

E-OSH Newsletter



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Welcome to our E-OSH Newsletter. We hope that you find the articles informative and interesting. Where possible we have detailed the relevant links to websites to further your knowledge on a topic or issue. Feedback as ever is important to us to enable us to improve our service.

This document is primarily sent out by e-mail to NISO Members and to interested parties. If you wish to unsubscribe please e-mail us at: info@niso.ie and put "unsubscribe" in subject line.

Moves to Reduce the Regulatory Burden Regarding Health and Safety at Roadworks

The Minister for Labour Affairs, Billy Kelleher, TD, has signed new Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) (No.2) Regulations 2008 on 31 October 2008. These Regulations are being made to:

-clarify certain issues relating to the Health and Safety code governing roadworks, and
-remove some unduly burdensome requirements on the operators of such works.

A number of issues emerged from discussions that require action. These include

- Lack of a definition of "road"
- Lack of clarity about the precise qualifications required by the Health and Safety code for "competent persons"/supervisors involved with roadworks.
- Ability to differentiate between higher and lower risk type activities.
- The level of demands regarding the training of operatives taking into account the different levels of risk involved.

For the purposes of Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006, the Minister decided to adopt the definitions of "road" used in the Dept of Transport legislation". The revised draft Regulations provide for differing safety provisions appropriate to situations which arise. For example, the provisions will be comprehensive where there are live traffic situations and also where pedestrians and disabled people are involved and less so where risks to workers are less, e.g., on wide margins and footpaths.

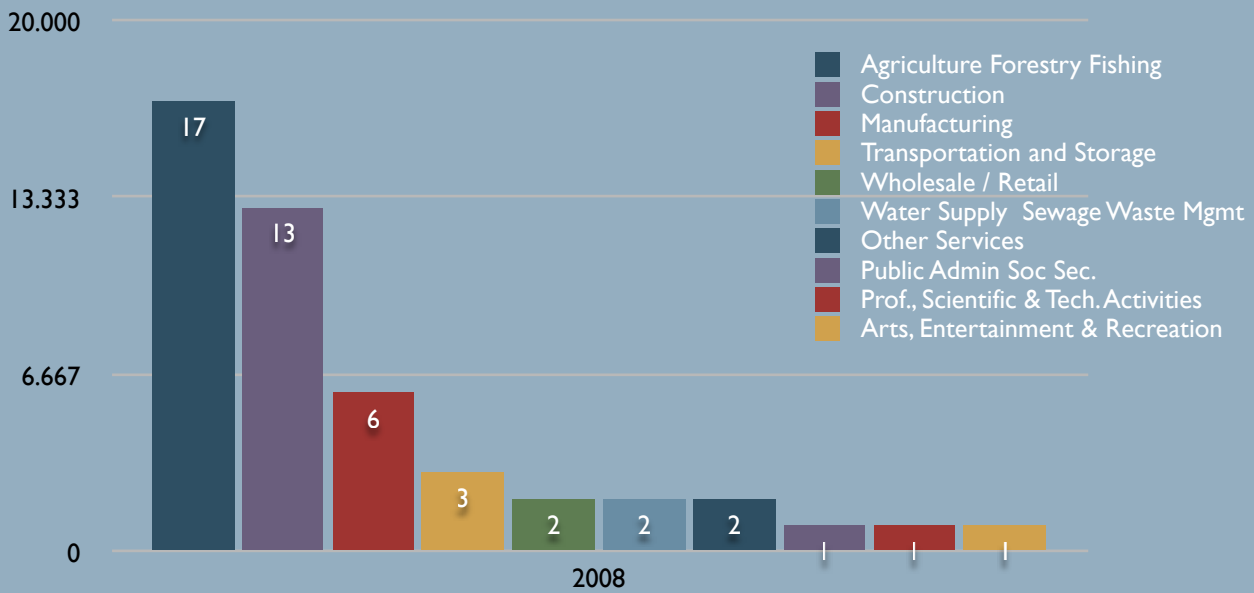
The new Regulations should also result in a significantly decreased training

demand for certain (lower risk) operations on roadworks.

The Minister said "This amendment will free up trained personnel for other tasks at many roadworks sites while at the same time ensuring that when risks to safety arise the requirement to have appropriately trained people on site remains. It will also help in reducing costs while maintaining safety standards for the workers and the public passing adjacent to these roadworks."

"From a wider public policy perspective, these Regulations can be viewed as an expression of the Government's commitment to examine seriously the level of administrative burdens on operators of businesses and workplaces. "While a lot of Health and Safety requirements flow from EU legislation, I am increasingly of the view that, if we can reduce possibly undue demands on the operators of workplaces, while, at the same time, securing high levels of safety, we should do so.

"The Government is working to reduce administrative burdens and the Health and Safety Authority will be working with my Department over the coming year in this regard", the Minister concluded.



Workplace Fatalities 2008

(48 fatalities to 7 October 2008)

National News

HSA calling for Primary Schools to enter BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition

Once again HSA is sponsoring the Primary Science Fair, to be held in RDS in January 2009 and it is encouraging schools to start thinking about projects now. Primary Classes at 4th, 5th and 6th class are eligible to apply to enter projects where there is a safety element incorporated in the project or be able to demonstrate that the project was carried out safely.

The closing date for applications is Monday 24th November 2008.

For more information:

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/News_and_Events/Press_Releases_2008/

[Call for primary schools to enter projects in BT Young Scientist and Technology Exhibition .html](#)

HSA – New Checklist, Guidance and Code of Practice published

HSA has recently made available on its website, four useful documents as listed below:

1. Workplace Transport Checklist

HSA has recently published a 7-page Workplace Transport Checklist which will help Employers and Health and Safety Practitioners get to grips with this growing area of concern. This is highly relevant when it has been confirmed by Martin O'Halloran recently that 50% of all workplace fatalities have a direct link with workplace transport.

For more information:

<http://publications.hsa.ie/index.asp?locID=32&docID=307>

2. Lighten the Load – Retail Sector Guidance

EU Agency publication – endorsed by HSA.

For more information:

<http://publications.hsa.ie/index.asp?locID=32&docID=305>

3. Lighten the Load – Construction Section Guidance

EU Agency publication – endorsed by HSA.

For more information:

<http://publications.hsa.ie/index.asp?locID=32&docID=306>

4. Code of Practice on Avoiding Danger from Overhead Electricity Lines

This Code of Practice was prepared by ESB Networks with the assistance of the Health and Safety Authority.

For more information:

http://www.hsa.ie/eng/News_and_Events/COP_ESB_HSA.pdf

HSA National Safety Representative Conference – 4th November 2008

Below are just some of the interesting facts and opinions revealed by various speakers during the Conference which was attended by over 250 people:

Health and Safety Management Indicators 2008

In 2008: – Levels of Full and Broad Compliance

- Aware of Health and safety Responsibilities – 72%
- Aware of their level of compliance – 67%

In 2006:

- awareness of responsibilities was at 41%
- awareness of the level of compliance was 40%.

Source - Brian Higginson, Programme Manager, HSA

Results of a survey of SIPTU Safety Representatives revealed that:

40% of employers never consult the safety representative during risk assessment process

In 50% of cases Safety Representative met and/or accompanied HSA Inspector during their visit.

Source – Sylvester Cronin, Safety and Health Advisor, SIPTU

Bullying at Work Presentation

Bullies only bully when they can – dependant on the culture

Source – Patricia Murray, Psychologist/Inspector, HSA

U.K. News

HSE UK fines Corus UK Ltd £1.33 million

HSE UK published its report into investigation of triple fatality in 2001 at Corus steelworks, Port Talbot in October 2008.

Three Corus employees died in the incident, while a further 12 employees and contractors suffered serious injuries. The cause of the incident was determined as water entering the blast furnace, following the failure of safety-critical water-cooling systems. The resulting explosion, lifted the 5000 tonne furnace around 0.75m from its supporting structure, releasing hot material and gases into the cast house.

For more information:

<http://nds.coi.gov.uk/Content/Detail.asp?ReleaseID=382134&NewsAreaID=2>

Preliminary study says carbon nanotubes look and act like asbestos fibres

Imagine tiny wiry tubes that are about 50,000 times thinner than a single strand of hair, and stronger than steel. These tiny tubes made of rolled up sheets of carbon hexagons are better known as carbon nanotubes. Nanotubes are important in electrical research and the next-generation of computer chips and are also being developed for use in new drugs, batteries and other products. They look and act much like asbestos, according to a recent preliminary study from University of Edinburgh, raising concerns with researchers.

For more information:

<http://www.ccohs.ca/newsletters/hsreport/issues/2008/10/ezine.html?id=18221&link=1#inthenews>

Lorry Driver crushed during Night-time transfer

A lorry driver was crushed to death between his own and another lorry at a truck stop near Wolverhampton, in UK. His employer, Pentons Haulage, was fined a total of £250,000 in October after pleading guilty to various breaches of HSWA. The driver was transferring dairy products between two

vehicles in the early hours of 30 October 2005. He was using a pallet as a makeshift bridge to transfer the goods across to the other lorry. As this vehicle reversed towards him, it crushed him, and the extent of his injuries was such that he died eight months later.

For more information:

http://www.shponline.co.uk/article.asp?pagename=incourt&article_id=8109

HSE Releases Health and Safety Statistics – 2007/2008

2.1 million people were suffering from an illness they believed was work related.

229 workers were killed at work

136 771 other injuries to employees were reported

299 000 reportable injuries occurred, according to the Labour Force Survey

34 million days were lost overall (1.4 days per worker), 28 million due to work-related ill health and 6 million due to workplace injury.

For more information:

<http://www.hse.gov.uk/statistics/index.htm?ebul=hsegen/03-nov-2008&cr=3>

Oil and Gas Company fined after agency worker fall

A firm has been fined £3,500 after an agency worker fell from a platform, breaking his pelvis. Oil & Gas Systems Ltd (OGSL) was also ordered to pay costs of £2,457.80 after pleading guilty to safety offences. The agency worker, James Barker, was asked to go up on to a skid working platform being manufactured by the company, to touch up some paintwork prior to it being shipped out to a customer. He fell just over 2 metres through an aperture and broke his pelvis in two places.

For more information:

http://www.tuc.org.uk/h_and_s/tuc-15546-f0.cfm#tuc-15546-16

European News

E Facts Sheets for Cleaners

European Safety Agency in Bilbao has developed new E Fact sheets specifically for cleaners.

The full list is as follows:

E 36 - Prevention of accidents and ill health to cleaners

E 37 – Slips, trips, falls and cleaners

E 38 – Work equipment, tools and cleaners

E 39 – Cleaners and musculoskeletal disorders

E 40 – Risk assessment and needlestick injuries

E 41 – Cleaners and dangerous substances

To download them go to:

<http://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/e-facts/>

Germany - Stress may trigger inflammatory skin diseases

Researchers from University of Medicine Berlin and McMaster University in Canada have found that stress may activate immune cells in the skin, leading to inflammatory skin disease.

This cross talk between stress perception, which involves the brain, and the skin is mediated through the "brain-skin connection". The immune cells in skin can over-react, resulting in inflammatory skin diseases like atopic dermatitis and psoriasis.

For more information: <http://www.expressindia.com:80/latest-news/Stress-may-trigger-inflammatory-skin-diseases/378501/>

Greece - ECAI launch simple safety messages

European Code Against Injuries has been launched and delivers short, easily understood messages across 10 topics including: driving, falls, poisoning, fire, water, sport, drugs and alcohol. Could be useful in any in house health and safety promotion. It has been developed in the context of the Apollo Project from Athens University, Greece.

For more information:
<http://www.eurosafe.eu.com/csi/eurosafe2006.nsf/wwwVwContent/l3wp3bestpractices.htm>

U.S. News

Man struggles at silo for an hour before rescue

Almost three dozen rescue workers fought quicksand-like grain sorghum for an agonizing hour in a silo at the Port of Harlingen to save a worker submerged up to his neck. The worker was checking a vent from inside the silo when he fell through a pocket of grain. The grain if not well compressed, leaves pockets of soft spots.

For more information:
http://www.brownsvilleherald.com/news/mancillas_90840_article.html/rescue_grain.html

Forklift operator crushed in Westfield, Massachusetts

He was crushed to death when he got out of the vehicle and 450 pounds of stacked wood fell on him at 6.30 in the morning.

For more information: <http://www.whynam560.com/cc-common/news/sections/newsarticle.html?feed=189062&article=4418708>

NIOSH Publishes WorkLife Initiative

This document details 20 Essential Elements of Effective Workplace Programs and Policies for Improving Worker Health and Wellbeing including such areas as: Develop a "Human Centered Culture, Demonstrate leadership, Promote employee participation, Tailor programs to the specific workplace and Build Accountability.

For more information:
<http://www.cdc.gov/niosh/worklife/essentials.html>

International News

New Zealand – Guidance re H & S in Healthcare

OSHA in New Zealand has just released an interesting document entitled "Guidelines for the Provision of Facilities and General Safety and Health in the Healthcare Industry." It

runs to 71 pages and is very comprehensive. It provides food for thought for those managing health and safety in healthcare in Ireland.

For more information:
<http://www.osh.dol.govt.nz/order/catalogue/pdf/healthcare-g.pdf>

Canada - Medical journal slams Ottawa's role as 'asbestos cheerleader'

The Canadian federal government is being accused of the "shameful political manipulation of science" as it heads into international meetings where it is expected to defend Canada's controversial exports of asbestos. Three medical journals are blasting Canadian Prime Minister's government for "suppressing" a Health Canada report on the health dangers posed by asbestos and supporting exports of asbestos to developing countries.

For more information:
<http://www.canada.com:80/topics/news/national/story.html?id=6e41ed6a-1ef2-4bde-8299-23a039ce3806>

NISO Update

From March 2009, we will be accepting limited advertising in our quarterly magazine.

Enquiries to Ted O'Keeffe; tokeeffe@niso.ie; Tel: 01 465 9760

E-OSH Newsletter

Sponsors sought. Monthly electronic health and safety newsletter to approximately 3,500 safety personnel monthly

Enquiries to Ted O'Keeffe; tokeeffe@niso.ie; Tel: 01 465 9760

NISO Update - Events Diary

All courses are held at NISO's Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12 unless otherwise stated. To book any of these course, please phone 01 465 9760 or book online at www.niso.ie

Noise Measurement Course

Course Length: 4 days (2 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2) Date TBC.

Safety Representative Course Course Length: 3 days;
December 8th, 9th, 10th / February 2009 2nd, 3rd, 4th.

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Course

Course Length: 5 days (3 days on week 1 and 2 days on week 2)
Date TBC

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Refresher Course

Course Length: 2 days
Date TBC

Basic Manual Handling Course

Course Length: Half day
November 21st / December 10th.

Safe Pass Course

Course Length: 1 day; November 7th / November 21st / December 5th

Occupational First Aid Course FETAC Level 5

Course Length: 3 days
December 1st, 2nd, 3rd

Occupational First Aid Refresher/Re-Certification Course FETAC Level 5

Course Length: 1 day; December 3rd

VDU/DSE Assessors Course

Course Length: 2 days; Date TBC

NISO Occupational Safety & Health Certificate

NISO Ballymount, Dublin 12
Commencing 10th February 2009

Cork Institute of Technology
Commencing 22nd January 2009

Institute of Technology, Tralee
Commencing 21st January 2009

Athlone Institute of Technology
Commencing first week of February 2009, date TBC

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Galway Campus-
Commencing 27th January 2009

Galway Mayo Institute of Technology, Castlebar Campus-
Commencing 11th February 2009

Limerick Institute of Technology
Commencing 27th January 2009

Tullamore / Longford / Athone
Commencing first week of February 2009, date TBC

Dundalk Institute of Technology
Commencing 10th February 2009,
Registration on 20th January 2009

*Waterford Crystal Leisure & Sports Centre*TBC

Other Venues

Some venues and dates to be confirmed

Fire Safety Seminar - followed by Eastern AGM

20 November 2008

Location: Green Isle Hotel, Dublin 22

<http://www.niso.ie/Events/SeminarFireSafety/tabid/256/Default.aspx>

Breakfast Seminar - Free - followed by Midland AGM Good Neighbour Scheme and New CSTS Requirement

25 November 2008; 08.30 hrs. Online registration required
Tullamore Court Hotel

<http://www.niso.ie/Events/AGMs/tabid/148/Default.aspx>

First Aid Competition

29 November 2008 at 09:00

Location: Dublin

<http://www.niso.ie/Events/FirstAidCompetition/tabid/156/Default.aspx>

Annual General Meetings

Eastern Region: 20 November; 17.00 hrs;
Green Isle Hotel, Dublin 22

Midland Region: 25 November; 10.00 hrs;
Tullamore Court Hotel

Mid West Region: 25 November; 20.00 hrs;
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick

Southern Region: 26 November; 18.30 hrs;
Oriel House Hotel, Ballincollig, Co. Cork

Western Region: 9 December; 20.00 hrs;
Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co Galway

North East Region: Date to be confirmed

North West Region: Date to be confirmed

South East Region: Date to be confirmed

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