National Irish Safety Organisation

Update!

SPRING 2020

IN THIS EDITION:

Occupational Health and COVID-19

COVID-19 and Working from Home

National Irish Safety Organisation
Update!

Members visit niso.ie to download previous copies of the NISO Update!

President's message

COVID 19

By now we are all well aware that the plans made for 2020 are deferred, postponed or cancelled due to the COVID-19 crisis. This pandemic has created major disruption not just to our working lives but also to our personal lives. All safety professionals would have had a clear focus on prevention methods from the early indications of this virus spreading across the globe.

Leadership

In a crisis we need leaders to step forward and lead the way and when we look at the leadership shown by our Government, the Chief Medical Officer and the Executives within the Health Service Executive (HSE) I believe we have seen real leadership in action.

When one looks at the UK and USA and the lack of leadership in tackling this virus head on we should appreciate the tough decisions our leaders have made. When one looks at the number of deaths per confirmed COVID-19 cases (at time of writing) we are averaging about one death for every 20 confirmed cases while in the UK they are averaging one death about every 8 confirmed cases. According to reports the number of fatalities from COVID -9 in the UK does not include deaths occurring outside the Hospitals so the death rate is likely higher.

Role of the HSA

A number of people have questioned the role of the Health and Safety Authority during this crisis and asked whether it should they have been more vocal on the matter. As this is predominantly a public health issue it is only right that the Government agency taking the lead is the Minister for Health, Department of Health and the HSE. I believe the HSA was right to take a supportive role for the above agencies and not to become directly involved.

Return to Work

It will be important for us all to prepare for the return to work situations when the restrictions currently in place are relaxed. Safety professionals should now be making plans for a return to work situation, and indeed many of the hygiene practices currently in place will need to be maintained.

Currently NISO staff are working from home and will continue to do so until the Government advises otherwise. All our staff are available to assist our members with their queries via email or the web contact form.

Regional Committees and Seminars / Workshops

All our National and Regional Committee activities seminars and workshops are currently cancelled or deferred. We are hopeful that our AGM will be held on 30 July in Dublin.

Safety Awards

The 2020 All Ireland Safety Awards will go ahead under the new, later entry deadlines of 31 July for Early Bird entries and 25 September as the Standard Deadline. The Awards Presentation dinner will take place on Friday, 22 January 2021 in Killarney.

*Harry Galvin, president,
National Irish Safety Organisation*

All Ireland Quiz Finals

The All Ireland Quiz Finals have been deferred from 25 April to 17 October with Tullamore hosting the event. The Regions who deferred their regional quizzes in March will reschedule these quizzes in August/September.

Stay safe.

*Harry Galvin,
President, National Irish Safety Organisation*

COVID-19 Return to Work Prompts from NISO

As the country slowly starts to return to work in a staged and organised way in accordance with Government and Health guidelines it is important that employers and employees exercise caution on the resumption of work.

Overall the higher standards of hygiene to which we have all become accustomed over the last number of weeks should be maintained and indeed this higher standard can be a positive measure for all workplaces. Remember that a high standard of hygiene prevents a wide range of skin diseases and respiratory illness.

As you prepare for your employees returning perhaps you should consider the safety suggestions from NISO which you can download from niso.ie. These suggestions are not an exhaustive list but are intended as prompts to get you thinking and prepared for a safe return to the workplace.

Guidelines issued by the HSE, HSA, CIF, WHO and other reputable agencies were consulted in the compilation of this list.

COVID-19 Return to Work Prompts are available at niso.ie/resources/covid-19-return-to-work-prompts

Talks on national return to work protocol

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) has submitted a protocol to government with suggestions on how to make workplaces safe for a return to work amid the COVID-19 pandemic.

The suggestions include:

- **Changing the legislation to enable the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) enforcement powers to ensure compliance with the protocol.**
- **A special COVID-19 unit within the HSA to be central to enforcing the protocol.**
- **All employers required to provide a safe working environment and if unable to do so, the requirement to close.**

Suggested safety measures in the workplace to include:

- **social distancing (2 metres apart)**
- **face mask use in line with public health advice**
- **assessment of toilet facilities to determine how many people can use them at any one time to allow for distancing**
- **a one-way system on access routes through the workplace**
- **visitors to the workplace required to indicate if they have any COVID-19 symptoms and if they have been abroad in the last 14 days**

- **mental health issues to get special attention**
- **card payments only**
- **staggered use of canteen facilities**
- **where possible, non-operational staff to work remotely**

It is understood that a draft of the new protocol is being discussed with employer organisations and should be available soon.

Source: independent.ie

HSA warns farmers about increased risk to children on farms

With schools closed due to the COVID-19 pandemic, farmers are being urged to take additional safety precautions around their farms to make sure that their children are safe. The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is concerned that children will now be spending more time on farms and could be exposed to more risks as a result.

"Over the last 10 years, we have drastically reduced the number of child deaths on farms," says Pat Griffin, senior inspector at the HSA. "It's gone from regularly having six or seven child deaths per year down to one per year, which is one too many."

How to keep your children protected

The farm is also a home and unfortunately, there is often very little separation between the house and the farmyard. Because of this, farms can be very hazardous places for children. Most child deaths in the farmyard are associated with crush injuries from machinery movement, such as tractors, loaders and other machines and should therefore be off limits for children. Dangerous areas like sheds storing round bales, slurry tanks or silage pits should also be off limits and children need to be properly educated on the risks on the farm.

Tips to improve child safety on farms in brief

- No unsupervised access to the farmyard by young children
- Set age appropriate ground rules for what children can and cannot do on farms
- Set boundaries and limits for children of different ages
- Set up a fenced play area in full view of the homeplace where children can safely play outside without being exposed to the dangers
- Fence off any exposed water tanks, wells and slurry tanks
- Keep children away from dangerous areas such as slurry pits, silage pits, grain/chemical stores, working machinery and high areas
- Children must not be allowed near dangerous animals such as bulls, stallions, rams, stags and female animals with new-born-animals. Their natural instinct is strong and can be unpredictable around their young
- Make sure regular visitors to your farm and agricultural contractors are aware of the possible presence of young children
- Don't allow children under 14 to operate tractors or self-propelled machines. Keep the tractor keys in a safe place where they can't easily found by children, not in the tractor cab
- Make sure that children are nowhere in the vicinity when undertaking slurry agitation and keep guarding in place at agitation points

For more detailed information and advice on child safety on farms you can read this comprehensive article in full here: https://www.independent.ie/storyplus/farmers-warned-about-increased-risk-to-children-on-farms-as-a-result-of-school-closures-39097628.html

SAFETY ALERT

Construction Work on Farms and Use of Concrete Slats

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has issued this safety alert following a fatal accident involving construction work on a farm. The alert lays out several important safety points that must be taken into account in relation to concrete slats for use in agricultural sheds:

- Cattle slats should not be subject to vehicular traffic under any circumstances
- Tractor slats are designed for a maximum axle load of 7.8 tonne which should not be exceeded
- Slats should not be subjected to excessive point loading
- All slats should be subject to regular integrity monitoring after 10-15 years
- Farmers must not enter tanks even when empty and must follow guidance on slat inspection.

Construction work on farms

Where construction work is being considered on a farm, the farmer must ensure that the work is designed to be suitable for the intended purpose, is built in a safe manner and can be used and maintained in a safe manner after being built.

For further details and to read this safety alert in full visit hsa.ie.

ECHA to support EU-wide action against COVID-19

To increase the manufacture and supply of disinfectants on the European market, the European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is supporting EU/EEA authorities to apply derogations from the normal authorisation requirement for biocidal products.

Companies looking to quickly access the market with their disinfectants that contain an already approved active substance can apply for permission to the relevant national authority by relying on Article 55(1) of the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR). This provision allows national authorities to give time-limited derogations from the standard product authorisation requirements in situations where there is a threat to public health.

ECHA is also recommending certain compositional requirements for the two approved active substances, propan-1-ol and propan-2-ol, for their use in disinfectants. These recommendations will enable national authorities to swiftly check the quality of the incoming applications before deciding on a derogation.

Furthermore, to ease the work of authorities and for companies looking for information, ECHA is making three lists available with information on:

• biocidal active substances approved or being reviewed for their use in disinfectant products;
• disinfectant products that are authorised under the Biocidal Products Regulation (BPR); and
• disinfectant products authorised under national regimes in Spain, the Netherlands and Switzerland.

The European Commission has also prepared a document about the measures that national authorities could use (or have already used) to permit the sale of disinfectant products and help to reduce the spread of the novel coronavirus.

Source: echa.europa.eu

Further temporary derogation of EU driving and resting rules

The Road Safety Authority (RSA) and the Department of Transport, Tourism and Sport have agreed a further extension of the temporary derogation from certain provisions of the EU driving and resting time rules due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic. This extension includes additional measures, which will apply from 17 April to 31 May 2020.

The derogation will apply to all operators and drivers subject to the EU driver's hours and tachograph rules engaged in the carriage of all goods (including oil supplies etc.) and will continue to be reviewed by the RSA during this time.

The prolongation of this temporary derogation is being made in view of the potential ongoing impact of the COVID-19 crisis on HGV operations; the importance of ensuring continuity of supply chains; and in response to requests from the haulage industry.

The additional measures being introduced include the following;
• Opportunity to avail of extra reduced daily rest periods

• Opportunity to take a regular weekly rest period in the cabin

A detailed description of derogation measures regarding: fortnightly driving time, extra reduced daily rest periods, weekly rest requirements and regular weekly rest in the cabin is available to read on the RSA website.

Operator obligations
The RSA also outlines operator obligations emphasising that HGV operators are required to mitigate the risks of disruption to transport operations and to plan accordingly and ensure compliance with the EU rules.

The RSA also stressed that while the current situation may impact on driving time, driver safety or other road user's safety must not be compromised. Drivers should not deviate from the rules if it jeopardises road safety nor should they be expected to drive whilst tired - employers remain responsible for the health and safety of their employees and other road users.

Details of the derogations and operator obligations are outlined in detail on the RSA's website at www.rsa.ie.

Source: rsa.ie

CIF issues Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) has published *Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures* which serves as a guide for the management of COVID-19 on a construction site for the duration of the pandemic. This guidance is intended for use by construction organisations to prepare to operate in the construction industry when the current restrictions are relaxed.

The CIF stresses that this document needs to be used in a few very specific ways to ensure employers, employees and clients collaborate productively in adopting new COVID-19 health guidelines such as social distancing. This point is critical because, as the CIF states, if work cannot be carried out under these new circumstances, then work shouldn't take place.

The standard operating procedures (SOP) is a comprehensive document covering social distancing on construction sites, travel to and from work, hygiene, communal and welfare areas, health and safety documentation, management of deliveries and meetings and more. The CIF recommends that this document should be used by organisations to review their health and safety plans.

This guidance in this document is further supported by a compulsory online induction module which must be undertaken by all employees returning to work.

The CIF intends to use this document, and the complementary online module, to support its efforts to convince government that the construction industry can comply with new safety guidelines and to expedite its aims to get the construction industry up and running again as soon as possible.

For further information and to download *Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures* visit: cif.ie/2020/04/15/new-operating-procedures/

The CIF has also prepared a "Back to Work Resource Pack" which is available at https://cif.ie/2020/04/27/ the-cif-key-guidance-notes-for-the-construction-sector/

Nurses account for nearly one-in-ten COVID-19 cases

Nurses	34%
Healthcare assistants	24%
Doctors	7%
Other healthcare workers	35%

The Irish Nurses and Midwives Organisation (INMO) has sought an immediate investigation into the procurement of personal protection equipment (PPE) following inconsistent supplies and reports of healthcare staff procuring their own PPE. The union has also sought a review of occupational health advice that granted derogations to essential workers who were suspected COVID-19 positive, or were close contacts of people with the virus, to work when asymptomatic within the 14-day quarantine period.

The union is seeking a universal face mask policy for all workers in healthcare settings; more frequent and detailed publication on healthcare worker infection, including the source of transmission; updated guidance on PPE and for occupational health which ensures healthcare staff are given appropriate and safe time for self-isolation.

Source: irishtimes.com

Concerning figures released by the Health Service Executive (HSE) show that nearly one in every ten in Ireland who has contracted COVID-19 is a nurse. Healthcare workers make up over a quarter of positive cases in Ireland. The breakdown of healthcare workers diagnosed with COVID-19 (total of 5,684 at 30 April 2020) is as follows:

Control of Legionella Bacteria During and After the COVID-19 Pandemic

The HSA has issued this advice for employers or those in control of places of work to highlight the requirement to continue managing Legionella control to avoid the potential for Legionnaires' disease.

Background

Because of the current situation with COVID-19 many places of work such as hotels, leisure facilities, offices, dental clinics and hairdressers have had to temporarily close with only essential businesses staying open. In many cases, the closure may have occurred overnight or at very short notice. Essential businesses such as healthcare facilities and nursing homes may find that their primary focus is on current issues. In addition, employers may have concerns about allowing water system contractors on site due to the current situation. As a result, the control of Legionella bacteria may not be deemed a priority and control measures may be neglected, however, it is vital that so far as reasonably practicable that control measures are still maintained.

Please visit the Health and Safety website at hsa.ie for detailed information on this issue at https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/biological_agents/specific_biological_agents_infections/legionellosis/covid-19_legionella_information_note.pdf

Placing PPE on the EU market – New Conformity Procedures

The demand for PPE such as face masks, gloves, protective coveralls, eyewear protection and for medical devices such as surgical masks has seen exponential growth since the outbreak of COVID-19. In response to this need, the European Commission has published Recommendation (EU) 2020/403 to facilitate the rapid uptake of new products on the EU market while also urging all notified bodies (third party testing bodies) to prioritise any new requests submitted by manufacturers for COVID-19 related products.

The Recommendation provides for two scenarios in which PPE products may (1) be placed on the market before the conformity assessment procedures have been concluded or, (2) in exceptional cases, before conformity assessment procedures have been initiated.

To assist the interpretation of the process the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), as the Competent National Authority for workplace PPE (EU (PPE) Regulations 2018), has produced two flow diagrams which are available to download from the HSA website, hsa.ie. (https://www.hsa.ie/eng/news_events_media/news/news_and_articles/covid_19_placing_ppe_on_the_eu_market_%E2%80%93_new_conformity_procedures.html)

Applications from importers or manufacturers of PPE who wish to avail of the new conformity procedures should be sent to the HSA at PPEnewtomarket@hsa.ie.

For further information and to read the article in full please visit hsa.ie.

niso.ie

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK
13 weeks; 1 evening per week

COURSE

Commencing

Cork
14 September 2020

Dublin
15 September 2020

Limerick IT
15 September 2020

Mayo GMIT
15 September 2020

Tralee
15 September 2020

Waterford IT
15 September 2020

Athlone IT
21 September 2020

DETAILS AND CONTACTS:

National Irish Safety Organisation
A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12
T 1850 SAFETY **F** 01 4659765
E info@niso.ie **W** niso.ie
Course Price: €425 (NISO members); €525 (Non members)

Rescheduled NISO Events 2020

Due to the ongoing situation regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, and in keeping with safety measures to help prevent the spread of the virus, NISO has made a number of changes to its upcoming events calendar.

All Ireland Occupational Health & Safety Awards submissions [July/September 2020]

The Occupational Health & Safety Awards will proceed this year and the deadlines for submissions have been extended as follows:

Early bird entries: 31 July 2020
Standard entry deadline: 25 September 2020.

There will be no late entry deadline so ensure your submission is sent to reach NISO or NISG by 25 September 2020 at latest.

Organisations who have availed of the Early bird submission date (Friday, 27 March 2020) will have the opportunity to have their submission returned by recorded delivery to allow for further improvements. Organisations who have made early bird payments should ensure they meet the 31 July deadline for submitting entries. We will be in touch separately with these organisations.

All Ireland Occupational Health & Safety Awards Presentation Ceremony [22 January 2021]

The Occupational Health & Safety Awards Presentation Ceremony has been deferred to Friday, 22 January 2021 and it will take place at the original venue, the Great Southern, Killarney, Co. Kerry.

All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals [17 October 2020]

The Safety Quiz Finals will now take place on Saturday, 17 October in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly. We will also rearrange dates for the remaining regional heats in due course.

NISO National AGM [30 July]

The NISO National AGM is now scheduled for 30 July in the NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12. Notice of the AGM will be sent out in June.

NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference [Cancelled]

It is with regret that NISO has taken the decision to cancel the Annual Conference but we look forward to planning a great line up of speakers and topics for you in 2021.

Take part in the All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz and raise health and safety awareness in your workplace in a fun and informative way!

Quiz Format

Winning teams the Regional Heats [Previous Entrants or Novice categories] will proceed to the All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals in the Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly on Saturday, 17 October 2020.

Results to date

Regional Winners – Previous Entrants Category
- Haffey Sports Grounds representing Northern Ireland
- BioMarin International Limited representing the Southern Region
- Ingersoll Rand Thermo King representing the Western Region

Regional Winners – Novice Category
- RYOBI representing Northern Ireland
- BioMarin International Limited representing the Southern Region
- Abbott Rapid DX International Ltd. representing the Western Region

The remaining Regional Heats [Eastern, Midland, Midwest, North West and South East regions] will be rescheduled in due course. If your organisation is interested in participating in the All Ireland Safety Quiz 2020 please send an email to info@niso.ie to express your interest. We will then notify you when the Regional Heats have been rescheduled.

All Ireland Safety Quiz Final

Saturday, 17 October 2020; 14.30hrs; Tullamore, Co. Offaly

To qualify for the All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals your organisation needs to participate in and win the relevant category [Previous Entrants or Novice] in one of the eight regional or Northern Ireland quizzes.

2019 winners
Previous Entrants: AIB
Novice: BioMarin International Ltd.

2018 winners
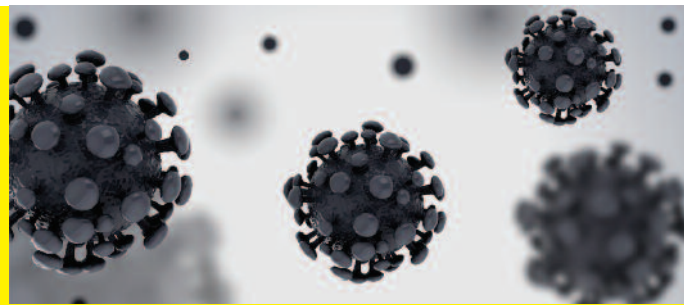Previous Entrants: Thermo King Ingersoll-Rand, Galway
Novice: Aughinish Alumina, Limerick

COVID-19 Resources

Here is a round-up of some of the most relevant and useful resources regarding Occupational Safety and Health and the COVID-19 pandemic.

NISO COVID-19 Resource Page

All the most relevant information regarding the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic is available to access from the niso.ie website on the COVID-19 Resource Page. This page will be updated as the situation evolves and will only feature links to the most reputable and reliable sources.

Visit: https://niso.ie/resources/covid-19-resources

Department of Health

The Department of Health is leading the way on Ireland's response to the COVID-19 pandemic. Visit the Department of Health's COVID-19 Web Page for all the latest developments, public health measures, health updates and information from across government.

Visit: https://www.gov.ie/en/campaigns/c36c85-covid-19-coronavirus/a

Ibec COVID-19 Hub

Ibec offers information on Business Continuity Planning, HR Guidance and Government measures in its COVID-19 Hub.

Ibec also regular posts informative and timely podcasts here also. Very useful resource for employers and businesses.

Visit: https://www.ibec.ie/employer-hub/covid-19

Coronavirus (COVID-19) posters and resources

A comprehensive collection of the resources that have been put together by the Department of Health and the Health Service Executive, many of which are for use in workplaces and pertain to occupational safety and health during the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. These resources include booklets, posters, videos, audio resources, guides, social media graphics, banners, HSE approved guidance for disability services and resources for people with dementia, their families and carers.

All the resources are open to the public and free to download and most are available in several languages.

Visit: https://www.hse.ie/eng/services/news/newsfeatures/covid19-updates/partner-resources/

HSA: COVID-19 webpage

There are a number of COVID-19 resources on the Health and Safety Authority's (HSA) website including the very useful COVID-19 FAQs for Employers and Employees in relation to Home-Working on a temporary basis.

The HSA has also put together the COVID-19 Advice for Employer and Employees which contains wide-ranging information on occupational safety health issues that may arise during the COVID-19 crisis including legal obligations for employees, information regarding safety training and certification and lots more.

Visit: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/topics/covid-19/covid-19_coronavirus.html

INAB COVID-19 Information

Irish National Accreditation Board (INAB) continues to engage with all of its accredited conformity assessment bodies (CABs) during this time, respond to queries and provide as much advice as possible.

It consults regularly with its European and international colleagues (EA, ILAC and IAF) and follow their positions with regard to accredited conformity assessments.

Its own risk assessment processes are under constant review and update.

Visit: https://www.inab.ie/Latest-News/News/COVID-19/INAB-COVID-19-Information.html

EU-OSHA: Practical tools and guidance on musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs)

An easy-to-use database which includes a variety of practical tools and guidance materials developed at EU and national levels to help manage MSD risks during the COVID-19 pandemic. The variety of resources is quite comprehensive and includes guidance material for a wide range of sectors, hazard types and prevention measures. Some are specifically aimed at particular groups, i.e., employers, workers or managers or particular groups of workers.

Here is just a few of the many resources available:

- A guide to home working and self-isolating (article)
- Working at home with kids (video)
- Homeworking mental health tips (video)
- Computer workstation ergonomics (guides & tools)

Visit: https://osha.europa.eu/en/themes/musculoskeletaldisorders/practical-tools-musculoskeletal-disorders

COVID-19: BACK TO THE WORKPLACE – Adapting workplaces and protecting workers

New EU-OSHA wiki page which includes non-binding guidelines that aim to help employers and workers to stay safe and healthy in a working environment that has changed significantly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The guidelines provide advice on risk assessment and appropriate measures such as minimising exposure, resuming work, coping with absences and managing workers working from home.

Visit: https://osha.europa.eu/en/highlights/covid-19-back-workplace-safe-and-healthy-conditions

HPSC Guidance on COVID-19 for employers and employers

Webpage from the Health Protection Surveillance Centre with useful information for employers and employees during the COVID-19 crisis including the full list of public health measures, full list of essential retail outlets and full list of essential workers.

Visit: https://www.hpsc.ie/az/respiratory/coronavirus/novelcoronavirus/guidance/employersemploye

Healthy Ireland – In This Together

Healthy Ireland has compiled resources to help us mind our mental and physical health during these uncertain times of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Here you will find lots of advice and tips on how you can look after your mental wellbeing, stay active and stay connected. In This Together draws together a huge range of activities that you can pursue in your home or your locality, by yourself or with family members or with friends online. There are ideas and activities for people of all ages.

Visit: gov.ie/together

NSAI COVID-19 Resources

The National Standards Authority of Ireland has produced some very useful resources which are available on its website. These resources include:

- Medical Supplies Standards have been made available free of charge in response to the rapidly increasing demand for medical supplies. Organisations can apply for the standards through the NSAI website
- COVID-19 Retail Protection and Improvement Guide – the retailer's one-stop-shop guide to preventing, mitigating and recovering from the spread of illness.
- Guidance on Manufacturing and Importing PPE and Medical Devices – to ensure compliance with the EU legal framework during the COVID-19 Pandemic.
- COVID-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide – A guide consolidating the practical advice available on protecting employees and the public during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Visit: https://www.nsai.ie/covid-19/

Occupational Health and SARS-CoV-2 (Covid-19)

Dr Deirdre Gleeson, Specialist in Occupational Health, Medwise

Dr Sasha Hennessy, Specialist in Occupational Health, Medwise

Covid-19

Severe acute respiratory syndrome Coronavirus 2 (SARS-Cov 2) is a novel coronavirus first identified in 2019. The virus causes the Coronavirus disease-2019 (Covid-19), a severe respiratory illness that in 20% of cases results in acute respiratory distress syndrome of such severity that 5% of patients require ventilation and ICU care.

The virus is transmitted by respiratory droplets. At the time of writing it is estimated that, on average, one infected person will infect 2-3 other people. The virus enters the body through the mucous membranes of the mouth, nose or eyes from a direct cough or sneeze or from the persons own contaminated hands touching their face. Symptoms include cough, fever, breathlessness and flu-like symptoms such as fatigue, sore throat and runny nose. 80% of people who acquire the infection will have a mild course of disease and it is believed that many people are asymptomatic. However, the elderly and those with underlying medical conditions are most at risk of severe disease and death and require special protection.

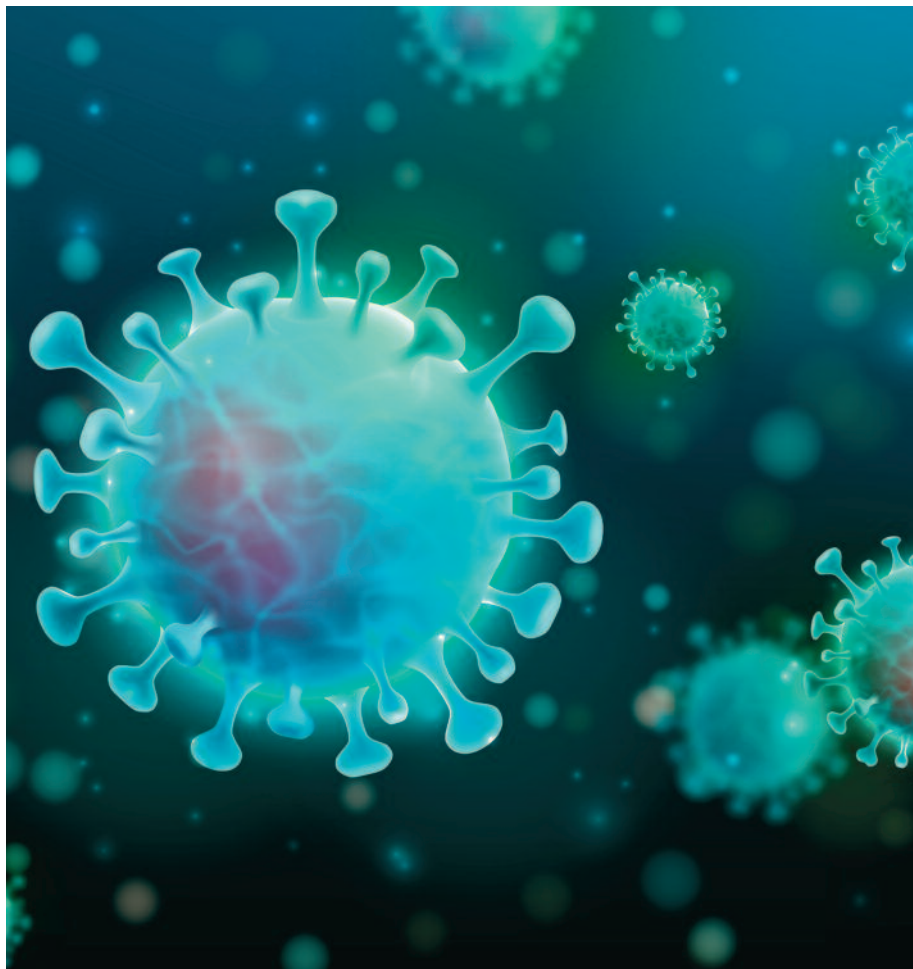SARS-CoV-2 is a biological hazard and the requirements of The Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Biological Agents) Regulations 2013 apply. The employer is obliged to implement a comprehensive infection prevention and control (IPC) management programme to reduce the risk of the virus entering the workplace and to eliminate as far as reasonably possible viral transmission in the workplace.

Infection prevention and control

The hierarchy of prevention and control apply to Covid-19. Engineering methods and administrative measures take precedence over personal protective equipment (PPE) which are the last line of defence and least effective intervention. Employers have shown tremendous innovation in adapting their business to protect staff and customers during the pandemic. Facilitating remote working, staggering start and finish times, slowing down production lines, use of Perspex screens to allow social distancing and ubiquitous hand hygiene stations are examples of measures taken to reduce the risk of transmission in the workplace. Soap and water kills the virus; regular hand washing is the most important intervention to break the chain of transmission. Employees are encouraged to report symptoms or concerns and facilitated in making the right choices to protect their own health and that of their colleagues.

The good news is that soap and water kills the virus. Amphiphile particles in soap pull apart the protein and lipid coating of the virus. Alternatively, use 60% to 80% alcohol based gel. 'No Sanitizer; No Entry'.

An important element of an organisation's Covid-19 management strategy is screening and prevention at

the point of entry. This includes (1) symptom questionnaire, (2) temperature check and (3) mandatory hand hygiene before entering the workplace. The questionnaire should list symptoms of Covid-19 and ask if advised to cocoon, self-isolate or quarantine in the past 14 fourteen. A temperature over 37.5^{O}C is significant, does not confirm or outrule infection. Paracetamol or ibuprofen may mask a high temperature and fever fluctuates during the course of any illness. If there a positive result on the questionnaire or temperature check the employee cannot enter the workplace until cleared to do so by a doctor or occupational health nurse.

Close contacts:
People are infectious for 2 days prior to and 14 days after the onset of symptoms or for 5 days following the last high temperature. Maintaining social distance of 2 metres or more between people at all times will reduce the likelihood of transmission and will ensure that none of your staff are close contacts of other staff or service users in the event that one of them becomes ill.

A close contact is a person who has been within 2 metres of a suspected or confirmed case of Covid-19 for 15 minutes cumulatively over a day, or a person who shared a confined space such as an office for over 2 hours. An identified close contact must quarantine for 14 days from the time of the last contact. Employees should take responsibility to keep a *close contact* for every shift so that close contacts may be readily identified if necessary. The employer should facilitate leave or remote working in this circumstance even before the department of public health contact tracing team telephone individual employees to give specific advice.

The World Health Organisation recommends conserving supplies of PPE for use in the healthcare sector. However, in exceptional circumstances

in other workplaces where physical distancing cannot be maintained and as a last resort, employees should be provided with appropriate PPE including goggles, face masks, face shields, gloves and overalls. PPE may increase the risk of contamination unless used appropriately and thus require training in donning and doffing. Homemade facemasks are NOT PPE. They are not manufactured to healthcare standards and have unproven viral filtration efficiency.

If there is a cluster of Covid-19 cases among staff. The Department of Public Health will convene an outbreak control team to investigate the source of infection and take appropriate action. Covid-19 is a notifiable disease and under The Health Act 1947, 1953 (Infectious Disease Regulations 1981 and subsequent). The Medical Officer of Health has the authority to close any business or organisation to remove "conditions favourable to the spread of infection". A workplace outbreak means that cases are linked and transmission is occurring onsite. Implementing and documenting adequate infection prevention and control measures protects an employer against closure due to a Covid-19 outbreak.

Absence benefits:
People quarantining or self-isolating due to suspected or confirmed Covid-19 illness are entitled to the enhanced illness benefit from the Department of employment affairs and social protection. People cocooning are not entitled to this benefit. However, they are entitled to regular illness benefit and the employer's sick pay scheme. The sickness absence policy should require employees to submit medical evidence of self-isolation, quarantine or cocooning.

Employees in the "extremely medically vulnerable" who are obliged to cocoon should submit a letter from the treating specialist. Employees who

are in the high-risk group, but who do not fulfil the criteria for cocooning, e.g. hypertension, diabetes and pregnancy are fit for work according to HPSC occupational health guidelines. However, the employer should accommodate requests for leave or alternative work duties as far as practicable. The occupational health team will give advice on fitness for work on a case by case basis and in conjunction with the treating doctors.

Coping with Covid-19
Covid-19 causes enormous hardship and suffering that impacts the workplace in a multitude of ways. The effects of Covid-19 on the safety, health and welfare of employees will be with us for some time to come. Employers are faced with many difficulties to maintain business and service while at the same time protecting and supporting employees. Promoting workplace wellbeing and providing access to employee assistance service will help employees cope the burthen of Covid-19 and assist building of resilience to adapt to the challenge ahead.

The employer's approach to Covid-19 requires a comprehensive management approach with multiple strategies and cooperation from all stakeholders. The occupational health team will give general and individual advice on all aspects of infection, prevention control and on fitness for work. The Covid-19 pandemic presents a unique and constantly evolving global challenge. The world is still learning about the SARS-Cov2 virus. As new information emerges the employer must reassess the risks and act in a timely manner to take all reasonable steps to protect the health, safety and welfare of the workforce and to safeguard the survival of the business.

"Asking the question 'are we doing enough' regularly and repeatedly is critical."- Dr. Maria Van Kerkhove, technical lead, WHO, March 2020.

REFERENCES:
1. Interim Guidance for Coronavirus - Healthcare Worker Management By Occupational Health Version 13 21 04/2020. www.hpsc.ie
2. Pregnant Healthcare Workers (HCWs), Vulnerable HCWs and HCW with Other Pre-Existing Disease Version 5, 15/04/2020. www.hpsc.ie
3. Guidance on cocooning to protect people over 70 years and those extremely medically vulnerable from COVID-19. www.gov.ie/en/publication/ 10th Apr 2020.
4. Institute of Obstetricians & Gynaecologists. COVID-19 infection Guidance for Maternity Services, version 2. p48-49. Health Services Executive. (2020)

Speed trumps perfection

"Be fast, have no regrets you must be the first mover. If you need to be right before you move, you will never win. Speed trumps perfection. The greatest error is not to move, the greatest error is to be paralysed by the fear of failure"

Dr. Michael Ryan, Chief Executive Director of the WHO Health Emergencies Programme

Michael Gillen, Senior OHS Policy Executive, Ibec

Speed trumps perfection: words that can be traced back to the plan-do-check-act (PDCA) cycle used for the control and continuous improvement of processes and products. Indeed, this PDCA approach is the basis of all safety management systems including that published by the Health & Safety Authority in 2006

The importance of this mantra is evident in comparing the approaches taken by Ireland (specifically the Republic of Ireland as Northern Ireland choose to adopt the UK approach) and our nearest neighbour, the UK.

On 31 January, two members of a family became the first confirmed cases of COVID-19 in the UK. Yet it was 23 March – a full 52 days later – before a full lock down was announced (the UK death toll had reached 281 by 22 March).

On 29 February, the first positive case of Covid-19 was confirmed in the Republic of Ireland.

[The National Public Health Emergency Team (NPHET), a group within the Department of Health, had been monitoring the spread of the virus before it was confirmed to have reached Ireland and the Coronavirus Expert Advisory Group—a subgroup of NPHET chaired by Cillian de Gascun, the UCD-based Director of the National Viral Reference Laboratory—met for the first time on 5 February in Dublin]

This came two days after the first case on the island of Ireland was announced - a woman from Belfast who had travelled from Northern Italy through Dublin Airport. This was the start of the 'containment phase' of

NPHET's management of the situation where the primary focus was on following up with all known contacts of the positive cases.

On 12 March, 27 new cases were confirmed, bringing the total cases in the country to 70 (the first recorded fatality had been recorded the day before). In response to this increase in cases, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced the closure of all schools, colleges and childcare facilities until 29 March. This marked Ireland's transition from the containment phase towards the 'delay phase' in its strategy to combat the spread of the virus.

On 27 March, 302 new cases as well as 3 new deaths brought the total number of confirmed cases and deaths to 2,121 and 22, respectively. On the evening of the 27 March, Taoiseach Leo Varadkar announced a series of measures which he summed up as: "Stay at Home". This was the start of our lockdown and came **26** days after our first recorded case. The **UK gap was 52 days**. By 10 April, the number of confirmed fatalities in the UK was 8,958 (source: John Hopkins

University); on the same date the number of confirmed fatalities in the Republic was 287 (coincidentally this was the weekend that the official global death toll passed 100,000).

Just 8 days later (April 18th) the death tolls in the UK and Republic of Ireland were 15,464 and 530. One important caveat to these numbers must be included – the deaths in the **Republic of Ireland includes** those from nursing homes; the **UK** figures **do not**. Indeed, based on figures from countries that have reported all known cases of fatalities due to Covid-19 we know that the actual figure in the UK is probably 30% plus greater than what is being reported.

As of April 18th 2020, the number of Covid-19 deaths per one million population was 109 in Ireland and 219 in the UK (not including nursing homes). This will rise further. The population of the UK is approximately 13 times larger than that of the Republic of Ireland (63 million versus 4.9 million). Had we taken the same approach that our neighbours did, approximately 539 more people would have died here in the same timeframe.

Luck has also played a part. Ireland is lucky that our Chief Medical Officer, Dr. Tony Holohan, is a public health specialist. He understood the importance of speed from the very beginning and was able to persuade the Government of this importance. On 11th March, there was one hour between the reporting of the first deaths in Belgium, Sweden & Ireland. By 18th April the death toll in these three countries is 5453, 1511 & 571 respectively. There are many reasons for this disparity (respective populations are 11.5, 10.3 & 4.9 million) but speed of response is probably the biggest.
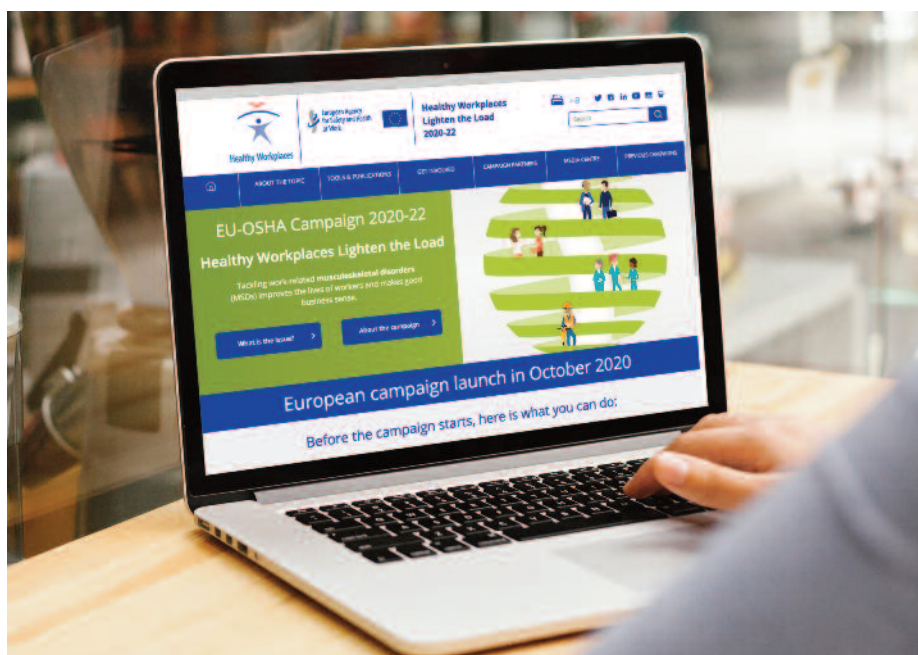
One final personal reflection. This virus doesn't travel; people travel. My 87-year-old father has been in a nursing home since November 2014. On March 6th 2020, the nursing informed the families of residents that they would NOT be allowing visitors for the foreseeable future due to Covid-19. Many people were hurt and angered by this decision. As of April 18th, the virus has not entered his nursing home. Speed trumps perfection!

EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load Campaign 2020-22

The upcoming EU-OSHA Healthy Workplaces Lighten the Load pre-campaign material is now available online. The new website, https://healthy-workplaces.eu/en, is packed with information and helpful resources on work-related musculoskeletal disorders and why we must manage them.

More tools and resources will be added to the website, in several languages, in the lead up to the campaign launch during European Week for Safety and Health at Work in October 2020. Prior to the launch you can check out the material that's now available and learn how to get involved!

Find out more and download resources at https://healthy-workplaces.eu/en.

COVID-19 and Working from Home Temporarily

Yvonne Mullooly, Assistant Chief Executive with the Health and Safety Authority, writes about how employers can implement a temporary working from home policy during the COVID-19 public health emergency.

Yvonne Mullooly, Assistant Chief Executive, Health and Safety Authority.

During this unprecedented time, many employees are working from home on a temporary basis. For some, this may be a normal part of their work arrangements. However, for many employers and employees it is a new experience. Employers have specific duties to ensure the safety, health and welfare at work of all employees and these duties include the employee's workspace where employees are required to work from home.

Duties of Employers

Responsibility for health and safety at work rests with the employer whether or not that work is being done at the worker's home. Employers should consult with their employees to ensure they are aware of any specific risks regarding working from home, that the work activity and the temporary workspace are suitable, the employee has suitable equipment to enable the work to be done, and that there is a pre-arranged means of contact.

Employers must determine whether the temporary home workspace is suitable for the work the employee is undertaking. Questions to consider include: Does the employee have a suitable space to work from temporarily? Is there adequate light, ventilation and heat to allow the employee to work comfortably? Is there enough space to accommodate the required equipment? Is the floor area clear of electrical cables and other slip/trip hazards? Are electrical sockets, plugs and cords in good condition?

For employees with disabilities or who require special consideration, e.g. pregnant employees, young employees or those with mobility needs, the employer should consider the suitability of the person to the work in the context of their home working space. It is essential that work tasks and working conditions do not adversely affect the health of vulnerable employees or those with a disability.

Equipment already in use in the workplace, e.g. laptop, mouse, monitor, keyboard and headset, can be used for temporary home-working. If the employer provides any equipment, it must be in good condition and suitable for the work activity. Suitable equipment already available in the employee's home can be considered for temporary work from there.

Supporting Employees

Working from home can result in employees feeling isolated, working longer hours and blurring the lines between work and family life. It is important that employers keep in touch with their employees and employees know they have support at all times during working hours. Employers should ensure that contact details for employees are on file and agree a means of contact. Consider arranging regular updates via phone, webcalls or email with each employee and provide employees with emergency contact details. It is also helpful to provide employees with information detailing when it is important for them to contact their employer and where appropriate, arrange IT support in the event of technical problems.

Work should be organised in such a way that the employee takes regular breaks. Apart from providing employees with regular feedback on their work, encourage them to maintain contact with their colleagues and to separate their work life from their daily life.

Duties of Employees

Employees also have important duties and responsibilities when working from home. Employees have a responsibility to take reasonable care of themselves and others who may be affected by the work being undertake. Employees must cooperate with the employer and follow their instructions and any procedures that have been out in place. Any injury should be reported to the employer immediately.
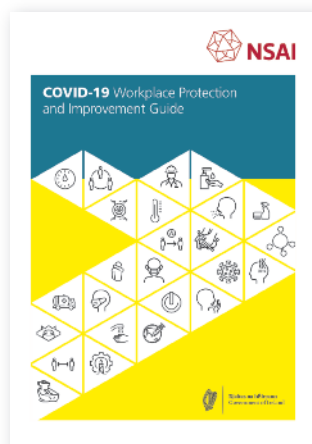
Employees should consider the most appropriate space within their home for work activity. Key elements include lighting, heat and ventilation to be able to work comfortably, clutter-free floor area to avoid slip and trip hazards, suitable power sockets to avoid trailing cables and overloading, and internet access. Employees should also identify what equipment is required to work temporarily from home and agree these items with the employer.

Apart from the usual regular contact employees should contact their employer if there is an incident arising from a work activity, if the equipment the employer has provided is not working properly or requires maintenance, and if there is a specific query or concerns relating to safety, health and welfare.

For further information visit the Health and Safety Authority website and on our new COVID-19 webpage at www.hsa.ie, telephone 1890 289 389 or email wcu@hsa.ie. Visit www.besmart.ie for access to the HSA's free online risk assessment tool or www.hsalearning.ie to access our online learning platform.

New Publications

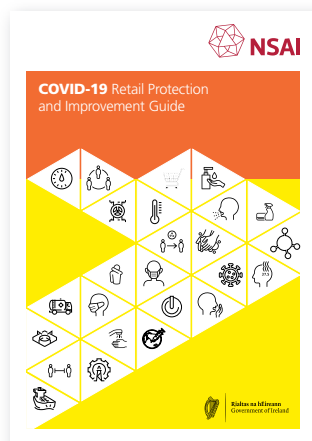## COVID-19 Workplace Protection and Improvement Guide

Publication from the National Standards Authority of Ireland (NSAI) which consolidates practical guidance that is available on how to manage business continuity during the COVID-19 pandemic, in relation to workers and the public.

Available at: nsai.ie/covid-19workplaceprotection/

COVID-19 Retail Protection and Improvement Guide

Publication from the NSAI which is intended to consolidate practical guidance that is available at time of writing on how to manage business continuity of the retail sector during the COVID-

19 pandemic. It addresses risks to both workers and the public. It draws from many already published documents.

Available at: nsai.ie/covid-19retailprotection/

Free Medical Equipment Standards

In an effort to increase the production of medical supplies during the COVID-19 pandemic, the NSAI has made its Medical Equipment Standards available for free. Normally standards must be purchased and used in line with intellectual property rights. The provision of free standards is part of a strong international response from all parties involved to address the shortage problem of protective equipment deriving from the COVID-19 pandemic.
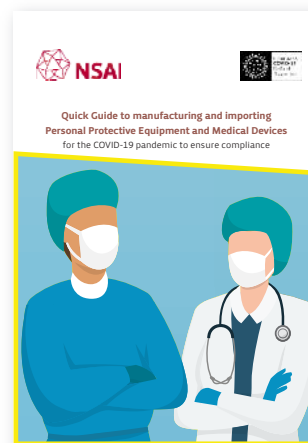
Available from: nsai.ie

Freely Available ISO Standards

A list which has been compiled by the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) to support global efforts in dealing with the COVID-19 crises. Large number of freely available standards in read-only format.

Available at: iso.org/covid19

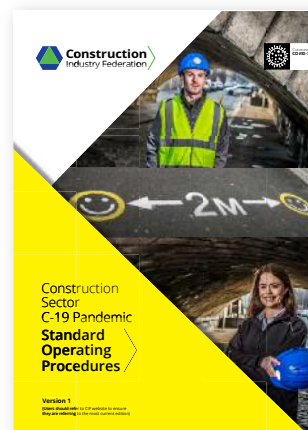## Guidance on manufacturing and importing PPE & medical devices ensuring compliance during the COVID-19 pandemic

The manufacture and import of PPE and Medical Devices has grown significantly due to the COVID-19 pandemic. This quick guide from the NSAI will take you through the requirements for placing such goods on the market.

Available at: nsai.ie/covid-19-ppe-md/

Construction Sector C-19 Pandemic Standard Operating Procedures

The Construction Industry Federation (CIF) has developed this document which serves as a guide for the management of COVID-19 on a

construction site for the duration of the pandemic and should be used in tandem with an amended Construction Stage Health and Safety Plan. The purpose of this document is to help protect workers, their families and the community while also recognising the need to protect livelihoods.

Available at: cif.ie/2020/04/15/new-operating-procedures/

Conformity assessment procedures for protective equipment

This Q&A document from the European Commission is addressed to prospective manufacturers of protective equipment. The document will be complemented on a regular basis in order to address and additional questions or concerns expressed by the economic operators.

Available at: ec.europa.eu/docsroom/documents/40521

Using face masks in the community (technical report)

Reducing COVID-19 transmission from potentially asymptomatic or pre-symptomatic people through the use of face mask. This document provides the European Centre for Disease Prevention and Control (ECDC) opinion on the suitability of face masks

Using face masks in the community (technical report) cont'd

and other face covers in the community by individuals who are not ill in order to reduce the potential pre-symptomatic or asymptomatic transmission of COVID-19 from the mask wearer to others.

Available from:
ecdc.europa.eu

Using face masks in the community (infographic)

Useful and clear guidance from the ECDC on the use of face masks in the community during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Available from:
ecdc.europa.eu

COVID-19: Back to the Workplace - Adapting workplaces and protecting workers

New EU-OSHA publication which includes non-binding guidelines that aim to help employers and workers to stay safe and healthy in a working environment that has changed significantly because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/covid-19-back-workplace-adapting-workplaces-and-protecting-workers/view

Regulatory assessment framework of the preparedness of designated centre for older people for a COVID-19

New publication from the Health Information and Quality Authority (HIQA) entitled *Regulatory*

assessment framework of the preparedness of designated centre for older people for a COVID-19 outbreak provides information on how HIQA plans to support nursing homes to prepare for a COVID-19 outbreak.

The document sets out the supports and resources available to registered providers and designated centres during this public health emergency which have been made available by the Health Service Executive.

Available at:
https://www.hiqa.ie/sites/default/files/2020-04/Assessment-framework-DCOP-covid19-preparedness.pdf

The Royal Institute of the Architects of Ireland (RIAI)

The RIAI has published a series of proposals to support the delivery of safe working environments as construction sites reopen. The publication, titled *RIAI Proposals for Reopening of Construction Sites to Promote Suitable Protocols for Working Environments*, is intended to assist in getting construction sites functioning post COVID-19 restrictions without

compromising quality of construction or compliance with building regulations.

Available at:
https://www.riai.ie/whats-on/news/the-riai-produces-discussion-paper-for-restarting-of-construction-activity

Hand Washing Technique Poster (reprinted)

NISO is making the Hand Washing Technique poster (A4) free to download for NISO members. The full-size (A2) Hand Washing Technique poster has recently been reprinted and will be available to purchase when the NISO office reopens in line with government advice.

The free download is available at https://niso.ie/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/NISO-hand-washing-technique-poster.pdf.

Legislation update

SI No 102 of 2020 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2020

The purpose of these Regulations is to amend the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 (S.I. No. 291 of 2013) (as previously amended by Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) (Amendment) Regulations 2019 (S.I. No. 129 of 2019)) to extend the validity of safety awareness registration cards which cannot be renewed as a result of the Covid-19 emergency.

SI No 630 of 2019 Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Retail Stores) Regulations 2019

New Regulations which cover the licensing, operation and inspection of retail and kerbside retail stores come into effect on 1 April 2020. They are cited as the Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Retail Stores Regulations), 2019 (S.I. No. 630 of 2019). They replace the Dangerous Substances (Retail and Private Petroleum Stores) Regulations, 1979.

SI No 631 of 2019 Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Distribution and Commercial Supply Stores) Regulations 2019

New Regulations covering the licensing, operation and inspection of fuel stores also come into effect on 1 April 2020. They are cited as the Dangerous Substances (Flammable Liquids and Fuels Distribution and Commercial Supply Stores) Regulations, 2019 (S.I. No. 631 of 2019). They replace the Dangerous Substances (Petroleum Bulk Stores) Regulations, 1979.

Further information on these Regulations is available on the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation website at https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Legislation/Dangerous-Substances-Regulations-2019.html

Dangerous Substances Legislation 2019 – Frequently Asked Questions

Comprehensive documents accompanying the legislation above which is available from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation website, dbei.gov.ie.

Extension of timeline for reporting on exports and imports under the Export/Import (PIC) Regulation (EU) No 649/2012

Due to the current COVID-19 situation, the European Commission has extended the deadline for companies who are required to report on their 2019 exports and imports of chemicals listed in Annex I of the Export/Import Regulation (EU) No 649/2012. The deadline for reporting under Art 10 of the Regulation has been moved out from the 31 March to 31 May 2020.

The Commission has taken this measure to help companies who may have difficulties beyond their control to comply with the obligation.

ECHA will publish a notice in ePIC to inform companies of the modified deadline. Please also see the HSA's webpages on Export/Import at the following link: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/Chemicals/Export_Import/.

Fatal Workplace Injuries by Economic Sector 2009-2020 (NACE Revision 2)

	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010	2009
A - Agriculture + forestry and fishing	5+0+2	18+0+3	15+1+4	25+0+2	21+5	18+6	32+1	16+5	20+8	22+5	21+7	10+3
B - Mining and quarrying	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	2	
C - Manufacturing	2	4	2	0	2	3	3	1	0	2	2	1
D - Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0
E - Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	1	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	4	3	2	0
F - Construction	3	11	5	6	10	11	6	11	8	6	6	11
G - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods	3	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	3	2	4	2
H - Transportation and storage	0	6	8	5	1	3	3	4	1	7	3	6
I - Accommodation and food service activities	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	1
J - Information and communication	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
K - Financial and insurance activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
L - Real estate activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
M - Professional, scientific and technical activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0	1
N - Administrative and support service activities	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0	1
O - Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0	0	0	5	0	4	1	0	0	1	0	2
P - Education	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	2
Q - Human health and social work activities	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1	1
R - Arts, entertainment and recreation	0	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1	0
S - Other service activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0
Total	16	46	39	48	48	56	55	47	48	54	48	43

(Source: HSA, correct at 7 May 2020. Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.)

Upcoming Events

Upcoming dates for NISO training will be scheduled in line with Government advice.

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

First Aid Response
PHECC Certificate (3 day)

First Aid Response – Refresher
PHECC Certificate (2 day)

Manual Handling Basic
NISO Certificate (half day)

Manual Handling Instruction
QQI L6 (5 day)

Mobile Working Assessor Course
NISO Certificate (1 day)

Safety Representation
NISO Certificate (2 day)

Safe Pass
SOLAS (1 day)

VDU/DSE Assessor Training
NISO Certificate (1 day)

2. NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace

Course length: 13 wks / 2 evenings p/wk

EAST REGION
Venue: NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12
Commencing: 15 September 2020
Contact: info@niso.ie

MIDLAND REGION
Venue: Athlone Institute of Technology
Commencing: 21 September 2020
Contact: sreidy@ait.ie

MID WEST REGION
Venue: Limerick Institute of Technology, Moylish Campus
Commencing: 15 September 2020
Contact: FLLimerick@lit.ie

SOUTH REGION
Venue: CSN College of Further Education, Cork
Commencing: 15 September 2020
Contact: info@niso.ie

Venue: Tralee TBC
Commencing: 14 September 2020
Contact: info@niso.ie

SOUTH EAST REGION
Venue: Waterford IT
Commencing: 15 September 2020
Contact: info@niso.ie

WEST REGION
Venue: GMIT Castlebar Campus
Commencing: 15 September 2020
Contact: info@niso.ie

3. All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz – Regional Heats

Regional Quizzes to be rescheduled in line with government guidelines
Midland, North West, Eastern, South East and Mid West Regions

4. Working at Height and Scaffolding COP – Seminar

Galway and Dublin dates/venues to be rescheduled in due course

5. Promoting Health and Wellbeing in the Workplace – Workshop

Dundalk, Limerick, Dublin, Cork and Athlone dates/venues to be rescheduled in due course

6. National/All Ireland Events

NISO National Annual General Meeting
NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12
30 July 2020

6. National/All Ireland Events cont'd

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly
17 October 2020

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards
Early Bird Deadline: 31 July 2020
Standard Deadline: 25 September 2020

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner
Great Southern Killarney, Co. Kerry
22 January 2021

Annual NISO Safety Conference and Exhibition of Health and Safety Goods and Services
Cancelled for 2020

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