some 30 feet. An Garda Síochána are investigating the accident and the HSA has been notified.

<https://bit.ly/3HJ4pUF>

### **Man dies after tractor overturns in Donegal**

A man in his 70s has died following an incident in which the tractor he was driving overturned in Donegal. A forensic examination of the scene has been completed. An Garda Síochána has appealed for anyone who may have witnessed the incident to contact them at Ballyshannon Garda Station.

<https://bit.ly/3FbCJVA>

### **Limerick man discusses life-changing workplace injuries**

A Limerick business owner has spoken about his life-changing injuries after he

lost three fingers in a workplace accident. The incident happened just two weeks after he opened a new business to the public and he discusses the accident and the impact it has had on his life.

<https://bit.ly/3h7y3la>

## **IN THE COURTS**

### **Contractor settles for €1m after falling through roof**

A contractor who fell through the roof of a farm building and suffered a traumatic brain injury has settled a High Court action for €1 million. The settlement is on the basis that the contractor was 85% responsible for the accident as he walked across the roof of the shed rather than using a ladder. It was claimed that there was a failure to provide a safe place of work and that the condition of the roof had allegedly deteriorated so that it became difficult or impossible to distinguish between the various elements of the roof structure. The claims were denied.

<https://bit.ly/3VUcp98>

### **General operative settles case for €60k following accident**

A general operative with a marquee supplier has settled a High Court action for €60,000 over an accident in which he tripped on a protruding ground bolt in a premises where he was working. The man sued his employer and the owners of the premises where the incident occurred. The alleged accident happened when he was carrying a heavy bar with a coworker when he tripped and fell on a ground bolt which had previously been used to hold a fence at the premises. The bar fell on his right hand fracturing his thumb and finger. Liability to the defendant was admitted and the case settled following talks between both parties.

<https://bit.ly/3FDBFuQ>

### **Airline cabin crew settles case over alleged injuries**

A Irish airline cabin crew member on a flight that bumped back into the air on landing has settled a €60,000 damages claim against the airline for an undisclosed sum. The 24-year-old man claimed he injured his lower back in the hard landing and that he felt that he had survived an airplane crash. He said the crew seat he had been sitting on at the time was defective in that the cushioning was worn. Following evidence from the complainant, members of the cabin crew and a former pilot and aviation expert, the Judge was told that

the case had been settled.

<https://bit.ly/3v1etAJ>

### **Welder awarded €15k in unfair dismissal claim**

This article covers a case in which an employee was dismissed for allegedly presenting at work under the influence of alcohol or drugs. The man had been dismissed for “an irrevocable breach of trust and a serious breach of Health and Safety, particularly when his role involved operating machinery”. Following his dismissal, the man later won an unfair dismissals claim against his former employees. This article looks at the details in this particular case and other similar cases.

<https://bit.ly/3h9zA0y>

### **Contractor fined €1k after employee falls from roof**

A self-employed contractor faced prosecution in the Circuit Court after an employee fell head first from the roof of a farm shed and was left with life-long injuries. The contractor pleaded guilty to failing to keep an employee safe on the date in question. The accident occurred when the employee was up on the roof of the shed and his boss had lifted up a batch of ten roofing sheets with each sheet measuring 6.8 metres by 1.6 metres. The top sheet was caught by a gust of wind which knocked the employee down. He was not wearing a harness although his boss brought a harness to the site. A fine of €1,000 was imposed with six months allowed for payment.

<https://bit.ly/3VN0U3C>

### **Company pleads guilty following workplace fatality**

A company has pleaded guilty to three charges under health and safety legislation following a fatal incident at a timber yard in Co. Cork. The pleas of guilty were entered on behalf of the company in an arraignment at Cork Circuit Criminal Court. The background facts have not yet been outlined and the judge agreed to adjourn sentencing until February 2023.

<https://bit.ly/3FENM9R>

## **STATISTICS**

Twenty-five people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2022 - Correct at 16 December 2022. Source: [www.hsa.ie](http://www.hsa.ie)

<http://bit.ly/34bJFyp>

## RESOURCES

### **Remote work, remote workplaces and implications for OSH**

This OSHwiki article from the EU-OSHA offers a brief overview of the OSH aspect related to remote working. It takes a look at the risks connected to the virtual workplace and risks connected to the physical workplace.

<https://bit.ly/3Y1I4IK>

### **Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load Summit 2022**

The EU-OSHA held the Healthy Workplaces Summit as a closing event of the Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load 2020–22 campaign. A summary of the Summit, recordings of all the sessions and photos of the event are now available online.

<https://bit.ly/3v3bpUQ>

### **Impact of digitalisation of work on psychosocial risk and MSDs**

The digitalisation of the economy has already considerably changed the nature and organisation of work across Europe. In the next ten years, more than half of Europe's workforce will face significant job transitions. This article takes a look at how occupational safety and health policies, and particularly those preventing MSDs, can adapt accordingly. This article also includes links to further information, research, resources, case studies and more.

<https://bit.ly/3VDEAcJ>

## LEGISLATION UPDATE

### **Commission Recommendation (EU) 2022/2337 of 28 November 2022 concerning the European schedule of occupational diseases**

<https://bit.ly/3utpvyp>

## NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

### **CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work (Certified by Technological University Dublin)**

Hybrid - NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 and/or Online

CPD Certificate: Fire Safety Manager Part 1; 23 - 27 January 2023; 15 - 19 May 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

CPD Certificate: Safety Manager Part 1; 30 January - 3 February 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

CPD Certificate: Workplace Ergonomics; 6 - 10 March 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate: Accident Investigation;** 24 - 28 April 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

**CPD Certificate: Fire Safety Manager Part 2;** 26 - 30 June 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

**Training scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 AND/OR Online**

[Safety Representation](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (2 day); 17 - 18 January; 7 - 8 February [BOOK NOW](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); 27 January; 17 February [BOOK NOW](#)

[Mobile & Home Working Assessor](#) (HYBRID); NISO Certificate (1 day); Dates TBC

[Safe Pass](#); SOLAS (1 day); January 2023 dates TBC

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (1 day); Dates TBC

**NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work**

(13 weeks / 2 hours per week) [BOOK NOW](#)

**Cork:** Colaiste Stiophain Naoimhe; 17 January 2023

**TUS Limerick:** Technological University of the Shannon: 31 January 2023

**TUS Athlone:** Technological University of the Shannon: 13 February 2023

**Dublin / Online:** 21 February 2023

**SETU Waterford:** South East Technological University Waterford: 7 March 2023

**Castlebar:** Date/Venue TBC

**Health & Safety Webinars (Free)**

Open for bookings soon at [niso.ie/shop](https://niso.ie/shop)

**Situation Awareness;** 11.00hrs; 30 January 2023

**Bow Tie Analysis;** 11.00hrs; 27 February 2023

**Trigger Thumb;** 11.00hrs; 27 March 2023

**Production v Protection;** 11.00hrs; 24 April 2023

**Errors, Mistakes and Violations;** 11.00hrs; 29 May 2023

**Plan - Do - Check - Act;** 11.00hrs; 26 June 2023

**National Events**

**Annual NISO AGM;** Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo; 1 April 2023

**All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals;** Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Sligo; 1 April 2023

**NISO Annual Safety Conference;** The Great Southern, Killarney, Co. Kerry; 13 October 2023

**NISO/NISO Safety Awards Ceremony;** The Great Southern, Killarney, Co. Kerry; 13 October 2023

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