

National Irish Safety Organisation

Update!



*NISO is a not-for-profit voluntary body,
dedicated to the promotion of health
and safety in Irish workplaces*

SUMMER 2015

Conferences 2015



IOSH FORUM
SAFETY ALERTS

National Irish Safety Organisation

Update!

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NISO President Reports

Large Numbers Attend the Recent NISO Safety Representation Seminars

Eight well-attended safety representation seminars were held in June and July to promote the recently launched Safety Representatives Resource Book. One of the questions frequently raised by safety representatives in attendance was in reference to the 3-day rule on the reporting of accidents. NISO understands that the HSA is currently working to publish revised regulations and guidance on the reporting of accidents and dangerous occurrences. Following on from the Safety Representation Seminar Series, NISO will host a one-day Safety Representation Conference during European Safety Week commencing the week starting 19 October 2015.

NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2015

The date for submission to the All Ireland Safety Awards, jointly hosted by the National Irish Safety Organisation and the Northern Ireland Safety Group, has now closed. There was a large number of entries again this year and the standard has been exceptionally high. The awards will be presented at the Awards Gala Dinner on 2 October next in Galway. This year, a new award category, the Superior Performance Award, sponsored by Anderco Safety, will be awarded to the organisation that demonstrates overall superior performance in their safety and health submission. This year, 10% of organisations who entered the awards will receive a visit once

the submissions have been adjudicated. Organisations will be chosen by random selection and selected organisations will be notified in advance.

NISO raises HSA funding concerns

On 9 July, NISO met with the Minister with responsibility for health and safety, Ged Nash, to raise a number of concerns. On top of the agenda was the cut in funding to the Health and Safety Authority's (HSA) budget from EU24.2 million in 2008 to EU18.4 million in 2014, along with the reductions in inspections during the same period from 16,000 to 10,700. NISO pressed the Minister for the HSA's budget to be restored in order to enable the continuation of work they do in reducing accidents and fatalities in the Irish workplace. NISO is concerned that the standards set by the HSA prior to the budgetary cuts has fallen in recent years.

NISO also raised concerns regarding the extension of hours on QQI courses (formerly FETAC). The Minister was very supportive of the recent safety representation seminars and the upcoming Safety Representation Conference.

Sean O'Dwyer RIP

It was with regret that we learned of the death of Sean O'Dwyer on 20 March. Sean, in his role as a senior inspector,



Pauric Corrigan, president, National Irish Safety Organisation

was highly proactive in the setting up of NISO and its promotion. An honorary life member, Sean was very active in the western region up until recent times. To his wife Evyleen and family, we extend our deepest sympathy. May Sean rest in peace.

Pauric Corrigan, President National Irish Safety Organisation.

National Irish Safety Organisation

52nd Annual Health & Safety Conference & Awards Presentation

Good Safety is Good Business

Site Safety Visit & Workshop: Thursday, 1 October 2015

Conference & Awards Dinner: Friday, 2 October 2015

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa, Galway

Supported by:

Safety Awards in association with:

Conference Sponsors:

Media Partner:

www.niso.ie

Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Annual Report and Statistics Summary for 2014

The HSA has published its 2014 Annual Report and a Summary of Injury, Illness and Fatality Statistics 2013–14.

Annual Report

The HSA Annual Report gives details of key achievements, programmes and enforcement statistics for 2014. Figures from the report show that there were 10,719 inspections and investigations carried out across all sectors last year. Written advice was given in 38% of cases and enforcement action was required in 9%.

Some of the key sectors targeted were: construction, 2,758 inspections; agriculture, 2,590 inspections and 1,005 inspections under chemicals legislation. There were 32 prosecutions concluded for serious safety and health breaches, with fines totalling €293,900 imposed.

Statistics Summary

The Statistics Summary, which was produced in conjunction with the Economic and Social Research Institute (ESRI), provides a study on trends in occupational injuries, illnesses and fatalities for 2013–14.

Statistics Summary – Key Points:

- There were 56 fatal workplace accidents reported in 2014 compared to 47 in 2013.
- The overall worker fatality rate increased from 2.1 per 100,000 in 2013 to 2.5 per 100,000 in 2014.

- Of the 56 fatalities in 2014, 26 involved self-employed persons.
- There were 7,431 non-fatal injuries reported in 2014, compared to 6,598 in 2013,
- The reported non-fatal injury rate increased from 3.4 per 1,000 workers in 2013 to 3.7 per 1,000 workers in 2014.
- The main cause of non-fatal injuries was manual handling (33%).
- The sectors that reported the highest number of non-fatal injuries were health and social work (20%) and manufacturing (17%).

The Minister for Business and Employment, Ged Nash TD, said that the increase in accident rates in 2014 is a cause for concern: “The increased fatality rate last year is largely due to the unfortunate rise in the number of people killed on farms which stood at 30. Huge effort has been made to try to reverse the situation in relation to farming and awareness of the risks has never been higher. It is time now to convert that awareness into action – the carnage and tragedy that we see on our farms every year must stop.”

Speaking on the future area of concern for the HSA, its chief executive, Martin O’Halloran, confirmed that there will be a focus on those newly joining the workforce over the next few years: “We did notice an increase in construction activity last year and we also saw a slight increase in reported injuries. Overall the rate of compliance in the sector remains



high but our concern is for the future. Studies show that inexperienced workers, in any sector, are four times more likely to be injured than their more experienced colleagues.”

Michael Horgan, chairman, HSA, said: “We have worked on improving our service delivery and maximising impact by using technology to provide online resources such as BeSMART.ie and hsalearning.ie. These platforms are free, easy-to-use and available at all times. There is also a high volume of guidance and information available to employees and employers through our website and social media channels.”

Please visit hsa.ie for the Statistics Summary 2013 - 2014 and the Annual Report 2014 in full.



New regulations for the control of major accident hazards involving dangerous substances

New regulations on the Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances (the COMAH Regulations) came into force in Ireland on 1 June. These regulations give effect to the European Union Directive 2012/18/EU (known as the Seveso III Directive) and apply only to locations where significant quantities of dangerous substances are stored.

The “Seveso” Directive applies to industrial establishments across Europe where dangerous substances are used or stored in large quantities, mainly in the chemicals, petrochemicals, storage, and metal refining sectors. Seveso sites are classified as either upper- or lower-tier, with “upper-tier” establishments having greater quantities of dangerous substances than “lower-tier”, and therefore subject to greater control. In Ireland, there are approximately 100

Seveso establishments (this figure is subject to change as establishments fall in and out of the scope of the Directive).

Some of the important changes in the new Regulations relate to how dangerous substances are classified and the information that has to be made available to the public. Both upper-tier and lower-tier operators will be required to provide information which will be electronically available to the public and kept up to date by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), which is the Central Competent Authority for the Regulations.

The main changes coming into effect under the new Regulations include:

- Updating and aligning the list of substances covered by the Directive to the EU legislation on the classification of dangerous

substances;

- Strengthening citizens’ rights on access to information, justice and on participation in decision making;
- Improving the way information is collected, managed, made available and shared;
- Introducing stricter standards for inspections ensuring a more effective implementation and enforcement;
- Clarifying and updating of provisions, including streamlining and simplification to reduce administrative burden.

For further information please visit enterprise.gov.ie.

For the COMAH Regulations 2015 and Guide to the COMAH Regulations 2015 please visit hsa.ie.

New Healthy Workplace initiative announced

The Minister for Health, Leo Varadkar, has announced that he is preparing a campaign to get workplaces more active by encouraging the public sector, which employs 15% of Ireland’s workforce, to develop Healthy Workplace policies. Private sector companies and organisations will also be encouraged to get involved.

Speaking of the new initiative Minister Varadkar said, “We are putting this on a statutory basis to send a clear message that we mean business in improving the nation’s health. A similar approach was taken with health and safety statements years ago which have helped to reduce dramatically the rates of workplace injuries and deaths.”

The proposed Health and Wellbeing (Workplace Wellbeing) Bill, which has been signed off at Cabinet, will require public service employers to develop a “healthy workplace” policy to promote the physical, mental and social wellbeing of employees. Initiatives could include:

- Promoting “Active Travel” –

switching to smarter ways of travelling to and during work, by foot, bike, public transport or through car sharing;

- Setting up walking, running or other activity and exercise groups;
- Healthy eating options in staff canteens – making the “healthy choice the easy choice”;
- Smoking cessation programmes and making campuses smoke free zones;
- Supporting positive mental health and wellbeing by encouraging employees to deal with stress,

personal difficulties and to seek help when necessary.

“The World Health Organisation says that workplace health programmes are one of the best ways to prevent lifestyle diseases and improve mental health. Any costs associated with the measure should be minimal and will be recouped many times over by the benefits of a healthier workforce,” Minister Varadkar said.

For more information please visit health.gov.ie.





Dates for your Diary

Fire Safety Seminar
Oranmore Lodge Hotel,
Galway
8 September

Annual NISO Health and Safety Conference and Trade Exhibition
Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Galway
2 October

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner
Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Galway
2 October

NISO Safety Representation Conference
Midland Region
20 October

Business plays “critical role” in keeping roads safe



Employers across Ireland have been urged to make road safety a “critical part” of their business plans at a European conference organised by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC), the Road Safety Authority (RSA), the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) and An Garda Síochána.

Addressing the conference at Croke Park, Minister for Transport, Tourism and Sport, Mr. Paschal Donohoe, said: “Employers play a critical role in keeping our roads safe. They also have legal responsibilities to provide staff with a safe working environment, both in the office and on the road. This means ensuring employees who drive as part of their work are equipped with the skills and training to make them safer drivers. Companies that do this really see the benefits, including reduced insurance premiums, lower fuel costs, less absenteeism, greater staff satisfaction and most importantly, safe employees.”

A report published last month by ETSC found that Ireland was one of 12 EU member states that reported a rise in road deaths last year.

“Road crashes are the biggest cause of death at work, and one in three collisions is work-related – so clearly businesses, large and small, have an important role to play.

Martin O’Halloran, chief executive, HSA said:

“Businesses often cite cost and time as the main barriers to implementing driving for work policies and procedures for their employees. Yet we know that every year, up to a third of all collisions on our roads may involve someone who drives as part of their job. It is an employer’s legal responsibility to manage risks that employees face and create in the course of driving for work.”

Superintendent Con O’Donohue, An Garda Síochána, spoke at the conference about driving for work from a policing perspective, stating that, “Employers and employees need to be mindful of their legal duty of care and this extends to any journey undertaken as part of work. I urge employers to ensure safe driving for work practices amongst their employees and not to put employees under pressure to meet deadlines or demands, or take or make calls while driving, all of which would result in increased risk to the employee and other road users.”

- Organisations in Ireland large and small are invited to apply for the 2015 PRAISE Awards, recognising best practice in road safety at work. <http://etsc.eu/praise2015>

For further information, please visit etsc.eu.

SAFETY ALERTS

Operation of Fully Automatic Excavator Quick Hitches. (Disengaging the Bucket)

Following a recent incident, the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is issuing an urgent warning to Construction Employers, SOLAS CSCS Trainers and Excavator Drivers of the dangers associated with how certain types of automatic excavator quick-hitches are operated. The concern arises from the bucket on the quick-hitch disengaging more rapidly than the operator expects. This in turn could lead to the bucket falling on personnel causing serious injury or death. The HSA understands that many



operators do not expect excavator buckets attached via quick-hitches to disengage unless the bucket is “crowded” inwards.

However this is not necessarily the case since with some designs once the disengagement switch is activated, the bucket may disengage rapidly. This will happen if there is a small build-up of hydraulic pressure in the quick-hitch. Such a build-up can happen in a matter of seconds. The risk appears to be particularly pronounced on certain types of “tilt-rotate” type excavator attachments.

Operators should NEVER press the disengagement switch of a quick-hitch before the bucket has been landed to a stable landing space, preferably its transport position. This space should be level and should be such that the bucket is not in danger of rolling or falling further.

The HSA also advises that disengagement switches must be fully maintained. This includes maintenance of a lock to prevent inadvertent operation and an audible signal to warn of the activation of the disengagement switch.

In certain instances there may be two separate couplers each with its own separate set of controls. This might be the case where one controller controls the coupling of an attachment such as a tilt-rotate mechanism to the excavator arm while a second controller might control the attachment of an excavator bucket to the tilt rotate mechanism. In such instances the operator should be aware of which controls operates which mechanism.

The owner and operator should always refer to the instruction manual in order to operate these attachments in a safe manner. (Please visit hsa.ie for explanatory diagrams.)

Product Nitro Motors Eco Cobra Quad

The Health and Safety Authority has been made aware of a compulsory product recall by the French Authorities of a Quad Bike intended for use by 14 to 16 year olds; See details in table below and photograph. Refer also to RAPEX Alert No. A12/0012/14

This product does not conform to the requirements set out in the Machinery Directive and the relevant European Standard EN 15997. Also, the product design presents a serious risk of injury. It has been determined, following an accident in France, that it is possible for the driver’s feet to get caught between the back wheels and the footrest. The HSA has already identified one supplier of this product in Ireland who has agreed to a voluntary withdrawal.

If you have an affected Quad Bike please stop using it immediately, return it to your supplier and contact the HSA on 1890 289 389 (low call) and/or email wcu@hsa.ie for advice.

Quad Bike Detail		
Brand	Model	Type Number
Nitro Motors	Eco Cobra	HB-E ATV 800 A Model 800 Watts





Confined Space Entry to Sewerage Systems

A number of fatal accidents involving confined space entry to sewerage systems have prompted the HSA to issue this safety alert to highlight the need for stringent health and safety procedures when entering such confined spaces.

Hazards occur when an enclosed or poorly ventilated space is associated with a deficiency of oxygen or the presence of toxic gases such as hydrogen sulphide or methane. These conditions

create an environment in a confined space that is immediately dangerous to life and health.

The HSA has published a detailed Code of Practice for Working in Confined Spaces which supports the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Confined Spaces) Regulations 2001. The HSA urges all companies engaged in providing services requiring entry to sewerage systems to review their current Safety Procedures and Practices and Emergency Arrangements in line with this Code of Practice.

Regulation 5 of the Safety Health & Welfare at Work (Confined Spaces)

Regulations 2001 states that:

- A person shall not carry out work in Confined Spaces if it is reasonably practical that it could be avoided.
- If the work cannot be carried out without entry, Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment must be carried out prior to the work commencing.
- A person shall not enter a confined space unless there is a system of work in place that has been planned, organised, performed and maintained so as to render that work safe and without risk to health.
- Anyone entering a confined space must be provided with appropriate information, training and instruction appropriate to the particular characteristics of the proposed work activities.

Regulation 6 of the Safety Health & Welfare at Work (Confined Spaces)

Regulations 2001 states that:

- A person shall not enter a confined space to carry out a work activity unless suitable arrangements for rescue in event of an emergency have been devised and implemented prior to the work commencing.

For further information on confined spaces and to see previous confined spaces alerts please visit hsa.ie.

NISO Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety Certificate Course

Fourteen week introduction to Occupational Health and Safety taking place in Limerick Institute of Technology and Athlone Institute of Technology in September 2015.

Course Objectives:

- To equip participants with the knowledge to work safely in a variety of workplaces and to comply with the competency requirements laid down in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005.
- To furnish participants with a good basic knowledge and understanding of Occupational Safety and Health

(OSH), outlining what is required to provide a safe place of work.

Methodology

- This course comprises of a series of 13, 2-hour modules, illustrated with examples and case studies.
- The presentations are based on the core themes of hazard identification, risk assessment and identification and evaluation of control measures.
- Modules include Risk Management; Safety Management; Fire Safety, Emergency Planning and First Aid; Ergonomics; Chemical Safety, and more.

Who Should Attend:

- Managers
- Supervisors
- Safety Representatives
- Persons who have some responsibility for safety and health at work
- Persons who wish to gain knowledge in this area

Contact info@niso.ie or visit niso.ie for more information.



NISO Safety Representation Conference

National Irish Safety Organisation is hosting a Safety Representation Conference in the midland region on 20 October 2015. Speakers will include representatives from NISO and the Health and Safety Authority. The Safety Representation Conference will provide safety representatives, safety officers, managers and those with an interest in health and safety an excellent opportunity to meet with industry professionals, refresh skills, get new ideas and keep up to date with advancements in health and safety.

The Safety Representation Conference follows the publication of the new Safety Representatives Resource Book, commissioned jointly by the Health and Safety Authority, the Irish Congress of Trade Unions and the Irish Business and Employers Confederation, which was launched by Minister Ged Nash in April, 2015.

Following the launch, NISO ran a nationwide series of Safety Representation seminars based on the new Resource Book.

The seminars, which were held in Dundalk, Athlone, Waterford, Cork, Dublin, Sligo, Limerick and Galway, were well attended by delegates ranging from safety representatives, safety officers, managers and other interested parties.

NISO regards this book as an excellent resource document for all persons with an interest in safety, health and welfare matters. It will serve individuals who are undertaking safety courses well as it moves from the Barrington Commission in the early 1980s to the current day.

The seminars covered the contents of the Safety Representatives Resource

Book in detail. Topics covered included the history of Occupational Safety and Health (OSH), Health and Safety Law, the role of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA,) the Rights of the Safety Representative, hazards in the workplace and vulnerable workers, amongst others.

A representative from the HSA also presented on the recently launched online BeSMART tool for the construction industry. The confidentiality of the system and the benefits that this free resource brings to businesses were emphasised.

More information on the upcoming NISO Safety Representation Conference will be available soon. Please keep an eye on niso.ie for further updates.



National Irish Safety Organisation

IN ASSOCIATION WITH



NISO Safety Representative of the Year Award 2015

The award

The Safety Representative of the Year winner will be presented with a Certificate and a €600 cheque sponsored by Nifast. The Prize will be presented to the overall winner at the NISO Annual Awards Presentation Dinner on 2 October 2015 in the Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa, Galway.

How to enter

To nominate someone or to enter directly, please complete the entry form which is available to download from the NISO website, niso.ie.

Completed entry forms must be returned to NISO not later than 31 August 2015.

NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference 2015

The Annual NISO Health and Safety Conference is Ireland's premier health and safety event and as such, it is the networking event of the year for industry professionals.

"Good Safety is Good Business" is the theme of the NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference 2015. This year's conference promises to offer delegates an interesting and varied range of presentations, each based on the premise that good safety is at the core of good business.

Speakers

NISO is delighted to present delegates with a stellar lineup of speakers at this year's conference. Kate O'Flaherty, director of the health and wellbeing programme, Department of Health, will present on "Healthy Ireland - working in partnership for Healthy Workplaces", in which Kate will speak on the important role that workplaces play in

promoting the health of the population.

Lorraine Begley, occupational manager and Joe Doddy, EAP manager, Vhi Corporate Solutions, will present jointly on "Building a more resilient workforce". This presentation will explore, in light of the pressures that advances in technology and 24/7 connectivity bring, how workplace wellbeing initiatives can build resilience for employees and organisational leaders, ensure a successful work/life balance and enhance employee wellbeing.

NISO is very pleased to list Mark Paradies, president, System Improvements, based in Knoxville, Tennessee, as our international conference speaker. Mark, who is an expert in root cause analysis, human performance and process safety, will deliver on "How the US Nuclear Navy achieves zero process safety accidents"

in what should prove to be a highly enlightening and informative presentation.

Our esteemed speakers at this year's conference also include:
Ruairi O'Connor, Rexam PLC
Katharine Metters, Posturite
Liz O'Donnell, Road Safety Authority
Eddie Shaw, Carr Communications
Tony Sheridan, Sisk

Paul Kelly, CEO, Console, will present on Mental Health in our pre-conference workshop, Thursday 1 October.

If you are interested in attending the NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference 2015, please contact us on 01 465 9760 or email conference@niso.ie. Special volume discounts, packages and early online booking discounts are available under events at www.niso.ie.



National Irish Safety Organisation

IN ASSOCIATION WITH  CONSTRUCTION SAFETY PARTNERSHIP
www.csponline.i

Small / Sub Contractor Construction Safety Innovation Award 2015

The award
The CSP Small Contractor / Sub Contractor Innovation Award will be awarded to a small contractor who has introduced an innovation / change to the way that they operate that has made improvements to health and safety within the last three years. This may have been a small engineering change or indeed a management change that has been adopted by the company to address a safety problem that existed. The aim of this award is to highlight and reward the commitment of small enterprises to improving health and safety performance within their organisations.

How to enter To nominate someone or to enter directly, please complete the Nomination Form which can be downloaded from the NISO website, niso.ie. Completed application forms must be returned to NISO not later than 31 August 2015.

IOSH Ireland Conference: Safety professionals can inspire leadership



Occupational safety professionals have the “ability to inspire true leadership” when it comes to promoting safety and health within their organisations.

This was the message given to delegates who attended the IOSH Ireland Branch Annual Conference, which this year was focused around the theme of inspiring leadership.

Industry experts shared their knowledge, views and experiences with professionals on how to spearhead safety leadership and behavioural change within their own organisations.

In addressing delegates, Liam Howe, chair of IOSH Ireland Branch, said: “We want to see safety built into the general management of a business, and not as something which is seen as an offset or afterthought.

“Professional safety and health managers, properly accredited, have the ability to inspire true leadership in their teams.”

He added: “It is often said that the business of business, is business, and the management of safety and health is clearly an essential part of the business of a business. It must continue to be managed as such.

“When all employers recognise this, the better and safer we will be.”

Safety Culture

The programme featured a number of case studies from professionals who had achieved success in safety and health leadership.

Willie Ryan, SHEQ director at SiteServ, cited his company’s own efforts to promote safety leadership across the globe.



Delegates at the IOSH Ireland Branch Annual Conference

He said: “As far as we are concerned safety is our business. Culture is a key element in getting this right. If you do not have the right culture in your organisation you are not going to get success in safety and health.”

He added that everyone within an organisation has a role to play in fostering a safety culture, from the top down.

“Every single person in the organisation has a safety and health objective as part of the personal development plan. We have to empower people to bring them on the journey,” he said.

Worker health and wellbeing was also a major focus of proceedings. Health and Safety Authority CEO, Martin O’Halloran, said the economic loss to Ireland through ill health at work now exceeds the economic loss from accidents.

He said: “We have gone through the

bust and boom and boom and bust cycle. It is a time, as we enter a good economic period, for leadership on safety, health and wellbeing.

“Thankfully we are seeing a lot of positive growth, however, it is a time for people in this room to be very vigilant.”

Occupational cancers

Professor John Cherrie of Heriot-Watt University and the Institute of Occupational Medicine also discussed the issue of occupational cancers.

IOSH is highlighting common causes of occupational cancer registrations and deaths, including solar radiation, diesel engine exhaust emissions, asbestos, silica dust and shift work, through its campaign.

John said: “Prevention is a very important aspect of trying to treat the problem. We have to take steps now to try and prevent the disease from occurring.”

He also challenged a myth that

exposure to carcinogens at work comes as a result of coming into contact with chemicals.

“These are incidental exposures that people get in a number of different occupations,” he said.

“Many of the cancers caused by work are cancers of the lung, and nearly half are related to the construction industry.

“We do not need to do anything special to protect people. Apply simple solutions – appropriate use of PPE for example.”

Sleep apnoea

In addition, Professor Walter McNicholas highlighted the issue of sleepiness and sleep apnoea, and the effect on work.

He said sleep apnoea, if untreated, had the potential to impact on an employee’s job prospects and ability to operate machinery or drive a vehicle. The disorder most commonly affected men aged 40 to 59, with Prof McNicholas’s presentation focussing on the potential impact within the road transport sector.

He said: “The overall accident risk is 2.5 times higher among untreated patients with sleep apnoea. Effective treatment reduces the risk of accidents three-fold.

“It is in the interest of the transport industry itself that the problem of sleep apnoea can be diagnosed. Successful treatment removes the accident risk.”

The IOSH Ireland Annual Conference was held at the Radisson Blu Hotel in Galway on 10 June.

More details about IOSH’s *No Time to Lose* campaign can also be found at www.notimetolose.org.uk or by following @_NTTL on Twitter.



Delegates at the IOSH Ireland Branch Annual Conference

NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference 2015

Ireland’s premier health and safety conference for safety professionals and business leaders.

**Friday 2 October 2015
Radisson Blu Hotel and Spa,
Galway**

The NISO Conference offers delegates an insight into current topical issues which will be addressed by a panel of renowned national and international speakers.

To register your interest in conference 2015, email conference@niso.ie with ‘Conference 2015 Interest’ in the subject line.

Sponsorship

Is your organisation interested in sponsoring the Annual NISO Conference, Ireland’s premier health and safety event, in 2015?

Sponsorship of the NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference presents a prime opportunity for organisations to reinforce their identity and reputation as leaders in the health and safety field. Sponsors of the 2014 NISO Conference included:

- Abbott
- Anderco
- Bord Gáis Networks
- Kilcawley Construction
- Phillips 66
- Roadbridge
- Walsh Group

To discuss opportunities to sponsor the NISO Conference and other NISO events, please contact Susan Birkett for a Sponsorship Brochure on 01 465 9760 or email sbirkett@niso.ie.

Help on preventing carbon monoxide poisoning



NISO team answers members' queries.

QUESTION

What action can a workplace take to prevent the risk of carbon monoxide poisoning?

ANSWER

Carbon Monoxide is a colourless, odourless poisonous gas. It is a common industrial hazard created by the incomplete burning of any carbon based fuel such as coal, petrol, diesel, liquefied petroleum gas (LPG), natural gas and wood. It is also a major industrial gas that has many applications in the manufacture of bulk chemicals, for example, the manufacture of acetic acid.

Symptoms of carbon monoxide poisoning can be similar to those caused by other illnesses such as a cold or flu. They include unexplained headaches, chest pains or muscular weakness, sickness, diarrhoea or stomach pains, sudden dizziness when standing up and general lethargy.

As per the *Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005*, the employer has general duties to ensure the safety, health and welfare of his or her employees which include:

- carrying out a written risk assessment to identify potential hazards that may cause carbon monoxide poisoning,
- ensuring the design, provision and maintenance of the plant and machinery so that they are safe and without risk to health,
- providing training, instruction and information to employees and others.

The General Application Regulations 2007, Chemical Agents Regulations 2001 and Confined Spaces Regulations 2001 also hold duties for

employers in relation to carbon monoxide. The Occupational Exposure Limit Value (OELV) for carbon monoxide is outlined in the *2011 Code of Practice for Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001*. The OELV is 20ppm or 23mg/m³ for an 8 hour reference period and 100ppm or 115mg/m³ for 15 minute reference period.

An employer can reduce the chances of carbon monoxide exposure in the workplace by:

- maintaining and servicing equipment and appliances,
- ensuring that equipment is installed and maintained by a competent person,
- ensuring appropriate hazard warning labels are placed on any equipment, tools or appliances likely to produce carbon monoxide,

- installing carbon monoxide monitors with audible alarms.

Employees can also reduce the chances of carbon monoxide exposure in the workplace by:

- not operating any equipment, tools or appliances unless fully authorised and trained,
- following safe systems of work and taking notice of hazard warning labels,
- reporting to an employer any situations that might cause carbon monoxide to build up.

For further information on the control of carbon monoxide, please view the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Carbon Monoxide Information Sheet, available to download from the HSA website: www.hsa.ie. Information can also be found at the Carbon Monoxide website: www.carbonmonoxide.ie.



Health and Safety Authority (HSA) Publications

Export and Import of Chemicals Information Sheet



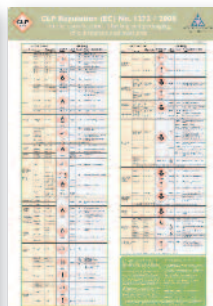
Information sheet on exporters duties under the Rotterdam Regulation (EU) No.689/2008 on the export and import of hazardous chemicals.

For certain hazardous chemicals and articles containing them, the export to countries outside of the EU is prohibited under Regulation (EU) No 649/2012. Strict administrative procedures are in place to ensure their export is legitimate. This information sheet provides exporters with information to help them identify whether they are likely to have duties under Regulation (EU) No 649/2012 and to assist them with the steps involved in meeting their obligations prior to chemical export.

CLP Poster: Hazard and Precautionary Statements



CLP Poster: Classification and Labelling Elements

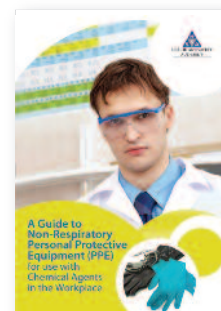


The CLP Regulation (EC) No 1272/2008 on Classification, Labelling and Packaging of substances and mixtures fully entered into force on the 1st of June 2015 bringing us a step closer to the goal of having the same chemical hazards communicated in the same way around the world. These posters should assist those working

with hazardous chemicals in identifying the new hazard classes and categories under CLP and how to label accordingly.

A Guide to Non-Respiratory Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for use with Chemical Agents in the Workplace

The aim of these guidelines is to provide basic information and general guidance on the selection, use and maintenance of personal protective equipment (PPE) in the workplace for use with chemical agents.



Please visit hsa.ie for more information and to download the posters and publications.

European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) Publications

EU-OSHA's 2014 Annual Report



safety and health (OSH) to improve working conditions across Europe.

In its 2014 annual report, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) outlines its highlights of the year, promoting occupational

Second European Survey of Enterprises on New and Emerging Risks (ESENER-2)

EU-OSHA's second Europe-wide survey aims to assist workplaces to deal more effectively with health and safety and to promote the health and well-being of employers. It provides cross-nationality comparable information relevant for the design and implementation of new policies in this field.



European Transport Safety Council Publications



Managing Young Drivers at Work

The focus of this report is to give an overview of the issues specific to managing young drivers at work. Evidence shows that young people have the highest collision involvement of any road user group.

This report looks into the direct and indirect factors associated with higher collision rates of young drivers at work and makes recommendations on how to assess and mitigate the specific risks associated with this group.

Legislation: Statutory Instruments

European Union (Road Transport) (Working Conditions and Road Safety) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 [S.I. No. 126/2015]

These Regulations amend the European Communities (Road Transport)(Working Conditions and Road Safety) Regulations 2008 (S.I. 62 of 2008) to reflect changes in regulation of tachographs brought about by Articles 24, 34 and 45 of Regulation (EU) No. 165 of 2014 which came into effect from 2 March 2015.

Road Traffic (Construction and Use of Vehicles) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 [S.I. No. 136/2015]

These Regulations introduce a revised national weight limit of 46 tonnes for six (or more) axle rigid and drawbar trailer vehicle combinations from 1 June 2015. The revised maximum weight limit is subject to several specified requirements being met, which vary depending on whether the rigid vehicle and drawbar trailer involved in the combination is registered prior to or after 1 June 2015.

European Union (Ship Inspection and Survey Organisations) (Amendment) Regulations 2015 [S.I. No. 140/2015]

These Regulations give effect to Commission Implementing Directive 2014/111/EU of 17 December 2014 amending Directive 2009/15/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations and for the relevant activities of maritime administrations, and give full effect to Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1355/2014 of 17 December 2014 amending Regulation (EC) No. 391/2009 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 23 April 2009 on common rules and standards for ship inspection and survey organisations.

The purpose of the Regulations is to amend the definition of “Directive” and “EC Regulation” in the European Communities (Ship Inspection and Survey Organisations) Regulations 2011 (S.I. No. 275 of 2011) to take into account the adoption on 17 December 2014 of Commission Implementing Directive 2014/111/EU and Commission Implementing Regulation (EU) No. 1355/2014 respectively. The Commission Implementing Directive and Regulation amend the definition of “international conventions” in Directive 2009/15/EC and Regulation (EC) No. 391/2009 so as to exclude certain paragraphs of a new IMO Instruments Implementation Code (III Code) and certain sections of an IMO Code for Recognized Organizations (RO Code) from application in an EU context as they are incompatible with EU legislation.

European Communities (Classification, Packaging and Labelling) (Revocation) Regulations 2015 [S.I. No. 196/2015]

Council Directives 67/548/EEC and 1999/45/EC deal with the classification, packaging and labelling of substances and preparations. The EU “CLP” Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 provides (in Article 60) for the repeal of these two Directives with effect from 1 June 2015, and from that date the 2008 EU “CLP” Regulation will become the definitive CLP legislative instrument and a transitioning-out phase of the older EU Directives will come to an end. Consequently, national Regulations transposing these two Directives are revoked with effect from 1 June 2015 by these Regulations.

Chemicals Act (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2015 [S.I. No. 209/2015]

(This note is not part of the

Instrument and does not purport to be a legal interpretation.)

The purpose of these Regulations, which have been made under the Chemical Acts 2008 and 2010, 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” (which is known for convenience as the SEVESO III Directive). They also make a number of consequential amendments necessitated by the transposition of Directive 2012/18/EU to the Chemical Acts 2008 and 2010, which are set out in Regulation 6.

The Regulations replace with effect from 1 June 2015-

- (i) the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 74 of 2006), and
- (ii) the European Union (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 571 of 2013).

The latter Regulations have formally been repealed by a separate statutory instrument made under the European Communities Act 1972, as amended.

The purpose of these Regulations is to lay down rules for the prevention of major accidents involving dangerous substances, and to seek to limit as far as possible the consequences for human health and the environment of such accidents when they occur, with the overall objective of providing a high level of protection in a consistent and effective manner.

This is to be achieved through tiered controls on the operators of such establishments — the larger the

quantities of dangerous substances present at an establishment, the more onerous are the duties imposed on the operator. The failure by operators to comply with their key obligations under these Regulations are criminal offences that may be prosecuted either summarily or on indictment.

The hazard categories of the dangerous substances in Schedule 1 reflects the classification, labelling and packaging of chemicals ('CLP') system introduced by Regulation (EC) No. 1272/2008 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 16 December 2008 on classification, labelling and packaging of substances and mixtures¹, as well as some new additions to the named substances in Part 2 of Schedule 1. Furthermore, a mechanism has been introduced for the assessment of the major accident potential for a particular substance to determine whether it should be included or excluded from the scope of Directive 2012/18/EU and therefore from these Regulations. 1 OJ L 353, 31.12.2008, p. 1. [209] 65

All operators who fall within the scope of these Regulations will be required to make a formal written notification to the Central Competent Authority and they will have the general duty to "take all necessary measures" to prevent major accidents and to limit the consequences of such accidents, should they occur.

A key aim of these Regulations is to improve the information provided to the public, including that provided by operators to the competent authorities, most notably to the Central Competent Authority, regarding their activities. The Health and Safety Authority, which is the Central Competent Authority for these Regulations, will ensure this information is permanently and electronically available to the public.

More particularly, these Regulations aim to ensure that the public potentially affected by a major accident will be informed of the

appropriate action to take in a major accident situation as well as that which the local competent authorities will take, based on the public external emergency plans drawn up under these Regulations, which are to be tested at three year intervals.

These Regulations provide for a more integrated approach to planning decisions concerning such establishments and, in particular, for

the provision of technical advice by the Health and Safety Authority to planning authorities, including, where appropriate, to An Bord Pleanála.

These Regulations require that the Central Competent Authority maintain an up-to-date inspection system that is both systematic and planned and appropriate to the different types of establishment covered by the Regulations.

Fatal workplace injuries by economic sector 2008-2015 (NACE Revision 2)

Economic sector		2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
A Agriculture, forestry and fishing	Crop and animal production, hunting and related service activities	20	10	22	22	20	16	30	8
	Forestry and logging	1	1	3	0	1	0	0	0
	Fishing and aquaculture	1	2	4	5	7	5	1	2
B Mining and quarrying		1	2	0	1	1	2	0	2
C Manufacturing		6	1	2	2	0	1	3	0
D Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply		0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities		2	0	2	3	4	1	0	2
F Construction		15	10	6	6	8	11	8	3
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods		3	2	4	2	3	3	4	0
H Transportation and storage		3	6	3	7	1	4	4	1
I Accommodation and food service activities		0	1	0	1	0	0	0	0
J Information and communication		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K Financial and insurance activities		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L Real estate activities		0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M Professional, scientific and technical activities		1	1	0	2	1	1	1	0
N Administrative and support service activities		0	1	0	0	1	0	2	0
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security		1	2	0	1	0	0	0	1
P Education		0	2	0	0	0	1	0	1
Q Human health and social work activities		0	1	1	1	1	0	1	1
R Arts, entertainment and recreation		1	0	1	1	0	0	1	0
S Other service activities		2	1	0	0	0	1	0	1
Total		57	43	48	54	48	47	56	22

(Updated 16th July 2015)

National Irish Safety Organisation Events Diary



Please keep an eye on our website: www.niso.ie for forthcoming courses in 2015.

1. Courses scheduled at NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Manual Handling Instructor & Assessor Course, QQI Level 6

Course length: 5 days; 3 days
week 1 & 2 days week 2
14, 15, 16 and 21, 22
September

Manual Handling Basic Course

Course length: half day
17 August

Occupational First Aid, QQI Level 5

Course length: 3 days
12-14 August

VDU / DSE Assessors Course

Course Length: 1 day
6 October

Occupational First Aid Re-Certification, QQI Level 5

Course length: 1 day
18 August

Safe Pass

Course Length: 1 day
Fridays, 24 & 31 July

2. Courses and events in the regions

WEST REGION

Seminar: Fire Safety

Oranmore Lodge Hotel,
Galway
8 September

MIDLAND REGION

Course: NISO Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety

Athlone Institute of Technology
Course length: 13 weeks, 2hrs
p/wk
Commencing: 21 September
2015
Contact: midland@niso.ie

MID WEST REGION

Course: NISO Introduction to Occupational Health and Safety

Limerick Institute of
Technology
Course length: 13 weeks, 2 hrs
p/wk
Commencing: 23 September
2015
Contact: FLLimerick@lit.ie

SOUTH REGION

Training: Safe Pass

Clayton Hotel Silver Springs,
Cork
Course length: 1 day
18 August

SOUTH EAST REGION:

Training: Safe Pass

Hotel Kilkenny, College Road,
Kilkenny
Course length: 1 day
11 August

Training: Safe Pass

Clonmel Park Hotel,
Poppyfields, Clonmel,
Tipperary
Course length: 1 day
28 July

3. National/ All Ireland Events

NISO Annual Conference and Trade Exhibition

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Galway
2 October 2015

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Ceremony

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Galway
2 October 2015

NISO Safety Representation Conference

Midland Region (Venue TBC)
20 October 2015



NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Calmount Avenue, Ballymount, Dublin 12.
Tel: 01 465 9760 Fax: 01 465 9765 Email: info@niso.ie Website: www.niso.ie