

NISO Safety Observer
June 2023; Issue 72

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Newsletter of the National Irish Safety Organisation

June 2023 - Issue 72

Welcome to the June 2023 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 28 April 2023 last and the next edition for NISO members is scheduled for mid April 2023. The last edition of Safety Observer was distributed on 30 March 2023.

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NISO NEWS

All Ireland Safety Awards

NISO and NISG are accepting entries to the All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2023. For details visit <https://safetyawards.ie/>

NISO Annual Health & Safety Conference

The NISO Annual Health & Safety Conference is taking place on 13 October 2023 in the Great Southern, Killarney, Co. Kerry. Visit niso.ie for updates.

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health & Welfare at Work Course

NISO's flagship health & safety course is commencing in September 2023 (Athlone & Dublin/Online) Visit niso.ie/product/nisocert/

Upcoming NISO H&S Seminars

Temporary Traffic Management at Roadworks:
Latest Standards

Implement Wellbeing Strategies in the Workplace
New Supports Available from the HSA (available to book soon)

Visit: niso.ie/shop/

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IRISH NEWS

Healthy Workplace website launched

Developed under the National Framework for Healthy Workplaces, the newly launched website is intended to be a one-stop-shop that helps organisations to make their workplace a Healthy Workplace. It features interactive tools to facilitate the delivery and evaluation of health and wellbeing initiatives in workplaces of any size. It is intended to cater for the needs of public and private organisations and is targeted towards members of staff from Wellness/Health Promotion, Human Resources, Occupational Health, Health & Safety, decision makers in senior management and employees hoping to champion a Healthy Workplace.

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

Campaign on Violence & Aggression in the Workplace

Following the establishment of a new Occupational Health division within the HSA, the hazard of work-related violence and aggression (V&A) has been prioritised. In May, the HSA undertook an inspection campaign on this hazard covering a number of different workplaces that employ workers in a public facing role. A range of V&A resources are available on the HSA website.

<https://bit.ly/3N5jeD8>

Notifying hazardous chemicals mixtures for industrial use

On 1 January 2024, Annex VIII to the CLP Regulation will enter into force for industrial use mixtures that are classified as hazardous on the basis of their health or physical effects. From that date, if you place such a mixture on the market in Ireland, you must notify it to the National Poisons Information Centre in Beaumont Hospital (NPIC) in the harmonised format via the ECHA PCN

portal. Visit the ECHA Poison Centres website for more information on making a notification.

<https://bit.ly/42lehu9>

Publication of the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2023

The Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2023, published earlier this year, will reform and modernise the existing model for the construction sector. This aims to make construction an even safer place to work and make the industry more attractive to future workers. Safety skills will be embedded into worker skills development making the workplace safer and making safety management easier for employers. A significant change to the industry will be the establishment of a new licensing authority which will replace the existing model where qualification certificates are issued for life.

<https://bit.ly/41PUenF>

Air Corps toxic chemicals exposure victims express concerns

Survivors of exposure to toxic chemicals while in the Air Corps say they are not confident that the Tánaiste can steer urgent change needed to reform the Defence Forces. Whistle blowers say they briefed the Tánaiste numerous times and were assured of support in their fight for health and other supports needed because of their exposure to hazardous chemicals. Survivors are now questioning why nothing has happened over the past six years and why an enquiry hasn't been set up.

<https://bit.ly/41PCCly>

Gardaí missed 75,000 days of work in 2022 due to injury

According to new figures, Gardaí missed more than 75,000 days of duty last year after they were injured in the line of duty. There were 20,807 days of absence for officers from a malicious injury that happened on duty. Just over 40,000 days were lost to an accidental injury that happened during work while 6,822 days were taken following a road traffic accident while working. The figures also show that the equivalent of 645 Gardaí were off sick on any given day.

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

Unions push for policies to promote safety of school staff

The lack of guidance and clear policies on health and safety in the education sector has led to “wholly inadequate” situations for the workforce, according to

members of a union. They also stated at a recent conference that the education sector in general is “lagging” behind others when it comes to health and safety. A motion passed at the conference will now see the union seek the introduction of a health and safety charter across the education sector.

<https://bit.ly/3OE991p>

Criminal investigation into abuse allegations within Defence Forces

A criminal investigation into allegations of sexual abuse within the Defence Forces has been announced by the Garda Commissioner. Twenty-six complaints have been received by An Garda Síochána so far dating back to the 1960s but the Commissioner expected to receive more and encouraged victims to come forward. The Defence Forces has welcomed the announcement and said it will assist Gardaí if required.

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

HSA launch quarry inspection campaign

The HSA held a two-week quarry inspection campaign earlier this month. The focus of the campaign was on safe machinery operation, machinery guarding and maintenance activities. In the ten year period 2013–2022, Quarrying, Mining and the associated manufacturing activities in the industry accounted for eight work-related fatalities in Ireland.

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

Workers’ Memorial Day 2023

A ceremony for Workers’ Memorial day was held in the Garden of Remembrance on 28 April. Congress, along with the Government, NISO, the HSA, Ibec and the CIF collectively marked Workers’ Memorial Day Ireland at the national and annual commemorative event to remember people who died, were injured, made ill and bereaved through work-related incidents. In Ireland, 461 people were killed in work-related incidents over a ten-year period from 2013–2022.

<https://bit.ly/3MNcOs2>

Increase in reported physical, verbal and sexual assaults on HSE staff

More than 1,300 attacks on health workers were recorded in the first three months of this year according to new figures. The Health Service Executive (HSE) figures show 1,363 assaults against staff were recorded at HSE facilities, including acute hospitals and community services, in the first quarter of this

year. The incidents relate to physical, verbal and sexual assaults reported to the HSE by staff. This marks a 4.6% increase on the same period last year when 1,303 incidents against HSE staff were recorded. The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) is calling for a security review and full audit.

<https://bit.ly/3N4NoWY>

New efforts to help farmers at risk of suicide

Actions targeting farmers at risk of suicide are to get under way in the coming weeks amid concerns that stress in the agricultural community is being increased by blame against the sector around climate change. The actions are the next step after a report published last October highlighted that 23.4% of farmers are at risk of suicide, while more than half experience moderate to extremely severe depression. The report was funded by the Health Service Executive National Office for Suicide Prevention.

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

Government accused of renegeing on fishing industry deal

The union representing workers in the fishing industry has accused the Government of renegeing on commitments to improve protections against excessive working hours in the sector by extending the oversight role of the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC). Those working at sea are the only private sector group specifically excluded from the terms of the Organisation of Working Time Act, 1997. The union said that while vessel owners can be prosecuted for abuses, the WRC does not have the jurisdiction to award compensation, something the commission has specifically acknowledged in a number of cases brought before it.

<https://bit.ly/3N60XFY>

UK NEWS

Two company directors jailed following workplace fatalities

Two directors of a Birmingham metal recycling firm have been jailed for nine months and their firms fined a total of £1.6m after five men died when a 45 tonne wall fell on them. The two men denied risking workers' safety when the wall overloaded with 263 tonnes of briquettes collapsed. The five men died as they cleared a bay at the recycling plant when a 3.6m adjacent wall collapsed, smothering them in hundreds of tonnes of metal. The two directors were convicted of 12 counts under the Health and Safety at Work Act after a trial

which lasted six weeks.

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

Security firm fined £2.25m after officer killed by prisoner

A security contractor has been fined £2.25m for health and safety failings that led to a prisoner kicking one of its custody officers to death. The 54-year-old woman was killed in 2015 by a prisoner, now 28, that she was escorting. The day she was attacked, the prisoner was due to be sentenced at the Crown Court for arson and attempted robbery. The security firm pleaded guilty to failing to discharge general health, safety and welfare duties from January 2014 to March 2017. The prosecution alleged there were wider failings in areas including risk assessment, staffing levels, training and monitoring.

<https://bit.ly/45zPISH>

Transport firms fined £2.2m following fatality

Two major transport companies have been fined a combined total of £2.2m after a 60-year-old man was killed when he was hit by a reversing HGV. The man's employer pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation and was fined £1.9m; the owners of the premises where the incident occurred was fined £300,000.

<https://bit.ly/3oznG3B>

Concrete manufacturer fined £1m following fatality

A concrete manufacturer has been fined £1m after a man died at its site. The 24-year-old man was trapped in a metal grab that colleagues were using after a rope connected to a locking lever snapped. His employer admitted a breach of the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974. As well as a fine, the company was ordered to pay £47,521.08 in costs.

<https://bit.ly/45qEf2i>

Firework firm fined £500k after employee killed in blast

A firework factory has been fined £500,000 after a young father was killed in an explosion. The 24-year-old man suffered serious burns when one of the products he was using ignited causing an explosion. He died from his injuries the following day. His employer was found guilty of breaching health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3Wx89Oa>

Death of a patient leads to prosecution

Following a joint investigation by HSENI and Police Service for Northern Ireland into the death of a patient at a hospital in Northern Ireland in 2014, a health and social care trust has been fined £10,000 at the Crown Court after pleading guilty to a single health and safety offence. On 25 December 2014, the deceased, who was on a restricted diet requiring food to be pre-mashed, choked on a Brussels sprout and died later that evening. The trust, as an employer, failed to ensure that reasonably practicable steps were taken to ensure the safety of the patient.

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

Union pushes for work-related suicides to be investigated

Work-related suicides should be reported by employers and investigated by the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) amid concern that workplace stress is at “epidemic levels”, according to trade unions in the UK. Three major unions are all backing a change in the law to allow the HSE to investigate work-related suicides. Under HSE rules employers have a duty to report all deaths of their workers - with an exception for suicides - unlike other countries. In the UK the HSE cannot investigate any work-related suicide unless it receives a referral by a coroner.

<https://bit.ly/43mRKhB>

Drop in number of workplace accident investigations

A trade union in the UK has found that the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) has been overlooking far more serious accidents than five years ago due to lack of resources. A dip in public funding and staff numbers at the HSE over the past decade means victims who suffer an injury at work could miss out on getting justice and employers are increasingly likely to go unpunished. Figures compiled by the union suggested that the number of “mandatory investigations” not undertaken due to a lack of resources rose from just two in 2016–17 to 389 in 2021–22.

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

Calls for action to prevent children playing on sites

The Health and Safety Executive UK (HSE) has pleaded with the construction industry to make sites safer after a construction company was handed an £800,000 fine following the death of a 10-year-old boy on one of its sites. Following the sentencing the HSE released a statement urging construction

companies to be aware of how construction sites can be attractive to children.

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

EUROPEAN NEWS

EU-OSHA reveals latest trends at 2023 EU OSH Summit

The EU-OSHA launched its flagship report “Occupational safety and health in Europe: state and trends 2023” at the 2023 Occupational Safety and Health Summit. It provides a comprehensive review of the state and contextual developments of OSH in the European Union over the past years and provides insights into emerging trends.

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

Spain to ban outdoor work during extreme heat

Spain will ban some outdoor working during extreme heat conditions as the country faces high temperatures more frequently as a result of climate change. The ban will be in place when the national weather agency issues an alert warning about a severe or extreme risk of high temperatures. The measure will affect outdoors working such as street cleaning and agriculture.

<https://bit.ly/435NSIv>

US NEWS

Tesla to pay \$3.2m to ex-worker in racism case

A federal jury in San Francisco ordered Tesla Inc to pay about \$3.2 million (€2.9 million) to a black former employee after the electric-vehicle maker was found to have failed to prevent severe racial harassment at its flagship assembly plant in California. The plaintiff accused Tesla of failing to act when he repeatedly complained to managers that employees at the factory frequently racially harassed him. The jury awarded the plaintiff \$175,000 in damages for emotional distress and \$3 million in punitive damages designed to punish unlawful conduct and deter it in the future.

<https://bit.ly/3Mu7jOi>

US lawmakers call to modernise Osha

Since 1970, more than 429,000 workers have been killed on the job in the US but only 128 of those cases have been criminally prosecuted under the Occupational Safety and Health Act (Osha). Now a report and reintroduced

federal legislation is pushing to modernise Osha. A new bill includes expanding Osha coverage to the estimated 8 million state and local government workers in 24 states not currently covered by Osha, reinstating an employer record-keeping rule of illnesses and injuries rolled back under the Trump administration, providing authority for increased civil penalties for serious Osha violations and authorising felony penalties against employers who knowingly commit Osha violations that result in the death or serious harm of a worker.

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

WORLD NEWS

“Exhausted” leader of Western Australia resigns

Western Australia's popular premier, Mark McGowan, who isolated his state from the world at the height of the Covid-19 pandemic, has resigned saying the job "has taken it out of me". Stress, sleepless nights and political confrontation had taken their toll, more than six years after his centre-left Labor Party won office, the 55-year-old state premier told a news conference. Mr. McGowan said he no longer had the "energy or drive" to lead his party into state elections due in March 2025.

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

FATALITIES AND ACCIDENTS

Man dies in Co. Wexford workplace accident

A man in his 30s has died in a workplace accident on a building site in Co. Wexford. Emergency services attended the incident but the man was pronounced dead at the scene. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched investigations into the incident.

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

Farmer dies in suspected bull attached in west Cork

A farmer has died following an accident involving a bull on a farm in west Cork. The farmer had been working in a shed and it is believed that he was attacked by a bull when he went to open a gate. He incurred crush injuries in the incident. The HSA is investigating the incident.

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

Man killed while clearing rock in Co. Donegal

A 43-year-old man has been killed in a workplace explosion in Co. Donegal. He was breaking up rock while working at a house on a site when the incident occurred. It is understood that he was operating machinery when an explosion happened. The HSA has confirmed it is investigating the incident.

<https://bit.ly/3C5gZCR>

Man dies in workplace accident in north Cork

A man in his 30s has died following a fatal accident at a commercial premises in Co. Cork. Emergency services were in attendance and the man was pronounced dead at the scene. The HSA has been notified of the incident.

<https://bit.ly/43mMQ44>

Woman dies in horse-riding incident in Co. Galway

A woman has died in a horse-riding incident in Co. Galway. The incident took place at an equestrian centre when it was being used as a riding club. It is understood that the tragic accident happened while a horse was being mounted. An investigator from the HSA attended the scene.

<https://bit.ly/45JeRFq>

Man dies in Co. Kerry farm accident

A man in his 70s has died following a farm accident in Co. Kerry. It is understood that the father of two fell into a slurry pit after becoming overcome by fumes. The man was pronounced dead at the scene. An Garda Síochána and the HSA have launched investigations into the incident.

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

Man airlifted to hospital after accident on construction site

A man has been airlifted to hospital in Cork following a workplace accident on a construction site in Co. Wexford. It is understood that the man sustained serious injuries after an incident involving a power saw. After being initially assessed by emergency services the decision was taken to call in air support and transfer the man to hospital for further treatment.

<https://bit.ly/3BYZoD8>

Kerry farmer suffers severe injuries in work accident

A Kerry farmer has suffered severe injuries after receiving a kick from a cow on his farm in Co. Kerry. The 84-year-old man was airlifted to hospital in Cork following the accident. It is understood that the farmer went to check on a calf

on his farm and it appears he may have been kicked by a cow while checking on the animals.

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

Plant evacuated following incident

Employees had to be evacuated from a plant in Co. Cork following an incident. The evacuation came shortly after another incident at a different plant operated by the same company in which a man received serious burns and is recovering in hospital. The HSA has launched an investigation into both incidents.

<https://bit.ly/3Wt1N2g>

American man rescued in West Cork

An American man who was working for a farmer in West Cork has been rescued after he was found suffering from exposure and dehydration. Concern for his wellbeing had been raised after he was reported missing and a number of emergency services were called. Gardaí received information of a possible sighting and he was located soon afterwards on rough terrain. After an initial assessment by emergency personnel he was later taken to hospital for further treatment.

<https://bit.ly/3MVX4IJ>

IN THE COURTS

Man pleads guilty over Cork farm death

A farmer pleaded guilty to a charge in respect of a fatal health and safety incident before the criminal court following a death on a farm more than three years ago. The farmer, who is in his sixties, pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to provide a safe pace of work at the farm premises in January 2020. No details of the incident were given in court on the background circumstance that gave rise to the event. The charge itself provided some details and stated that the piece of work at which the victim was working was underneath a piece of work that was under the control of the defendant at the relevant time. The judge adjourned sentencing until June 2023.

<https://bit.ly/3MF2jpB>

Kildare company fined €55k following serious incident

A Kildare company has been fined €55,000 in the Circuit Court following a serious incident. The case related to an incident in 2017 in which an employee

suffered serious injuries while carrying out cleaning duties on a conveyor belt. The company pleaded guilty to one charge contrary to health and safety legislation.

<https://bit.ly/3Mx6rlh>

Woman awarded €50k following workplace incident

An office worker who suffered “extreme distress and trauma” when her male colleague came from behind and tried to pull down her trousers in front of other staff has been awarded over €50,000 compensation. The Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) ordered the maximum sum it could give to the worker. It found that her employer failed in its duty to put harassment prevention measures in place before the sexual assault and that its handling of the affair afterwards “did not mitigate this in any way”.

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

Hotel to pay €20k over sexual harassment

A Co. Waterford hotel has been ordered to pay €20,000 to a victim of workplace sexual harassment after the alleged perpetrator was allowed to retire or leave without a “full and complete” investigation. The Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) found that the female employee was subjected to “serious sexual harassment amounting to assault” while working at the hotel and that the hotel’s management was liable.

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

Labourer given 9-month suspended sentence over accident

A labourer has received a suspended jail sentence for his role in a workplace accident in Co. Wicklow which left a colleague and close-friend with life-changing injuries. The 54-year-old man pleaded guilty to a charge of failing to take reasonable care contrary to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 while working at a site with a 9-tonne dumper. A sitting of the Circuit Criminal Court heard that the labourer had allowed two work colleagues to sit inside the dumper as they were travelling back to a compound. One of the workmen fell out of the dumper and was crushed under one of its foot wheels after the vehicle went backwards while the vehicle was going up a low bank. During sentencing, the judge said he would suspend the full nine-month sentence as he believed it was unlikely the defendant would come before the courts again.

<https://bit.ly/43dCQuz>

Ex-Naval Service instructor on probation bond after sexual assault

A former Naval Service instructor who slapped a new recruit on the buttocks has been put on a probation bond for a year after pleading guilty to a single count of sexual assault. The man has since resigned from the navy. The incident, which was witnessed by a number of other Naval Service recruits, was investigated by military police. The judge put the Naval Service instructor on a probation bond for 12 months on his own bond of €300.

<https://bit.ly/43fpw8P>

INQUESTS

Harsher sentences may be brought against companies over fatalities

The Director of Public Prosecutions is seeking stiffer sentences against two companies that were convicted and fined after pleading guilty to criminal charges relating to the deaths of two stonemasons in Limerick, their inquest has heard. The inquest jury recorded a verdict of misadventure and found in accordance with medical evidence outlined at the Coroner's Court that both men died by drowning in the River Shannon, Limerick.

<https://bit.ly/42osHKp>

Worker crushed to death by unsafe automatic gate

The father of a retired star Limerick footballer was "crushed" to death when an "unsafe" one-tonne automatic steel gate shut on him as he attempted to enter his workplace. A warning about the potential dangers of automatic gates was raised by a HSA inspector who investigated the circumstances of the man's death as she gave evidence at his inquest. The deceased was employed by a City and County Council for more than 20 years and worked as a road sweeper out of a machinery yard. Access to the yard was controlled by a one-tonne automatic steel gate measuring six metres by four metres. In November 2021 the local authority was convicted for health and safety breaches and fined €75,000 after it pleaded guilty to three charges arising out of the death, including failure to provide employees with safe access to the yard. The inquest jury returned an unanimous verdict of misadventure.

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

Fuel delivery driver died in "freak accident"

A fuel delivery driver was killed in a freak accident after falling into an

underground diesel tank on the forecourt of a filling station two years ago, an inquest has heard. The 64-year-old man died from injuries sustained during the incident when he appeared to be overcome by diesel fumes at a garage in Co. Meath. A sitting of the Coroner's Court heard that the father of four was in the process of opening a manhole to access an underground diesel tank when he slumped headfirst into the chamber from a kneeling position. Although he was rescued from the tank within a minute and was subsequently transported by air ambulance to hospital, he was pronounced dead later that night. The inquest heard the HSA concluded no prosecution was warranted as there had been no breach of any health and safety regulations. The jury returned a verdict of accidental death.

<https://bit.ly/428nwy1>

Inquest into teenager's death after fall from quad bike

A Tipperary farmer broke down telling an inquest of his son's death after a fall from a quad bike that it was the first time his son had driven the vehicle without wearing a helmet. The 16-year-old fell from a quad bike as he was retrieving cattle that had broken loose from the family's dairy farm. A jury at the Coroner's Court recorded a verdict of accidental death. An inspector with the HSA noted that legislation was due to be passed in November this year making quad bike driver training and the wearing of helmets mandatory.

<https://bit.ly/42fsrxd>

STATISTICS

Eleven people have been killed in workplace accidents since 1 January 2023 - Correct at 31 May 2023. Source: www.hsa.ie

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

PUBLICATIONS

Screening Regulatory Impact Assessment for the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2022

New publication from the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science. With major changes taking place in the type of work carried out in construction and skills needs changing, the current arrangements for construction safety licensing are considered unfit for purpose. The overall objective of action in this area is to improve health and safety

practices in construction and quarrying so as to reduce workplace accidents, work-related injuries and fatalities.

<https://bit.ly/45oOODa>

Safe and healthy workplaces in Europe

This policy brief, published by EU-OSHA, summarises the main findings of the “Occupational safety and health in Europe: state and trends in 2023” report that examines various indicators, trends and contextual developments in occupational safety and health (OSH). The use of new technologies at work, the shift of sectors and changes of the workforce as well as globalisation demand tier and more comprehensive OSH measures to which this brief offers a set of recommendations for policymakers.

<https://bit.ly/3qcE6zn>

Workforce diversity and digital labour platforms

The digital platform economy is growing quickly and the work offered is as diverse as the workers themselves. Migrant and ethnic minorities are more likely to engage in platform work which may also represent an opportunity for persons with a disability and for women. While digital work can be a stepping stone into the labour market, it presents just as many dead ends. This Discussion Paper sheds light on the working conditions and OSH risks related to digital platform work for some groups of workers.

<https://bit.ly/3MXyOf6>

GUIDANCE

Heat at Work - Guidance for workplaces

This guide from EU-OSHA offers workplaces practical ways – organisational and technical – to lessen and manage as well as train on this occupational risk. Information is also provided on what actions should be taken if a worker starts showing signs of suffering from heat-related illness.

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

How to deal with the serious issue of bullies in the workplace

This article provides an analysis of bullying in the workplace. Businesses who are firm about bullying and follow through on complaints can benefit themselves, their organisations and their employees.

<https://bit.ly/45EYYPW>

Guidance for the Safe Management of Hazardous Medicinal Products at Work

The EU Commission has published new “Guidance for the Safe Management of Hazardous Medicinal Products ‘HMPs’ at Work. The guidance on the use of HMPs is presented in a simple and reader friendly way by using graphics, photos and special training documents. It is a non-binding document designed to be used by workers, employers, public authorities and safety experts.

<https://bit.ly/43jZOA7>

RESOURCES

Updated remote working guidance

The HSA has updated their Remote Work Guidance and checklists. If you have employees working from remotely from home or from a work hub, this guidance is applicable to your business.

<https://bit.ly/3slvv9T>

Asbestos Safety for Tradespeople

This short, online course from the HSA is designed for tradespeople who, during the course of their work, could potentially or unknowingly disturb asbestos containing materials (ACMs) causing asbestos fibres to be released into the air. On completion participants should be able to recognise potential ACMs in the workplace and understand the steps to take to protect yourself from exposure to asbestos.

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

Free online H&S Induction for SMEs launched

The HSA and Atlantic Technological University (ATU) have launched an online Workplace Safety, Health and Welfare Induction aimed at supporting employers to deliver induction to new employees. The online induction comprises a suite of short awareness-raising courses which can be used along with workplace specific training.

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

Safe and healthy work in the digital age - campaign website

The brand new website for the upcoming 2023–25 EU-OSHA Healthy Workplace Campaign focusing on digital technologies at work is now up and

running. A wealth of resources and information about this campaign is available on the website including the risk and benefits of digitalisation at work and how to ensure that workers stay safe and healthy.

<https://bit.ly/3ou01S3>

SAFETY COMMENTARY/OPINION

Psychological safety - why doesn't it happen naturally?

Safety blog post discussing psychological safety, feeling comfortable to raise issues and what it takes to begin to build a positive culture.

<https://bit.ly/3IHsR8G>

LEGISLATION UPDATE

SI No. 255/2023 Safety, Health And Welfare At Work (General Application) (Amendment) Regulations 2023

These Regulations, signed on 24 May 2023, amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 to 2023, to ensure that an employer takes appropriate actions, in accordance with the relevant Health and Safety Authority code of practice, to ensure sufficient fresh air is circulating in enclosed spaces within a place of work.

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

New hazard classes added to the CLP Regulation

The European Commission has published a Delegated Regulation amending the CLP Regulation, setting out new hazard classes and criteria for the classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures. The new Regulation, which entered into force on 20th April 2023, applies to all chemical substances and mixtures placed on the EU market under REACH.

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

CASE STUDIES

Using AI for task automation while protecting workers

EU-OSHA has just released eight case studies to understand how automation of tasks via artificial intelligence (AI) based systems can be successfully implemented to ensure worker wellbeing. The publications examine the impact of these systems on safety and health at work and identify drivers, barriers and

success factors to make the most of this technology while protecting workers.

<https://bit.ly/437YgZM>

PUBLIC ENQUIRY

Call for evidence on 1,4-dioxane

Call for evidence on 1,4-dioxane as well as substances and mixtures containing 1,4-dioxane as a constituent or an impurity. This call for evidence is intended to support the preparation of a Restriction Report, and to gather information on 1,4-dioxane as well as substances and mixtures containing 1,4-dioxane as a constituent or an impurity. The deadline for providing input is 20 July 2023.

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

SAFETY PODCASTS

Mental health and the workplace

Podcast by the International Labour Organization (ILO). Research by the ILO and the World Health Organization (WHO) has found that billions of working days - and so billions of dollars - are lost every year because of work-related mental health issues and they have called for concrete measures to address this growing problem. This podcast discusses how to improve psychosocial health and safety at work.

<https://bit.ly/3qj7pAx>

MCIB REPORTS

Report of an investigation into an incident involving kayakers on Mulroy Bay, Co. Donegal by the Marine Casualty Investigation Board.

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

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

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

[Safe Pass SOLAS](#) (1 day); Clonmel, 3 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[Safety Representation](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (2 day); 13–14 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[Manual Handling Basic](#) NISO Certificate (half day); 16 June [BOOK NOW](#)

[DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course](#) (Online); NISO Certificate (1 day); 21 June; 26 July [BOOK NOW](#)

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

Seminar: Implementing Wellbeing Strategies in the Workplace

Limerick: 8 June 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

Dublin: 14 June 2023 [BOOK NOW](#)

Seminar: Temporary Traffic Management at Roadworks - Latest Standards

[Further information/bookings](#)

Cork: 2 June 2023

Sligo: 28 September 2023

Athlone: 25 October 2023

Dublin: 26 October 2023

Safety Awards Deadlines - [Further details](#)

Standard deadline: 2 June 2023 @ 17.00hrs

Late entry deadline: 23 June 2023 @ 17.00hrs (subject to additional approval and additional fee)

Health & Safety Webinars (Free)

Plan - Do - Check - Act; 11.00hrs; 30 June 2023 [REGISTER HERE](#)

National Events

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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