

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 2020

IN THIS EDITION:

**Re-Opening
Ireland During
COVID-19**

Safety Alerts

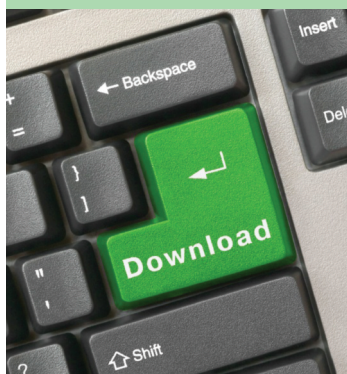


National Irish Safety Organisation

Update!

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

NISO Update! is issued by the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO).



Material printed in NISO Update! is not necessarily endorsed by the National Irish Safety Organisation.

Editorial enquiries to: The Editor, NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Calmount Avenue, Ballymount, Dublin 12. Tel: 01 465 9760 Fax: 01 465 9765 Email: info@niso.ie

Design & Print: Print Bureau Tel: 01 4733 567 www.printbureau.ie

Presidents Message

A New Government

Now that we have a new Government in place we will be watching closely to see if they have an overall plan or vision for health and safety, not just in the workplace but in the entire community.

During the course of their hearings the Special Committee on COVID-19 questioned the role of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) during this crisis even though the committee had set out the rules that COVID-19 was a Public Health issue and the reporting, recording and guidance was a matter for our Health Professionals. COVID-19 was not deemed, by our elected representatives, to be a matter of responsibility for the HSA.

During the Committee meetings TDs from all parties asked for increased resources for the HSA and questioned why the HSA had not been more visible with inspections. Having got their media headlines and soundbites as they both criticised the HSA and called for extra resources for the HSA, we did not have to wait long to see how genuine their comments were. These same political parties then set about agreeing a program for government which did not include any reference to health and safety in the workplace.

Indeed, there is no reference to a framework or plan for our health services or our health workers in dealing with a pandemic situation, which will arise again at some stage, or for the other health issues that have been sadly lacking in recent years. Mitigate, Suppress and

Prevent the spread of this virus has rightly been the mantra of our leaders both political and medical over the last few months, just as Eliminate, Substitute and Prevention has been the mantra of all OSH professionals for decades. Where in the programme for Government are these sentiments of Mitigate, Suppress and Prevent or Eliminate, Substitute and Prevention set out?

Co-ordinated approach

NISO has called many times over the years for a co-ordinated approach from Government to the whole area of safety and health in its widest sense with the focus on prevention, which would lead to a major saving to the economy as well as a healthier society and less demand on our health services and reduced insurance costs.

We have made many requests and submissions to the Government to increase funding and support for health and safety services across the country and all our approaches for increased resources for the HSA were ignored in Dail Eireann. It is not just NISO's requests that have been ignored - we have heard the representatives of doctors, nurses, ambulance crews and other health professionals making the case for extra staffing and facilities including extra beds, equipment and ambulances.

COVID-19 Crisis

Our, whole way of life, has been changed by COVID-19 and all employments (employers and employees) will need to change and consider how to manage any contagious virus or disease.



Harry Galvin, president, National Irish Safety Organisation

We must acknowledge that the Chief Medical Officer, his staff, the HSE and the Department of Health worked extremely hard during this crisis and we should acknowledge the excellent work by our health authorities during this public health crisis. However, they were forced to make up the guidance and source emergency supplies in many cases on the "hoof".

Now, as the crisis is under control and we will hopefully eliminate it from our shores, there is a danger that our politicians will move on and forget what has happened. Government should now establish a Department of Public Safety, which would oversee the entire area of health and safety and the prevention of illness and injury.

Stay safe,

Harry Galvin,
President, National Irish
Safety Organisation



HSA urge chemical companies to prepare for Brexit

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) is advising all Irish organisations to continue their preparations for Brexit. As and from the end of the transition period on 31 December 2020, Irish organisations may have new or additional obligations with respect to products they purchase in the UK.

All organisations should examine their supply chains and determine where they may be reliant on UK suppliers, or on Irish distributors, who in turn are reliant on UK suppliers. For those organisations who plan to continue to source chemicals in the UK after Brexit, they need to be aware that they may become EU importers. This means that these organisations may need to take on responsibilities such as registration, authorisation and notification under REACH and CLP.

Irish organisations who currently source chemicals in the UK should now speak to their UK supplier to determine their plans post Brexit. It is important to remember that REACH registrations made by UK manufacturers, importers and Only Representatives will become void if they are not transferred to EU-27/EEA before the end of the transitional period. So, any Irish organisation using a substance that is REACH registered in the UK should speak to their UK supplier now to determine what he has already done, or is planning to do post-Brexit, as regards his REACH registrations.

Irish organisations sourcing



chemicals in the UK should now also give consideration to changing their supplier to an EU-27/EEA based one.

In March 2020, the EU Commission updated their notice to stakeholders in the field of Chemicals. This notice also address the implications of the Northern Ireland protocol and the applicability of the rules in Northern Ireland at the end of the transition period. The notice is available at https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/notice-stakeholders-brexit-chemicals-reach_en.pdf.

Aside from the chemical specific issues, it should also be noted that Irish organisations who import machinery from the UK post Brexit may also be affected, as they will be making that machinery available on the EU market for the first time and will be responsible for ensuring that the appropriate conformity assessment is carried out. Similarly, if an Irish organisation changes from a distributor to an

importer under the Transportable Pressure Equipment Directive after Brexit, their responsibilities will change. Additionally, as UK notified bodies will no longer be recognised after Brexit, any Irish organisation using a UK notified body to carry out conformity assessments or inspections will have to use an EU-27 notified body.

Support and Advice

The HSA's Chemicals Helpdesk is providing advice to Irish organisations on all Brexit-related matters. Any organisation seeking assistance should visit our website www.hsa.ie/brexit or email our helpdesk chemicals@hsa.ie. ECHA, the European Chemicals Agency, has detailed advice on its website at <https://echa.europa.eu/uk-withdrawal-from-the-eu>. Organisations are also encouraged to visit the Government's Getting Ireland Brexit Ready web pages for further information.

Source: HSA Chemicals E-bulletin

Case Study: Eliminating risks from respirable crystalline silica dust in the construction sector

Irish company commended in the Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards 2018-19

An Irish construction company was commended in the EU-OSHA's Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards 2018-19 for identifying and implementing measures to eliminate risks to construction workers from Respirable Crystalline Silica (RCS) dust. Several areas of concern were

detected, such as working with traditional blockwork containing silica or using inadequate techniques to suppress and extract dust.

In order to prevent this RCS dust, elimination and substitution were applied as well as technical control measures and appliance of personal protection and training. These measures improved considerably the work environment and increased

productivity by 35%. The method is sustainable and fully transferable to other similar organisations in the construction sector in any other country.

The case study can be read in full at <https://osha.europa.eu/en/publications/ireland-eliminating-risks-respirable-crystalline-silica-dust-construction-sector/view>.

Report calls for action on goods vehicle safety

A new report by the European Transport Safety Council (ETSC) has revealed that 25% of road deaths in the European Union are the consequences of a collision involving a goods vehicle.

According to the new analysis, 3310 people lost their lives in police-reported road collisions involving a heavy goods vehicle (HGV) of 3.5 tonnes or above in the 27 countries of the EU in 2018. In the same year, 2630 people were killed in collisions involving a light goods vehicle (LGV) of less than 3.5 tonnes.

Key findings:

- On a per-km basis, many more people die in collisions involving HGVs than die in collisions involving only non-goods vehicles.
- Over the nine years covered by the report, deaths in collisions involving HGVs have been reduced more slowly than those in collisions involving only non-goods vehicles.

In 2019 the EU agreed to increase the minimum safety standards for new



lorries from 2026 by, for example, enabling drivers to see other road users more easily through larger windscreens and transparent panels in doors, and by requiring pedestrian and cyclist detection systems.

ETSC is now calling for high standards to be implemented as the detailed technical specifications for these standards are currently being worked out. In the short term ETSC

has recommended that local authorities to follow the example of cities like London, by granting lorries access to city centres based on their level of safety.

Furthermore, ETSC has also called for road infrastructure that better protects vulnerable road users from interaction with goods vehicles, such as separated cycle lanes.

Source: etcs.eu

Study finds workplace bullying costing economy €239m per year

According to a new study conducted by NUI Galway, every year a total of 1.7 million days are lost due to workplace bullying at a cost to the economy of €239 million. In addition, the study found that while bullying is more prevalent in the public sector, it has a larger effect on absences in the private sector.

Workplace bullying is defined as aggressive behaviour perpetrated by one or more people, repeatedly and systematically over a prolonged time period, where the targeted person feels unable to defend themselves.

The findings are contained in the

recent NUI Galway study, led by Dr. John Cullinan and Dr. Margaret Hodgins, on Workplace Bullying have been published in the journal *Occupational Medicine*.

Economic costs

In a previous study, the NUI Galway research team highlighted the relationship between bullying and work-related stress in the Irish workplace. The current study builds on this to examine the economic costs of workplace bullying.

The research describes the range of impacts of workplace bullying on individuals and organisations. Using statistical methods, it estimates the number of workdays lost as a result of workplace bullying and calculates the economic value of the associated lost productivity.

Commenting on the study, Dr. Cullinan said: “Workplace bullying is a pervasive problem with significant personal and wider costs. Our study highlights the considerable economic cost of workplace bullying in Ireland.

In addition to lost productivity from workplace bullying, there are also likely to be costs associated with early retirement and presenteeism. Furthermore, bullying-related costs are unlikely to have gone away as a result of new Covid-19 work-from-home practices.”

Anti-bullying policy

Dr. Hodgins called for organisations to adopt anti-bullying policies in order to tackle the problem: “To tackle the problem, organisations need an anti-bullying policy in order to signal to staff that bullying is unacceptable. However a policy is insufficient in itself and it is vital that it is implemented fairly and in a timely fashion. Ideally, organisations should be proactive, identifying how and when bullying occurs in the organisation, and be prepared to develop specific interventions that are appropriate to context.”

Source: irishtimes.com and nuigalway.ie

Public Consultation on Guidance for Remote Working

The Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has launched a public consultation on remote working guidelines. It is intended that the guidelines will address issues arising from remote working, including health and safety, employment rights and data protection.

The Government published a report on *Remote Work in Ireland* in December 2019 which found a need for national guidance for employers seeking to engage with remote working solutions. Since then, with the global outbreak of the Coronavirus (COVID-19), those who could work from home have been encouraged to do so.

“

HAVE YOUR SAY...

”

Written submission by email to RemoteWorkingGuidance@dbei.gov.ie

Written submission by post to:
Remote Working Guidance Consultation,
Enterprise Strategy, Competitiveness and Evaluations Division,
Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation,
23 Kildare Street, Dublin 2.

If you are making a written submission it is recommended that you review the Remote Work in Ireland report.

Source:
<https://dbei.gov.ie/en/Consultations/Public-Consultation-on-Guidance-for-Remote-Working.html>

You can make a written submission by email or post. The closing date for receipt of submissions is 7 August.

In response to the unprecedented numbers working from home during the COVID-19 pandemic the Government published *Guidance for Working Remotely during COVID-19* which is available from <https://dbei.gov.ie/19>.

The Government is now looking launching the Public Consultation on

Remote Working to build on this guidance and to effectively deal with the concerns of employers and employees when it comes to remote working. This information will be used to shape public policy on remote working.

National guidance for employers and employees seeking to engage with remote working solutions

This webpage from the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation details the guidance already available for employers and employees on working remotely during the COVID-19 pandemic across a number of topics and contains links to the new guidance released in response to remote working during COVID-19.

This webpage provides guidance on remote working under the following headings:

- Safety, Health and Welfare
- Bullying and Work-Related Stress
- Employment Conditions
- Organisation of Working Time
- Equipment Provision, Home Expenses and Tax Reliefs
- Data Protection
- Remote Access to Networks
- Protecting Personal Data
- Cyber Security
- Equality
- Training, and
- Additional Supports



Access the Guidance for working remotely during COVID-19 webpage here: <https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and->

[Skills/Remote-Working/Guidance-for-working-remotely-during-COVID-19.html](https://dbei.gov.ie/en/What-We-Do/Workplace-and-Skills/Remote-Working/Guidance-for-working-remotely-during-COVID-19.html)

SAFETY ALERT

Vehicle Scissor Lifts

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has issued this safety alert to warn owners and examiners of vehicle service lifts (scissor type) of the potential for hairline cracks. It follows the detection of hairline cracks in vehicle scissor lifts, type “Duo” manufactured by Maha, revealed during thorough examination of the lifts.

Target audience: Owners and users of these vehicle scissors lifts and to maintenance and inspection personnel.

Risk: Any person working underneath a raised vehicle lift is at serious risk of crush injuries if the lift fails.

The cracking in the Maha “Duo” vehicle scissor lifts appears to have occurred towards the end of the life cycle of the lifts. The cracks are located at the cross member interconnection and take three forms:

- Circular cracking around the bushing collar
- Cracking from the bushing collar into the lift leg
- Combination of above.

Example photos available at [hsa.ie](https://www.hsa.ie).

Recommended action: The HSA is advising owners and operators of Maha “Duo” type lifts who may not have had their lifts inspected, to ensure that they are inspected **immediately**.

The HSA also advises lift maintenance and inspection personnel to be aware of the hairline cracks detected in Maha “Duo” lifts and to check vehicle scissors lifts for these cracks **immediately** and on an ongoing basis during inspection and thorough examination, throughout its life cycle.

Read this safety alert in full: https://www.hsa.ie/eng/safety_alert/s/2020/vehicle_scissor_lifts/vehicle_scissor_lifts.html

Face masks designated KN95

Issued by: Health and Safety Executive (HSE) UK

Background: A substantial number of face masks, claiming to be of KN95 standards, provide an inadequate level of protection and are likely to be poor quality products accompanied by fake or fraudulent paperwork. These face masks may also be known as filtering facepiece respirators. KN95 is a performance rating under the Chinese standard GB2626:2006, the requirements of which are broadly the same as the European standard BSEN149:2001+A1:2009 for FFP2 facemasks. However, there is no independent certification or assurance of their quality and products manufactured to KN95 rating are declared as compliant by the manufacturer.

Recommended action: KN95 must not be used as PPE at work as their effectiveness cannot be assured. Masks that are not CE marked and cannot be shown to be compliant must be removed from supply immediately. If these masks have not been through the necessary safety assessments, their effectiveness in controlling risks to health cannot be assured for anyone buying or using them. They are unlikely to provide the protection expected or required.

If any are CE marked, suppliers must be able to demonstrate how they know the documentation and CE marking is genuine, supported by Notified Body documentation showing compliance with the essential health and safety requirements as required by the Personal Protective Equipment Regulations (EU) 2016/425.

Read this safety alert in full: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/use-of-face-masks-designated-qn95.htm>

Air suspension Systems on Vehicles

Issued by: Health and Safety Executive UK (HSE)

Background: The HSE has investigated several serious incidents, including fatalities, involving air suspension systems on vehicles that have failed.

Target audience: Those carrying out or responsible for work on vehicles with air suspension systems. This includes motor vehicle repair workshops, the roadside repair and recovery industry and customer sites where this work is undertaken.

Key issues and recommended actions: HSE has investigated several serious incidents involving air suspension systems on vehicles. The two main causes are collapse of inadequately supported vehicles and unintended rupture or release of components from the air suspension system.

You should

- Undertake minimal repair work at the roadside or third-party premises. The best place to undertake such work is at an adequately equipped vehicle repair facility.
- Prevent movement of air suspension, either by deflating the system or by using suitably rated props or stands to prevent the chassis lowering. Under no circumstances should air suspension be relied upon to maintain a vehicle's ride height or position whilst people gain access to areas where they may become trapped.
- Exhaust the air from the air suspension system before working on it.
- Isolate the air suspension system by physical disconnection of the air supply before working on it. You should not use clamping of air suspension pipework as a means of temporary isolation as it is not secure.

Read this safety alert in full: <https://www.hse.gov.uk/safetybulletins/air-suspension-systems-on-vehicles.htm>

niso.ie

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK COURSE

13 weeks; 1 evening per week



Commencing

Cork

14 September 2020

Dublin

15 September 2020

Limerick IT

15 September 2020

Mayo GMT

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)

NISO Welcomes New Members

National Irish Safety Organisation would like to welcome all of the organisations that have joined recently. As a not for profit organisation with charitable status, your membership of NISO supports our endeavours to promote health and safety in Irish workplaces.

Contact NISO on 01 465 9750 or email info@niso.ie for further information on NISO membership and to receive a copy of our Membership Brochure.

New Members

Organisations to recently join NISO include:

- Ardlee Consulting
- Barretstown
- CES Environmental Services Ltd.
- CMS Chemstore Engineering Ltd.
- DSPCA
- E. Flahavan and Son Ltd.
- Egis Lagan Services
- Kerrygold Butter Packing Ireland
- Lyreco Ireland Ltd.
- MAC Group
- PCP Group



At Ardlee Consulting we believe that safety is about more than getting the paperwork right; it is about looking after you and your company. We can offer a wide range of Environmental, Health and Safety services which include:

- Health & Safety Consultancy
- Training
- Workplace Inspections
- Management System & Accreditation Support
- Tender Support
- Contractor Administration Support

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Contact Ray on: M: 087 7474419
E: info@ardlee.ie W: www.ardlee.ie

- Primark Ltd.
- TMM BOC Gases Ireland



Flahavan's is Ireland's oldest private family food business, tracing its roots back seven generations to 1785 when the family were milling in Kilmacthomas, Co. Waterford.



Nestled below the Comeragh Mountains, the company currently sells a range of over 50 oat-based products in 20 countries worldwide, with varying flavours and formats including Natural, Organic, Gluten Free, Multi-seed, Quick Oats Pots and Sachets, Flapjacks, Muesli, Granola and Overnight Oats. Porridge oats, however, remains at the heart of the company's business in Ireland and Flahavan's continues to be Ireland's favourite porridge brand.

Tel: 051 294107
Web: www.flahavans.ie
Email: oatmail@flahavans.com

- United Metal Recycling (Ireland) Ltd.
- Westerwood Global



Your Specialist Partners for Metal Recycling, Demolition and Tailored Waste Management. A family owned and operated company based in Limerick with decades of experience. H UMR not only are you getting an enthusiast

- Buying & Selling Ferrous & Non Ferrous Scrap Metals
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www.umrgroup.ie / info@umrgroup.ie / Tel. 061 603848



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We work in partnership with our clients to ensure we provide effective, practical systems which bring value to your work process, while helping to protect your people, your assets, and your reputation.

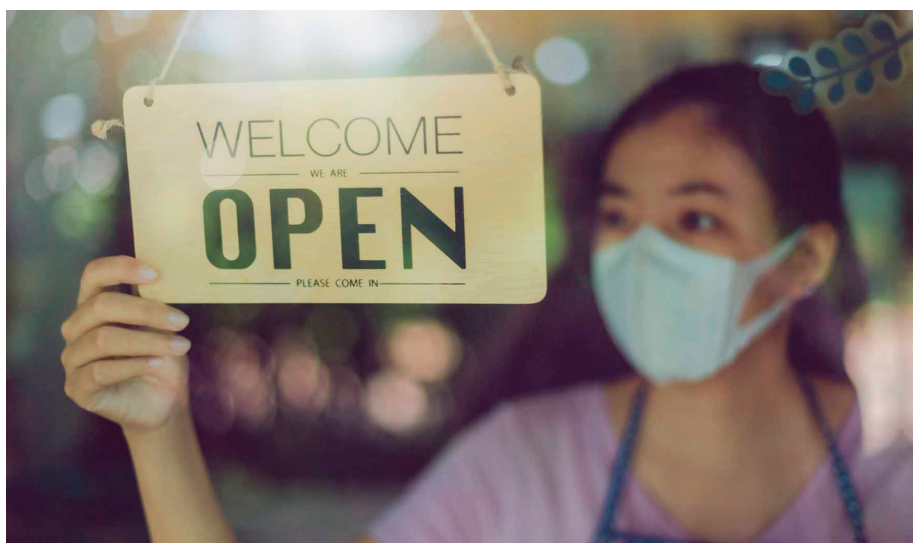
Websites: <https://pcpgroup.ie/> <http://dustsolutions.ie/>

Phone: 045 863220

Email: info@pcpgroup.ie dust@pcpgroup.ie



Re-Opening Ireland During COVID-19



Ireland, and indeed the world, has endured unprecedented issues over the last few months. It must be said that the Irish authorities have responded with very clear and important information backed up by determined and correct actions in imposing restrictions to curtail the spread of COVID-19.

The initial plans for re-opening Ireland and early phases appear to have worked well, notwithstanding that there was some concern in mid-July that people are becoming somewhat less careful.

While praise is rightly due to the authorities for their overall handling of the virus, recently some issues in the reopening process have caused some criticism. There appears to be three main areas of criticism: gathering of people both indoor and outdoor, international travel and the pubs.

Gathering of people both indoor and outdoor

Currently gatherings are restricted to 50 people indoors and 200 people outdoors and this has drawn some criticism. Unfortunately, these numbers do not take into consideration the size of the venue. So if the GAA, for example, decides to hold a match in Croke Park, which as a capacity of 82,500, they can only have 200 people on the grounds. Smaller sports grounds with a capacity of between 1,000 and 5,000 can also have 200 present. Is this reasonable?

Perhaps it would have been more practicable to base the numbers

allowed on the space available, for example, one person per every three square metres, with insistence on social distancing maintained. This could be applied to both indoor and outdoor gatherings.

International travel

Another issue that has been generating a lot of discussion and criticism across many areas of our society is international travel. We are being presented with Green lists and Red lists, locator forms and 14 day required quarantine for some and 14 day restricted movement for others. We have necessary and unnecessary travel without any firm and clear definition for what is necessary and unnecessary travel. These different ideas of travel can be influenced by the different circumstances individuals have.

Would it not have been more practicable to insist that all non-nationals entering the country be required to produce at immigration control a medical certificate stating that they had been tested within the previous 48 hours for the virus and they were negative. Failure to produce this certificate would see admission to Ireland refused.

Irish nationals returning could have been required to undertake a test within 48 hours of returning with a suitable fine if they failed to do so.

These measures would help reduce the considerable risk of importing the virus, although, the loophole of people entering via Northern Ireland would still remain an issue.

Pubs

This is a very difficult area to resolve and we must have some sympathy for the pubs in our villages where the numbers normally attending these venues are generally small with regular locals attending. Perhaps special consideration could be given to these rural pubs which should be treated differently to the larger pubs in the large towns and cities.

As we try to find our way safely as a nation through this reopening phase let's all try to remain vigilant, cautious and mindful of our own health and safety and that of the people around us. This virus has not gone away yet. Let's not undo all the good work and sacrifices made in the early phases of the pandemic by being careless now.

*Harry Galvin, President,
National Irish Safety Organisation*

Extraordinary first half of 2020

Our entire country has survived the most extraordinary six months which has changed our way of life and work. All employers and in particular our safety professionals have had to plan new ways of safe working practices, risk assessments and staff monitoring. Special mention must be made of the work of our Blue Light workers for their total commitment to our safety.

As some sort of new normal returns and as things settle down, we will need to reflect on what has occurred and revise our thinking on how we manage Health issues in the future.

NISO wishes to express a resounding Well Done to all of you for your efforts in fighting this virus.

We also express our deep condolences to all the families and friends of those who lost their lives to COVID-19. May they all Rest in Peace.

All Ireland
Occupational Safety
2019



Quiz Format

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.

Regional Winners – Previous Entrants Category

- Abbott Ireland Nutrition Division Cootehill representing the North East Region
- 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

- Abbott Ireland Nutrition Division Cootehill representing the North East Region
- RYOB representing Northern Ireland
- BioMarin International Limited representing the Southern Region
- Abbott Rapid DX International Ltd. representing the Western Region

**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.

Previous Entrants:
AIR



Novice:
BioMarin International Ltd.



Previous Entrants:
Thermo King Ingersoll-Rand, Galway

**THERMO KING**

Novice:
Aughinish Alumina, Limerick

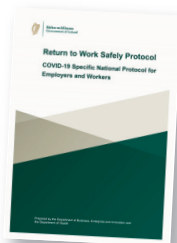


New Publications

Return to Work Safely Protocol

This publication by the Department of Business, Enterprise and Innovation has been designed to support employers and employees to put measures in place to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplaces. This protocol should be used by all workplaces to adapt their workplace procedures and practices to comply fully with the COVID-19 related health protection measures identified as necessary by the Health Service Executive.

Available at: <https://dbe.gov.ie>



HSA return to work COVID-19 templates, checklists and posters

These checklists and templates have been prepared by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) to help employers, business owners and managers to get their business up and running again and to inform workers about what they need to do to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in the workplace.

They have been drafted based on the Government's Return to Work Safely

Protocol and should be read in conjunction with the Return to Work Safety Protocol. Employers and workers must work together to keep workplaces safe. These checklists will help you to do that.

Available at: www.hsa.ie

Strategies for tackling work-related MSDs

A new report from the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) identifies 25 varied initiatives used in 14 countries highlighting what can be done to prevent MSDs, particularly in SMEs. The research reveals several key elements important for effective policy-level interventions, including the commitment and participation of all stakeholders at all levels, promoting the adoption of preventive measures through positive incentives and the consideration of ergonomics.

Available at: osha.europa.eu



Preventing work-related MSDs - report

A new report from EU-OSHA's multiannual project exploring research,

policy and practice on the prevention of work-related MSDs. The purpose of this research is to support the development of strategies to tackle this highly prevalent occupational safety and health issue in Europe's workplaces. The research identifies a number of gaps at policy and workplace levels, explaining why work-related MSDs are still a major problem despite efforts to prevent them.

Available at: osha.europa.eu



Legislation

Update of the Biological Agents Regulations and Associated Code of Practice

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has commenced work on updating the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Biological Agents) Regulations 2013 and the associated code of practice. The updates are in order to give effect to Commission Directives (EU) 2019/1833 and (EU) 2020/739.

It is anticipated that the code of practice will go for public consultation in September using the HSA's normal consultation process.

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	15+0+2	19+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	3	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	6	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	1	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	31	47	39	48	48	56	55	47	48	54	48	43

(Source: HSA, correct at 29 July 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 held at the NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12

Manual Handling Basic
NISO Certificate
(half day)
13 & 27 August 2020

Safe Pass
SOLAS
(1 day)
12 & 14 August 2020

Safety Representation
NISO Certificate
(2 day)
19-20 August 2020

First Aid Response
PHECC Certificate
(3 day)
Date TBC

First Aid Response – Refresher
PHECC Certificate
(2 day)
Date TBC

Manual Handling Instruction
QQI L6
(5 day)
Date TBC

Mobile Working Assessor Course
NISO Certificate
(1 day)
Date TBC

VDU/DSE Assessor Training
NISO Certificate
(1 day)
Date TBC

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

Red Cow Moran Hotel
30 July 2020

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
NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards 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

