

National Irish Safety Organisation

# Update!



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

WINTER 2021



## Safety Award Winners 2021

NISO Annual Conference 2021 –  
Feature





National Irish Safety Organisation

# Update!

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## Hopeful Year End

On 4 November we held our annual conference and the All Ireland Safety Awards presentation dinner in Killarney, after having to cancel the conference last year and hold the 2020 awards ceremony online due to COVID-19.

This year we hosted both events with limited attendance numbers and COVID safety protocols in place. Our appreciation to all the attendees for their support and cooperation with the measures put in place to ensure everyone's safety so far as was reasonably practicable.

The feedback on the day from those attending was very positive regarding the quality of the speakers and presentations. Those attending also expressed their joy and relief that public events were commencing again. That it was great to be back meeting fellow professionals was a sentiment repeated many times to me and my fellow committee members during the day.

I want to express my appreciation to our staff, Ted, Niki, Geraldine, Teresa and Warren for their great work behind the scenes in making the above events happen. Well done.

### Safety Awards

Congratulations to Designer Group on winning the Supreme Safety Award sponsored by Irving Oil Whitegate Refinery. The Gold Award was won by Weltec Engineering, with Jones Engineering Group taking the Silver Award and Bon Secours Hospital Dublin receiving the Bronze Award.

Actavo (Ireland) Ltd. won the Driving for Work Award; Bon Secours Hospital Cork won the Occupational Health Award, supported by the Health and Safety Authority and the Health and Safety Executive Northern Ireland; and the Healthy Workplace Award, sponsored by Healthy Ireland, was won by Cork City Council.

Congratulations to you all on your great achievement. The full list of awards winners is available on [safetyawards.ie](http://safetyawards.ie).

### Awards Workshops

Early in 2022 we will be running the Safety Awards Workshops and it is our intention, subject to Government Guidelines, to return to hosting these workshops at venues around the country to enable those planning to enter the awards scheme to attend in person.

### All Ireland Safety Quiz

We are also looking forward to getting the All Ireland Safety Quiz back up and running after two years absence due to the COVID restrictions. Please consider entering your organisation in these events as they are a fun and easy way to educate your staff in the health and safety area of your business. It also gives both your company and your employees the opportunity of becoming All Ireland Champions.

### Safety Events

In addition to the Awards and Quizzes referred to above, we are also hopeful about getting a series of seminars and safety workshops up and running early in 2022, which could not take place over the last two years. While we did run a number of online events during the COVID lockdown we are looking forward to normality returning. We will also combine some online events with in-person events. Watch out for notifications on all of these events

### Workplace safety

With so much publicity focusing on the pandemic, we should not forget the other areas of health and safety and our prevention efforts in these areas. Accidents, injuries and fatalities are still happening in our regular working environments. Slips, trips, falls, machinery-related incidents etc., are still taking place. COVID-19 is just another issue safety managers need to deal with in addition to the normal everyday safety prevention tasks.

As December and Christmas approaches it might be a good idea to keep our Christmas celebrations somewhat more muted than other years and



Harry Galvin, president, National Irish Safety Organisation

continue to practice good hygiene, wear face coverings and keep your distance. If we all keep up the with these safety procedures, we can hope for 2022 to see us return to mostly pre-2020 conditions.

### NISO Committees

I have been asked by the officers of our Regional Committees, as they plan on resuming their work of health and safety promotion in the regions in 2022, to mention that they are seeking some new members to assist them in bringing fresh ideas to the fore. Most committees meet five or six times per year for about two hours and most combine these meetings with a safety promotional event in the region.

Please consider becoming more active in YOUR organisation, join with us in promoting best practice in health and safety and meet other members - you will develop great friendships both locally and around the country. (Southern, South Eastern, Eastern, North Eastern, North Western, Western, Mid-West, Midland). There is a Regional Committee near you, come and join us.

HANDS – FACE – SPACE.

Harry Galvin, President, National Irish Safety Organisation



# Farm Safety Equipment Scheme



The Minister of State with responsibility for Research & Development, Farm Safety and New Market Development, Martin Heydon TD, has announced the launch of the Acceleration of Wear and Tear Allowances for Farm Safety Equipment Scheme. This follows the signing of the commencement order to allow for accelerated capital allowances on qualifying farm safety and adaptation equipment.

The Minister for Finance, Paschal Donohoe TD, has signed a commencement order to introduce accelerated capital allowances for qualifying farm safety equipment, with a particular emphasis on supporting those who have suffered life-changing injuries as a result of incidents on farms.

A large proportion of all fatal workplace incidents (42%) occur in the agriculture, fishing and forestry sector. Between 2016 and 2020 there were 100 fatal incidents on farms.

Minister Heydon has worked with Minister Donohoe to introduce accelerated capital allowances for certain farm safety and adaptive equipment for farmers with disabilities.

Currently, capital allowances are available at 12.5% per annum (p.a.) over eight years for agricultural equipment generally. The new scheme will allow for accelerated capital allowances of 50% p.a. over two years for certain eligible equipment. This eligible equipment includes, for example, chemical storage cabinets and anti-backing gates, as well as adaptive equipment to assist farmers with disabilities.

The scheme will be administered by the Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine and Revenue. An annual total equipment cost of €5 million p.a., excluding VAT, for the measure will apply.

Speaking at the launch, Minister Heydon said:

*"Having listened to those survivors and families impacted by farm incidents, I am absolutely determined that farmers who have suffered a life-changing injury are not left behind. As the first Minister to be given special responsibility for farm safety, I am*

*delighted to be able to announce, that this scheme is now operational and any qualifying adaptations or equipment purchased since 1st January of this year are eligible under the scheme. Farmers may now apply for certificates for the Accelerated Capital Allowance to my Department. The dedicated email address ([acafarmsafetyequipment@agriculture.gov.ie](mailto:acafarmsafetyequipment@agriculture.gov.ie)) for applications has already been set up and is operational. With this scheme we are supporting farmers and helping those who have suffered serious physical injury to get back to work. This is more than just about enabling people to getting back to farming, but also about improving their physical and mental wellbeing."*

The full terms and conditions for the scheme and application form are available at [www.gov.ie/farmsafety](http://www.gov.ie/farmsafety)

Source: Department of Agriculture, Food and the Marine



# Government issues COVID-19 restrictions



Following public health advice, the government has agreed a range of measures aimed at interrupting the spread of COVID-19 in the community.

These measures include:

- everyone should revert to working from home unless it is necessary to attend the workplace in person
- Household close contacts who are fully vaccinated and showing no symptoms should now restrict their movements until they have 3 negative antigen test results within 5 days.
- you will need COVID-19 passes (based on vaccination or recovery) for cinemas and theatres
- closing times for all on-licensed premises will move to midnight with all customers vacated from the premises by that time

## Working from home

Engagement has taken place with employers and trade unions, through the Labour Employer Economic Forum (LEEF), on updating guidance on working from home unless necessary to attend in person, as well as strengthening communication on protective measures, as outlined in the Work Safely Protocol, for those who continue to attend workplaces. The Work Safely Protocol was most recently updated on 21 October 2021.

There will be no change in current arrangements for student attendance and on-site activities in school, further and higher education institutions in line with COVID response plans for those sectors.

Read the Government's "**Statement on COVID-19 public health measures - 16 November 2021**" in full: <https://www.gov.ie/en/press-release/b4bec-statement-on-covid-19-public-health-measures-16-november-2021/>.

Source: [www.gov.ie](https://www.gov.ie)

## Share your thoughts...



If you have any health and safety ideas, experiences, stories or tips that you would like to share with NISO Update readers, we would love to hear from you!

Please send an email expressing your interest in contributing to NISO Update to Geraldine at [gbrady@niso.ie](mailto:gbrady@niso.ie).



# SAFETY ALERT

## Personal Protective Equipment - Petzl Products

The HSA has issued the following safety alert regarding Personal Protective Equipment – Petzl Products.

The HSA wishes to advise owners/users of a Safety Alert issued by Petzl for Personal Protective Equipment products - ZIGZAG/ZIGZAG+/ZILLON. This is as a result of customer returns alerting of slippage with new or slightly used ZIGZAG / ZIGZAG PLUS / ZILLON products.

This information concerns the following products: ZIGZAG

(D022AA00), ZIGZAG PLUS (D022BA00), ZILLON (L22A 025, L22A 040, L22A 055) with serial numbers between 18L 0000000 000 and 21G 0000000 000.

This production variance causes premature wear of the release levers, resulting in slippage that can be observed after a few months of use, or on new products.

### What to do

**With immediate effect**, the products involved should no longer be used until an immediate inspection and

tests are carried out as per Petzl Safety Alert-Product Notice.

Should you stock or have resold a potentially affected product or passed it on to others, you are requested that you follow the instructions in the link and pass this safety warning on to any product recipient as quickly as possible.

Please visit [https://www.hsa.ie/eng/safety\\_alerts/2021](https://www.hsa.ie/eng/safety_alerts/2021) to read this safety alert in full and for further instructions.

## 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](mailto: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:

- **Ace Building & Carpentry Ltd.**
- **Axis Construction Limited**
- **Gem Energy T/A Gem Utilities Ltd.**
- **Green Rebel Marine Ltd.**
- **GSW Solutions**
- **Synergy Security Solutions Ltd.**

**Axis Construction Ltd.** has developed a premium team of experienced professionals with knowledge accumulated over many years in a variety of sectors – residential, industrial, student accommodation, hotel and hospitality, and healthcare development.

We approach every project from a simple core position – a commitment to deliver the best building possible in a safe and progressive manner. To achieve this we engage our “Three Star Programme” of:

### Innovation & Agility

**Partnership through honest engagement**  
**Profitability**

As a diverse organisation, Axis Construction places occupational health & safety to the fore and via our association with NISO, demonstrates our commitment to maintaining this standard.



### Synergy Security Solutions



With over 25 years' experience, we have established ourselves as one of the leading international providers of managed security services. Our 24/7/365 operation offers a fully managed and integrated service delivery within man guarding & mobile security services. Whatever your challenges, we will design solutions that will meet your criteria.





# Safety Award Winners 2021

The National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) and Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG) congratulate all organisations who received a Safety Awards this year for their achievements in the area of health and safety.



Designer Group was presented with the highest honour – the Supreme Safety Award, sponsored by Irving Oil Whitegate Refinery

*Derek Murphy, Head of Environmental Health and Safety, Designer Group and Harry Galvin, President, National Irish Safety Organisation.*

## Weltec Engineering Ltd., winner of the Gold Award



*James Hackett, EHS Manager, Weltec Engineering Ltd and Harry Galvin, President, National Irish Safety Organisation.*

## Jones Engineering Group, winner of the Silver Award



*Declan Grady, Group EHS Manager, Jones Engineering Group and Harry Galvin, President, National Irish Safety Organisation.*

## Bon Secours Hospital Dublin, winner of the Bronze Award



*David McDonald, Health and Safety Advisor, Bon Secours Hospital Dublin and Harry Galvin, President, National Irish Safety Organisation.*



John Higgins, Colas Ireland Ltd., winner of NISO Safety Representative of the Year Award 2021 in association with the Cpl Institute



Bon Secours Hospital Cork, winner of the Occupational Health Award, sponsored by the HSA and the HSENI



Actavo (Ireland) Ltd., winner of the Driving for Work Award



PM Group, winner of the President's Awards – Overall Regional / Northern Ireland Award, sponsored by BioThrive

























The Roll of Honour Certificate for 2021 was posthumously awarded to Jean Ahearne and presented to her husband, James McConnell and daughters Jennifer Byrne (L) and Jamie Campbell (R).





## SAFETY AWARD WINNERS 2021

Award	Organisation	Achiever
Supreme Award	Designer Group	
Gold Award	Weltec Engineering Ltd.	
Silver Award	Jones Engineering Group	
Bronze Award	Bon Secours Hospital Dublin	
President's Award: Overall Regional/ Northern Ireland	PM Group	
President's Award: Construction	Winthrop Engineering and Contracting Ltd.	
President's Award: Chemical / Pharmaceutical	Ecolab Ltd.	
President's Award: Large Size Organisation	O'Connor Sutton Cronin	
President's Award: Medium Size Organisation	Griffin Brothers Contracting Ltd.	
President's Award: Small Size Organisation	W & H Alexander Ltd.	
Manufacturing Award	Colas (Bitumen Emulsions, Contracting and Chemoran) West	
Facilities Management and Services Award	Acacia Facilities Management Ltd.	
Local Authority / Council Award	Cork City Council	
Electronic / Electrical Manufacturing / Assembly Award	Intel Ireland Ltd.	
Sport / Leisure Award	Aura Sport and Leisure Management Ltd.	
Public Service Award	Transport Infrastructure Ireland	
Healthcare Provider Award	Bon Secours Hospital Cork	
Voluntary, Social and Community Award	Barretstown	
Utilities / Telecoms Providers Award	KN Circet	
Mechanical Engineering / Manufacturing / Assembly Award	Ryobi Aluminum Casting (UK) Ltd.	
Service Award	LotusWorks	
Transport / Distribution / Storage Award	DB Schenker @ Intel	
Construction Utility Services Award	Actavo (Ireland) Ltd.	
Construction Industrial / Commercial Award	John Paul Construction	
Higher Distinction	Fingal County Council	
Higher Distinction	John Sisk and Son (Holdings) Ltd.	

Award	Organisation	Achiever
Higher Distinction	TLI Group Ltd.	
Distinction	GMC Utilities Group Ltd.	
Construction – Civil Engineering Award	Wills Bros Ltd.	
Construction – Building Services Award	Specialist Technical Services – STS Group	
Construction – Consulting Engineers Award	GEA Process Technologies Ireland Ltd.	
Chemical/Pharmaceutical – Pharmaceuticals [Fill Finish] Award	Gilead Sciences Ireland UC	
Regional Award (East)	Flynn	
Regional Award (Midlands)	Longford County Council	
Regional Award (West)	Coffey	
Higher Distinction	Mainline Group Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Walls Construction Limited	
Higher Distinction	Leo Lynch	
Higher Distinction	Baxter Healthcare Irish Manufacturing Operations	
Higher Distinction	MSL Engineering Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	ISS Facility Services	
Higher Distinction	Dornan Engineering Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Suir Engineering Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Collen Construction Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	P&D Lydon Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Adman Civil Projects Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Irish Aviation Authority	
Higher Distinction	Cork County Council	
Construction – Specialist Contractor Award	Erith Contractors Ltd.	
Construction – House Building Award	Glenveagh Properties PLC	
Biopharmaceuticals Award	Alexion Ireland	
Chemical/Pharmaceutical – Pharmaceuticals [Active Pharmaceutical Ingredients] Award	SK Biotek Ireland Limited	
Northern Ireland Award	GRAHAM	
Regional Award (South)	Mercy University Hospital	
Regional Award (North East)	Elliott Group	
Regional Award (South East)	KDK Scaffolding Ltd.	
Regional Award (North West)	King & Moffatt Building Services	
Higher Distinction	Portakabin (Ireland) Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Vision Contracting Ltd.	

Award	Organisation	Achiever
Higher Distinction	H&MV Engineering Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	PJ Hegarty & Sons	
Higher Distinction	Secto Services Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Kercon Construction	
Higher Distinction	Conack Construction	
Higher Distinction	Compass Group Ireland	
Higher Distinction	MDE Installations	
Higher Distinction	mac Interiors Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	J Coffey Construction Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Priority Construction Limited	
Higher Distinction	Kiernan Steel Ltd.	
Higher Distinction	Jones Lang LaSalle Ltd. (Based on the Intel Leixlip Account)	
Distinction	Merit Medical Ireland Ltd.	
Distinction	John Cradock Ltd.	
Distinction	BAM Ireland	
Distinction	Altrad Services Ireland	
Distinction	LMC Modular	
Best New Entry Large Size Organisation Award	Mivan	
Best New Entry Medium Size Organisation Award	Clonmel Enterprises Limited	
Best New Entry Small Sized Organisation Award	DGF @ Intel	
Distinction	Apleona HSG Ltd.	
Distinction	Kerrygold Butter Packing Ireland Ltd.	
Distinction	Cumnor Construction Ltd.	
Distinction	Electric Skyline Ltd.	
Distinction	Gem Construction	
Distinction	Exolum Shannon Ltd. (ESL)	
Distinction	Kilcawley Construction	
Distinction	AG Paving & Building Products	
Distinction	Dominic O'Connor Ltd.	
Distinction	Viatrix McDermott Laboratories Ltd. t/a Mylan Dublin Respiratory	
Distinction	Inland and Coastal Marina Systems Ltd.	
Distinction	Cagney Contract Cleaning	
Distinction	Egis Projects Ireland Ltd.	
Distinction	Surecom NS	
Distinction	Global Rail Services Ltd.	

Award	Organisation	Achiever
Distinction	OCS One Complete Solution Ltd.	
Distinction	Tritech Engineering	
Distinction	ACB Group – Design and Construct	
Distinction	Mercury	
Distinction	Controlled Environments Company (CEC)	
Distinction	Nordex Energy Ireland Ltd.	
Distinction	Linde TMM	
Distinction	BioMarin International Limited, Shanbally	
Distinction	ESS Modular	
Highly Commended	Entegro	
Highly Commended	Adston Ltd.	
Highly Commended	Richard Nolan Civil Engineering Ltd.	
Highly Commended	Sensori Facilities Management Ltd.	
Highly Commended	ShareRidge Group	
Highly Commended	Moston Construction Ltd.	
Highly Commended	Farrans Construction t/a division of Northstone (NI) Ltd.	
Highly Commended	LMC MEP	
Commended	Dachser Ireland Ltd.	
Commended	LMC FM	
Commended	DB Schenker – Cork Branch	
Commended	SF Engineering	
Merit	Breedon Cement Ireland Ltd.	

#### Other Awards

Driving for Work Award Winner	Actavo Ireland Ltd.
Occupational Health Award – Winner Sponsored by Health and Safety Authority and Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland	Bon Secours Hospital Cork
Healthy Workplace Award – Winner Sponsored by Healthy Ireland	Cork City Council
Safety Representative of the Year Award: Winner Sponsored by The CPL Institute	John Higgins, Colas Ireland Ltd.
Safety Representative of the Year Award: Runner Up	J P Moloney, Irish Rail – Athlone

 Excellence in Safety Award (>15 years)

 Consistent High Achiever (5 years)

 Exceptional High Achiever (10 years)



# NISO 2021 conference

## 'The new world of health and safety'

The recent NISO conference, held in person in Killarney was a resounding success, with expert speakers on construction project safety, silica dust exposure, home-working and health initiatives, providing delegates with best practice examples and practical information for their workplace.

The theme of the conference was *The New World of Health and Safety* and it was delivered in line with public health requirements, and followed by the NISO/NISG (Northern Ireland Safety Group) All Ireland Safety Awards ceremony. These awards recognise organisations who have achieved the highest standards in health and safety, with the Designer Group winning the Supreme Safety Award.

Introducing the conference to the attendees, NISO president and conference chairperson Harry Galvin acknowledged it had been a difficult time for workplaces since Covid-19, and encouraged the Government to provide a "co-ordinated approach to the area of safety, with the focus on prevention".

Speaking on the topic of building awareness around health and safety in project management, chief executive officer of the PM Group, Dave Murphy spoke about some of the reasons for the company's successful safety record. "People are at the heart of our approach" he said, and "we are an employee-owned company". Mr. Murphy also spoke of the importance of having alignment across all of the team involved in a project, from beginning to end. This requires involving experts



L to R: Harry Galvin, President, NISO; Prof. David Fishwick, Chief Medical Advisor, HSE UK; Kieran Linehan, Managing Director, Ayrton Group; Dave Murphy, CEO, PM Group.

who identify and manage risk during all stages of the project.

Speaking on the topic of silicosis was chief medical advisor with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) UK, Professor David Fishwick. "We have only one set of lungs", Professor Fishwick said, and "your lung health is a function of the air you breathe". Explaining about the different types of silicosis, he emphasised that exposure to respirable crystalline silica can be very serious resulting in death in certain cases. Discussing the risks from different types of stone, he reminded listeners that the greatest risk was from sandstone which has a high silica content, and that

early detection of the disease would provide for a better outcome for individuals.

An innovative approach to manual handling training was presented by head of the national health and safety function at the HSE, Nick Parkinson, who gave a comprehensive overview of their blended approach to training. The training now involves a theory module, which is hosted on their HSELandD (learning and development) platform, which is designed to be interactive and engaging. It was launched in 2018, and learners must achieve a pass mark of 100% before progressing onto the practical stage of training.

Assistant chief executive

with the HSA, Yvonne Mullooly, traced through the recent developments in remote working, explaining that they could not have anticipated the rapid changes which would occur with the move to remote working since the pandemic. Outlining some of the supports available to workplaces, she pointed to valuable sources of information, including the HSA's guidance on working from home for employers and employees, and its associated risk assessment/checklist, their 'position yourself well' graphic, and the DETE remote working checklist for employers.

On the topic of mental





L to R: Nick Parkinson, Head of National Health and Safety Function, Health Service Executive; Darragh Duggan, EHS Lead, Janssen Sciences Ireland UC; Yvonne Mullooly, Assistant Chief Executive, Health and Safety Authority.

health, Vincent Ryan, a trained counsellor, spoke about the 'Lighthouse club', a construction industry charity providing support, including a 24/7 confidential helpline for construction workers who are experiencing emotional or other difficulties.

Biddy O'Neill, national project lead with Healthy Ireland reminded listeners of the importance of having a healthy workplace, and the need to ensure that workplace wellbeing is adequately resourced within a company.

Alona Troy, area manager of Chime, the national charity for deafness and hearing loss, explained what having hearing loss means for employees with the condition, and for employers. She also outlined the broad range of supports from assistive technology, to speech to text apps, as well as grants available to employers.

Liam Troy of SAP, a global software company, gave an overview of their autism at work programme, which employs over 200

workers with the condition. The company partnered with autism experts Specialisterne Ireland, who supported them to source and train employees and it has been a huge success for the company.

Looking at recent and new courses, information was presented on the new Certificate/Diploma in Safety Management at Work delivered by NISO/TU Dublin. The

course is particularly suitable for those who want to gain a professional qualification in health and safety, but who cannot commit to full time study. More information is available at [www.niso.ie](http://www.niso.ie) or phone 01 4659760.

A Postgraduate Certificate in Health Promotion is also available at NUI Galway, and is very popular as explained by Dr. Helen Grealish of NUI

Galway. It is recommended for anyone involved in designing effective health and wellbeing interventions in the workplace. It is delivered in a blended format and entrants require a primary degree.

Further information is available at <http://www.nuigalway.ie/courses/adult-and-continuing-education-courses/> or email [denise.glavin@nuigalway.ie](mailto:denise.glavin@nuigalway.ie)



L to R: Liam Ryan, Managing Director, SAP Ireland; Alona Troy, Area Manager, Chime - The National Charity for Deafness and Hearing Loss.





# ENABLING A STRONG SAFETY CULTURE

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through our supply chain and manufacturing.

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# Two Irish companies lead the way in occupational safety and health as they represent Ireland in the European Good Practice Awards

**Organic Lens Manufacturing and Aughinish Alumina nominated as the Irish winners of the European Good Practice Awards.**

This year's awards recognise organisations that actively manage work related musculoskeletal disorders (MSD's)

Organic Lens Manufacturing who employ almost 250 people in Ennis, Co. Clare, and Aughinish Alumina Ltd with 450 employees in Askeaton, Co. Limerick, have been chosen to represent Ireland in the European Good Practice Awards coordinated by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA). Both companies were winners in the Irish leg of the competition hosted by the Health and Safety Authority on behalf of EU-OSHA.

The awards highlight the impactful and innovative ways in which organisations demonstrate the benefits of good safety and health in the workplace in relation to managing work-related musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

MSDs are injuries or disorders that affect any part of the musculoskeletal system and are associated with ergonomic risk factors such as excessive force, awkward posture and repetition. Symptoms can include aches and pains, swelling, numbness and weakness.

MSDs remain the most common work-related health problem in the EU with approximately three out of every five workers reporting MSD complaints. Effective ergonomic interventions will reduce the adverse health effects on workers and can also positively impact their ability to carry out the work activity more efficiently.

Speaking about the awards, Yvonne Mullooly, assistant chief executive with the Health and Safety Authority said: "We are delighted to have



Organic Lens Manufacturing and Aughinish Alumina progressing to represent Ireland in the European Good Practice Awards.

Musculoskeletal disorders are the most prevalent of all work-related injuries in the Irish workplace. The key aim of the awards is to share best practice examples and both these companies have demonstrated active management of ergonomic risks through a systematic risk assessment process and full consultation with workers. I wish them all the best on the European stage."

Aughinish Alumina identified risk factors for workers carrying out a particular task including poor posture, and the potential for heat burn injury and repetitive strain. New

equipment was designed and introduced which resulted in posture improvements for workers and a reduction in the exposure to MSD risks.

For Organic Lens Manufacturing, concerns about potential health issues due to the need to assume an awkward kneeling position while working on a narrow platform led to engineering modifications, in close collaboration with workers, to reduce the risk of musculoskeletal injury.

Both companies have demonstrated through well-considered process and engineering improvements, and genuine consultation with employees, how resources invested in the safety and health of workers can lead directly to positive outcomes for all.

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# New Publications

## Telework and health risks in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic: evidence from the field and policy implications

Teleworking has helped businesses evolve and survive the COVID-19 pandemic, but it has put workers at greater risk of musculoskeletal disorders and mental health problems.

This report from EU-OSHA reviews the occupational safety and health issues associated with telework, and the measures and regulations in place to prevent and manage them.

Available from [osha.europa.eu](https://osha.europa.eu)



## Home-based teleworking and preventive occupational safety and health measures in European workplaces: evidence from ESENER-3

This report, from EU-OSHA, identifies the main characteristics of home-based teleworkers and companies with teleworking in place, and



looks at some of the most common prevention measures being implemented to counteract the associated physical and psychosocial risks to worker health and well-being.

Available from [osha.europa.eu](https://osha.europa.eu)

## Musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs): identifying and preventing risks for women, migrant and LGBTI workers

This info sheet highlights that women, migrant and LGBTI workers are exposed to particular risks more than other workers. These risks, including harassment, job insecurity and low pay, are associated with an increased likelihood of developing musculoskeletal disorders (MSDs).

Taking account of gender and diversity issues in risk assessment is key to healthy and productive workplaces. The info sheet provides examples of initiatives and company practices aimed at preventing MSD-related risks among these groups of workers.

Available from [osha.europa.eu](https://osha.europa.eu)



## Digital platform work and occupational safety and health: a review

This report from EU-OSHA highlights that the 'self-employed' status of most platform workers means that they are often not protected by EU or Member State OSH regulation, which has implications for the prevention and management of OSH risks. New initiatives and legislation that aim to improve working conditions and protect platform workers are discussed.

Available from [osha.europa.eu](https://osha.europa.eu)



## Foresight Study on the Circular Economy and its effects on Occupational Safety and Health

EU-OSHA's foresight project considers how different sectors may be affected by efforts to implement a CE up to 2040, and the consequences this could have for occupational safety and health. This report — phase 1 of the project — employs four future scenarios as a starting point to discuss both the potential risks and opportunities.



## Fatal Workplace Injuries by Economic Sector 2010-2021 (NACE Revision 2)

	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014	2013	2012	2011	2010
<b>A - Agriculture + forestry and fishing</b>	7+2+0	20+0+3	19+0+3	15+1+4	25+0+2	21+5	18+6	32+1	16+5	20+8	22+5	21+7
<b>B - Mining and quarrying</b>	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	2	1	1	1	2
<b>C - Manufacturing</b>	4	4	4	2	0	2	3	3	1	0	2	2
<b>D - Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	0	0	0
<b>E - Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities</b>	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	0	1	4	3	2
<b>F - Construction</b>	9	14	11	5	6	10	11	6	11	8	6	6
<b>G - Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods</b>	1	5	1	2	3	2	3	5	3	3	2	4
<b>H - Transportation and storage</b>	5	3	6	8	5	1	3	3	4	1	7	3
<b>I - Accommodation and food service activities</b>	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0	1	0
<b>J - Information and communication</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>K - Financial and insurance activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>L - Real estate activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
<b>M - Professional, scientific and technical activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	1	1	2	0
<b>N - Administrative and support service activities</b>	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2	0	1	0	0
<b>O - Public administration and defence; compulsory social security</b>	0	1	0	0	5	0	4	1	0	0	1	0
<b>P - Education</b>	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Q - Human health and social work activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	1	1	1
<b>R - Arts, entertainment and recreation</b>	0	2	0	2	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	1
<b>S - Other service activities</b>	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	0	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>56</b>	<b>55</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>48</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>48</b>

(Source: HSA, correct at 19 November 2021. Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.)

# Upcoming Events

Please keep an eye on our website [niso.ie](http://niso.ie) for forthcoming courses in 2021/2022.

## 1. Courses held at the NISO Training Centre, Ballymount, Dublin 12 / Online

**Manual Handling Basic**  
NISO Certificate  
(half day)  
29 November, 13 December

**Safety Representation [Online]**  
NISO Certificate  
(2 day)  
29-30 November

**DSE/VDU Risk Assessor Training [Online]**  
NISO Certificate  
(1 day)  
6 December

**Mobile and Home Working Assessor Course [Online]**  
NISO Certificate  
(1 day)  
Date TBC

## 2. NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Course length: 13 wks / 2 evenings p/wk

**MIDWEST REGION**  
Venue: Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS – Limerick) - online  
Commencing: 25 January 2022  
Contact: [info@niso.ie](mailto:info@niso.ie)

**MIDLAND REGION**  
Venue: Technological University of the Shannon: Midlands Midwest (TUS – Athlone)  
Commencing: 7 February 2022  
Contact: [info@niso.ie](mailto:info@niso.ie)

**DUBLIN / NATIONAL**  
Venue: NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12 / Online  
Commencing: 15 February 2022  
Contact: [info@niso.ie](mailto:info@niso.ie)

## 3. Courses and events in the regions

**EAST REGION**  
**NISO East AGM**  
Date & Venue TBC

**Safety Quiz**  
Date & Venue TBC

**MIDLAND REGION**  
**NISO Midland AGM**  
Creggan Court Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath  
27 January 2022

**Safety Quiz**  
Bridge House Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly  
8 January 2022

**MID WEST REGION**  
**NISO Mid West AGM**  
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick  
20 January 2022

**Safety Quiz**  
Greenhills Hotel, Limerick  
10 March 2022

**NORTH EAST REGION**  
**NISO North East AGM**  
Crown Plaza Hotel, Dundalk, Co. Louth  
17 January 2022

**Safety Quiz**  
Errigal House Hotel, Cootehill, Co. Cavan  
8 March 2022

**NORTH WEST REGION**  
**NISO North West AGM**  
Clanree Hotel, Letterkenny, Co. Donegal  
5 December 2021

**Safety Quiz**  
Clayton Hotel, Clarion Road, Sligo  
10 March 2022

**SOUTH EAST REGION**  
**NISO South East AGM**  
Viking Hotel Waterford, Waterford City  
17 January 2022

**Safety Quiz**  
Viking Hotel Waterford, Waterford City  
21 February 2022

**SOUTH REGION**  
**NISO South AGM**  
Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork  
18 January 2022

**Safety Quiz**  
Radisson Blu Hotel, Little Island, Cork  
7 April 2022

**WEST REGION**  
**NISO West AGM**  
Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway  
6 December 2021

**Safety Quiz**  
Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Oranmore, Co. Galway  
10 February 2022

## 4. National/All Ireland Events

**NISO National Annual General Meeting**  
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore Co. Offaly  
14 May 2022

**NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals**  
Tullamore Court Hotel, Tullamore, Co. Offaly  
14 May 2022

**NISO Annual Health and Safety Conference & Trade Exhibition of Health and Safety Products and Services**  
October 2022

**NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner**  
October 2022

