

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 2024 VOL. 68



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**All Ireland Safety
Quiz winners**

**New NISO
President
Announced**

NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION Update!

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President's Message

It was a privilege to accept the role of NISO President at our Annual General Meeting on Saturday, 27 April 2024 in Limerick.

I look forward to serving alongside the NISO Management Committee members including the outgoing President, Mr Harry Galvin.

Harry held the position of NISO President for the past eight years and I would like to extend my thanks to Harry, on behalf of the NISO membership, for his years of service and invaluable contribution to NISO during that time.

As has become our established practice we also held the finals of the All Ireland Safety Quiz in conjunction with the AGM. Congratulations to the overall and novice category winners, BioMarin International Ltd., Cork, and Avery Dennison Medical, Longford.

I am proud to be President of the organisation that pioneered the All Ireland Safety Quiz and the All Ireland Safety Awards organised in collaboration with Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG).

I also have a high regard for NISO's provision of a suite of qualifications and training that helps learners and employers keep their colleagues safe from accidents and ill health.

NISO is the national representative organisation,

representing Ireland, as a member of The European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations (ENSHPO). We have been an active contributor to ENSHPO's *Standards for Voluntary Certificate as SHE (Safety Health and Environmental Manager at Workplace) and OSH (Occupational Health and Safety Manager)*, which aim to respond to the new requirements and challenges of the profession, which among others, include the need to integrate OSH and Environmental Protection awareness in the workplace. I will also be representing NISO as Ireland's representative on the ENSHPO committee at the ENSHPO Annual Congress in Riga.

NISO is the leading Irish voice in health and safety campaigning to reduce avoidable accidents at work. We drive action from all stakeholders who can influence excellence in global OSH standards. At a national level, we lobby Government on the safety and health issues that matter.

NISO is continually strengthening its lobbying activities and advisory role to statutory and strategic decision makers. Most recently, NISO lobbied public officials about key concerns regarding the Construction Safety Licensing Bill which we believe should be amended before proceeding further.



**Fergal McKeivitt, President,
National Irish Safety
Organisation**

Our vision is to create a life free from accidental injury and, with the support of our members, this is at the core of everything we do. NISO is a membership-based organisation and without the committed involvement of members, our vision will not progress.

I see the support of all our members central to the President's role, now and for the duration of my term.

I encourage members to keep in touch with how we are developing our membership and to participate in NISO events.

Stay safe, healthy and active and I look forward to seeing many of you as soon as possible.

**Fergal McKeivitt
President
National Irish Safety
Organisation**

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DEPENDABLE PRODUCTS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

New NISO President Announced

At an Executive Meeting following the Annual General Meeting of the National Irish Safety Organisation held on Saturday, 27 April 2024 in Limerick, Fergal McKevitt (North East Region) was announced as the new President of the organisation.

All at NISO welcome Mr McKevitt as the NISO President and wish him well in his new role.

Mr McKevitt takes over the NISO Presidency from Harry Galvin who has held the position of NISO President for the past eight years. At a prize-giving ceremony for the winners of the All Ireland Safety Quiz, held on the evening of the AGM, Mr McKevitt thanked Mr Galvin for his years of service to NISO as its president.

After the AGM, it was also announced that Philip Thornton (Mid West Region) is replacing Fergal McKevitt as the Vice President of NISO.



Pictured right: Outgoing NISO President, Harry Galvin, handing over the Chains of Office to Incoming NISO President, Fergal McKevitt.

New Chemical Agents Code of Practice published

The Health and Safety Authority has published the 2024 Code of Practice for the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations (2001-2021) & the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances) Regulations (2024).

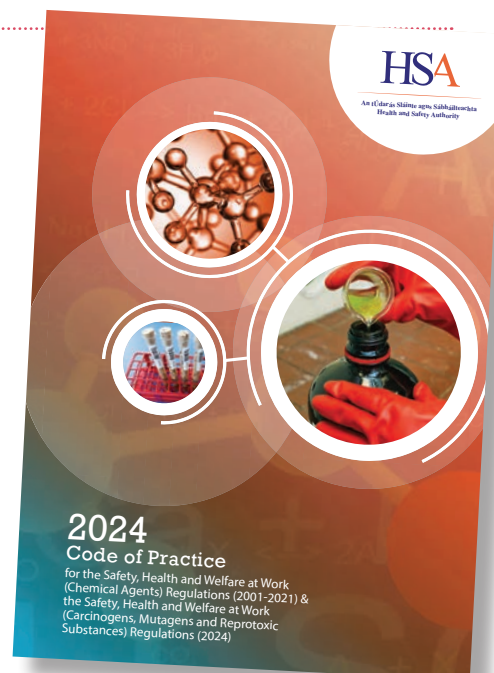
These new regulations consolidate the 2001 Carcinogens regulations along with its amendments in 2015 and 2019.

The 2024 regulations along with the Code of Practice have transposed Directive (EU) 2022/431 which is the fourth update to Directive 2004/37/EC (Carcinogens and Mutagens Directive (CMD)). This Directive brings reprotoxic substances under its scope and introduces hazardous medicinal products (HMPs). Both the regulations and Code will not introduce any new or additional national measures other than what is required from Directive (EU) 2022/431.

The Directive revises the limit values for three key carcinogens: benzene, acrylonitrile and nickel compounds. The Biological Limit Values for lead have also been transferred from the Chemical Agents Directive to the CMR Directive. These binding occupational exposures limit values and biological limit values have been included in the 2024 Code of Practice.

The new Code of Practice is available to download from the HSA website — hsa.ie.

Source: hsa.ie



SAFETY ALERTS

Portwest Peakview Safety Helmets (on sale between June 2022 and August 2023)

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has been made aware of a Safety Notice and Product Recall issued by Portwest in respect of Peak View Safety Helmets in the range PV60, PV64 and PV50.

The HSA wish to bring this information to the attention of relevant persons in relation to the use or distribution of these helmets.

Users should stop using these products immediately and contact the supplier, Portwest, for a refund.

Description: The Peak View Ratchet Hard Hat is a translucent vented shell hard hat with see through peak and sides. The hard hat has a 6-point textile suspension harness. The product is available in 6 colours (blue, green, red, black, orange and yellow).

Range: Peakview Helmet: PV60, PV64, PV50 Lot Numbers SS0522AUK SS0522APL SS0323AUK

Risk: When the helmets are exposed to conditions equal to or colder than -10 degrees Celsius or immersed in a water bath for longer than 4 hours, the helmets are at risk of not withstanding the impact at the level accepted under the EN 397 Standard.

Action: In the interest of safety Portwest request the return of Peakview helmets purchased in the above mentioned timeframe for a full refund. Please contact Portwest or distributor to arrange this return.

For more information visit portwest.com and hsa.ie.

Tipping Trailers

The HSA wishes to again alert owners and operators of agricultural tipping trailers about the hazard associated with accessing the area beneath the raised body of these trailers. A previous HSA Safety Alert was issued on this topic in 2009.

This Safety Alert is issued following the occurrence of a serious accident in 2023 and a fatal accident in 2009 involving an agricultural tipping trailer. In both cases an agricultural worker was trapped between the trailer body and chassis of a silage trailer which was being lowered from a tipped position. The trailers involved in both incidents had been manufactured by Smyth Trailers Limited (no longer trading).

The HSA understands that in 2009 a recall was put in place by Smyth Trailers Limited (no longer trading) to relocate the trailer stand to a new safe storage position. It has now come to the attention of the HSA that some owners/operators of these trailers may not have been aware of this recall, or may not have had the required alterations carried out.

Recommended action:

Should you operate or own a Tipping Trailer, or are aware of such trailer/s manufactured by "Smyth Trailers Limited" (no longer trading), which have the trailer stand located under the side chassis:

- Consider where the most suitable location for their storage is when not in use. The practice of storing them under the trailer chassis should cease as it requires access to an area where there can be a higher risk of being trapped and crushed by moving parts such as downward motion of the trailer body.
- Engage the services of a competent person, such as a mechanical engineer, to ensure the evaluation and relocation of the stand to a safe storage position.
- Ensure that appropriate propping and supports are in place on the trailer and that these are correctly installed in line with the manufacturer's instructions for maintenance activities.
- Ensure the content of the trailer manufacturer's instruction handbook has been brought to the attention of those working with tipping trailers.

Please advise the HSA at contactus@hsa.ie or through the contact centre phone line on Ph: 0818 289 389.

For more information visit hsa.ie.



Good Practice Awards — Now Open for Entries!

Organised by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) in collaboration with its national focal points, the Healthy Workplaces Good Practice Awards commend all types of organisations across Europe showcasing innovative approaches that promote worker wellbeing.



The good practice examples should actively prevent occupational safety and health risks related to the introduction of digital technologies at work. Following the competition in every participating country, a pan-European jury selects the final winners.

It is the perfect opportunity to engage in the EO-OSHA's new *Safe and Healthy Work in the Digital Age* campaign, share good practices throughout Europe and be inspired by others!

The deadline for Irish entries is 27 September 2024.

The application form is available to download from <https://healthy-workplaces.osha.europa.eu/>



Organisations Urged to Foster a Culture of Safety

National Irish Safety Organisation was in attendance at a special, national commemorative ceremony to mark Workers' Memorial Day Ireland, held at the Garden of Remembrance, 29 April, 2024. Workers' Memorial Day is an annual event dedicated to remembering workers who have lost their lives, been injured or contracted illnesses at or because of work.

The Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) and the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) called on more employers across all sectors to appoint safety representatives within their workplaces. Organisations are being urged to foster a culture of safety in a bid to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths.

Families of victims joined the Minister of State with responsibility for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins, as well as the representatives from NISO, the HSA, ICTU, Ibec and the Construction Industry Federation.

Workplace Fatalities

- Nearly 460 people died in work-related incidents in Ireland between 2014 and 2023.
- 43 people were killed in workplace incidents in 2023.
- Working with vehicles and falling from heights were the leading causes of work-related fatalities in 2023.
- So far this year, nine people have lost their lives in workplace incidents - (11 as of 7 May 2024).

Despite the numbers in employment increasing, HSA records show an overall decrease in the rate of workplace fatalities per 100,000 workers in Ireland over the last ten years, from a rate of 2.8 in 2014 to 1.6 in 2023.



National commemorative ceremony to mark Workers' Memorial Day Ireland, Garden of Remembrance, 29 April, 2024.

"We've made significant strides since the inception of the Health and Safety Authority in 1989, evident in the halving of the fatality rate," said Conor O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer of the HSA.

"But there is still a huge amount of work to do and absolutely no room for complacency. As the economy continues to prosper and employment increases, it is vital that safety and health for all workers is prioritised."

Workplace Fatalities in 2023 – Key Statistics

- Of the 43 work-related fatalities recorded in 2023, agriculture, forestry and fishing accounted for 20 fatalities.
- The construction sector accounted for the second highest fatalities, with 11 reported in 2023.
- 53% of all workplace fatalities recorded in 2023 were self-employed, while 51% were workers aged over 55.

Minister Higgins stated that "Every workplace should prioritise the health and safety of its employees and do all in its power to prevent workplace injuries, illnesses and deaths."

Source: rte.ie

Safety Direct – Main Sponsor of the NISO Annual Safety Conference for 2024 and 2025

NISO is delighted to announce that Safety Direct has been confirmed as the Main Sponsor of the NISO Annual Safety Conference for 2024 and 2025.



This year's conference is taking place on 11 October 2024 in the Great Southern Killarney, Co. Kerry.

Safety Direct was established in 2003 to service the rapidly developing construction and trade industries in Ireland, along with the growing requirement for health, safety and PPE products in other sectors such as manufacturing, engineering and hospitality. Having grown over the past 20 years, Safety Direct is now recognised as a leading European supplier of health, safety and hygiene products. Visit safetydirect.ie.

Keep an eye on niso.ie for updates about the NISO conference and for speaker announcements!

Graduation ceremony in Technological University of the Shannon Midland Midwest (TUS Athlone).

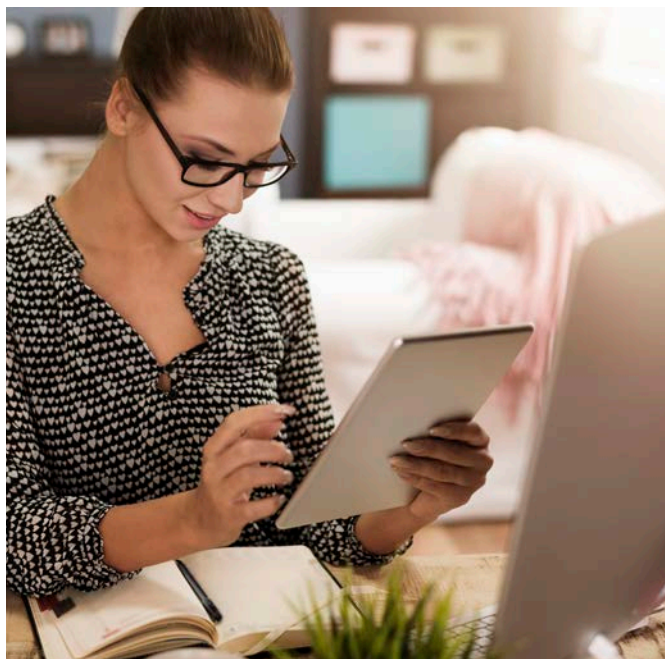
Marcus Flood from Kildare was presented with the NISO award for the top student in the BSc in EHS Management Course.



L to R: Iain Murray, Course Coordinator; Dr. Cormac O'Shea, Head of Department; Marcus Flood, NISO Award Recipient; Fergal McKevitt, Vice President, NISO; Dr. Andy Fogarty, TUS Athlone and Dr. Sean Reidy, Chemistry Lecturer and Research Supervisor.

Right to Request Flexible Working and Remote Working COP published

The Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) has prepared a Code of Practice (COP) for Employers and Employees on the Right to Request Flexible Working and the Right to Request Remote Working, as required by Part 4, Section 31, of the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023. The Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment requested the Workplace Relations Commission (WRC) to prepare this Code of Practice.



The WRC sought representations from trade unions and employer representative bodies and the Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission in the preparation of the COP.

The purpose of the COP is to provide practical guidance to employers, employees and any other persons as to the steps that may be taken for complying with one or more provisions of Part 3 of Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 Act, which includes provisions regarding requests for remote working arrangements, and also with PART IIA of the Parental Act 1998-2023, which includes provisions regarding requests for flexible working arrangements for caring purposes.

Part 4, Section 31 of the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 sets out that the COP shall be admissible in evidence in proceedings before a court, the Labour Court or an adjudication officer appointed under section 40 of the Workplace Relations Act 2015.

Source: workplacelrelations.ie

Call for Evidence

The European Chemicals Agency (ECHA) is seeking information on alternative substances and materials to aromatic brominated flame retardants to support the preparation of an investigation report. If the use of these substances is considered to pose a risk to human health or the environment which is not adequately controlled, ECHA will then prepare an Annex XV Restriction Dossier.

The objective of this call for evidence is to gather information specifically on:

1. Uses for which alternatives are available on the market and already implemented by most of the EU actors (even though some remaining uses can be still identified).
2. Uses for which alternatives appear to be generally available, but additional time is needed for substitution (R&D activities and products revalidation).
3. Uses for which alternatives may not be readily available to implement (e.g. additional time appears to be needed to develop an alternative).

An excel format for responses has been prepared and is recommended for use when submitting information to the

call. Further information is available in the background note – please see the web address below.

This call for evidence is intended for interested parties such as private companies (manufacturers, suppliers, recyclers, downstream users, distributors, importers, alternative suppliers etc.), sector associations, laboratories, scientific organisations, NGOs and other stakeholders or Member State Authorities holding relevant information. Both EU/EEA and non-EU stakeholders are encouraged to participate.

Information can be submitted confidentially and will be treated as such by ECHA.

Comments should be provided by 28 June 2024 online – please see the web address below.

For further assistance please do not hesitate to contact the Health and Safety Authority at chemicals@hsa.ie.

Background note: <https://echa.europa.eu/documents/10162/14629653-6fb6-8a79-71ec-24a2fac81ab5>

Submit comments here: https://comments.echa.europa.eu/comments_cms/CallForEvidence.aspx?RObjctId=0b0236e189bd7274

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Success for Cork and Longford teams at the 49th All Ireland Safety Quiz Final

At the All Ireland Safety Quiz Finals held in Limerick on Saturday, 27 April 2024, BioMarin International Ltd., Cork, and Avery Dennison Medical, Longford, were the overall winners in the Previous Entrants and Novice Categories respectively.

The All Ireland Occupational Safety Quiz Finals is run jointly by the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) and the Northern Ireland Safety Group (NISG).

There was a great turnout at the event held at the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick, with great support for the participating teams from their co-workers.

In the Previous Entrants category final, BioMarin International Ltd. emerged as the overall winners with an impressive 111 points [out of a maximum of 128 marks] ahead of runners-up, Abbott Nutrition Cootehill, Co Cavan, who finished in second place with 109 points. In third place, with a total of 93 points, was University of Ulster Students' Union.



BioMarin International Ltd., Previous Entrant Category Winners

The results in the Novice Category finals were very close with Avery Dennison Medical emerging as this year's victors with a total of 80 points. In second place, with a score of 73 points, was BioMarin International Ltd. followed closely by Lagan MEICA in third place with a total of 72 points.

Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation and Wendy Beatty, Chair, Northern Ireland Safety

Group presented the awards and trophies at a special prize-giving dinner that evening and congratulated all participating teams.

Mr McKeivitt commenced the prize-giving ceremony by saying that it's time to put the fun back into safety. He commended all the quiz teams, noting that each and every participant should be proud of their efforts to improve occupational health and safety. Mr McKeivitt also thanked the participating organisations' managers for the support and encouragement shown to their teams.

Ms Beatty congratulated the participants and commended all the work put in by the teams for the All Ireland Safety Quiz finals. Ms Beatty also noted the importance of the safety events held jointly by NISO and NISG to help further the promotion of health and safety on the island of Ireland.

The Regional Heats for the 50th All Ireland Safety Quiz 2025 will commence nationwide in spring 2025.



Avery Dennison Medical, Novice Category Winners

PREVIOUS ENTRANTS CATEGORY WINNERS

1st Place: BioMarin International Limited (representing the Southern Region*)

2nd Place: Abbott Nutrition Cootehill (representing the North Eastern Region*)

3rd Place: Ulster University Students' Union (representing Northern Ireland*)

NOVICE CATEGORY WINNERS

1st Place: Avery Dennison Medical (representing the Midland Region*)

2nd Place: BioMarin International Limited (representing the Southern Region*)

3rd Place: Lagan MEICA (representing Northern Ireland*)

OTHER FINALISTS

Abbott Ireland (representing the North Eastern Region*) Novices Category

* Midlands (Laois, Offaly, Longford, Westmeath); North East (Cavan, Louth, Meath, Monaghan); Northern Ireland (Antrim, Armagh, Derry, Down, Fermanagh, Tyrone); North West (Donegal, Leitrim, Sligo); South (Cork, Kerry).



Abbott Nutrition Cootehill, Previous Entrants Category Runners Up



BioMarin International Ltd, Novice Category Runners Up



NISO National AGM 2024

NISO held its 2024 AGM in the Castletroy Park Hotel, Limerick, on 27 April 2024.

At the 2024 AGM of the National Irish Safety Organisation, Outgoing NISO President, Harry Galvin, noted that this was the last time he was addressing the NISO AGM as President of NISO. Mr Galvin also acknowledged that it was an honour to have held the role as President for the past eight years, following the same period as secretary.

Mr Galvin thanked the NISO secretary, Executive Committee and the Regional Committees for their continued support, heard work and dedication throughout the year.

The continued support from and engagement with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, Ibec, ICTU, Insurance Ireland, the HSA and NISG was also acknowledged by Mr Galvin.

Mr Galvin mentioned some of NISO's highlights over the previous year including:

- Events organised by NISO both locally and nationally have seen in the order of 3,500 individuals taking part.
- NISO's free coffee break briefings, which commenced in 2022, are proving popular with high numbers continuing to tune in.
- The NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Course

was well attended again last year and we have continued to hold it online and in class.

- NISO celebrated its 60 years of promoting occupational health and safety in 2023.

Mr Galvin, in his President's Report, also said that we currently have too many agencies overseeing safety across the country with each body overseeing a part of safety but no overall body looking at safety in all sectors. Mr Galvin proposed that we need a National Prevention Strategy covering all areas of Health and Safety.

Commenting on Insurance Premiums, Mr Galvin pointed out that premiums are not coming down in line with expectations following the lowering of awards for injuries in line with recent Judicial Guidelines. He reflected that if everyone was interested in investing in prevention of accidents there would be a sharp reduction in injuries and therefore major insurance savings stating "No accidents, no injuries, no claims".

Mr Galvin concluded his report by calling on all members to renew their efforts in the promotion of safety and health awareness by leading by example and calling on politicians of all parties to commit themselves to the same objectives.

Management Committee 2024/25

Fergal McKeivitt, President

Philip Thornton, Vice President

Pauric Corrigan, Secretary

Michael O'Neill, Treasurer

Harry Galvin

Mary Keane

Edel Niland

Executive Committee 2024/25

David Connolly (Members' Representative)

James Glennon (West Region)

Aine Healy (Members' representative)

Cecelia Healy (Members' Representative)

Mick Kinahan (East Region)

John McCarthy (ICTU Representative)

Michael Gillen (Ibec Representative)

Kay Baxter (HSA Representative)

Sean O'Shaughnessy (South Region)

John Quinn (North West Region)

Sean Reidy (Midland Region)

Michael Ryan (South East Region)



Members of the NISO Executive Committee photographed at the AGM in Limerick on 27 April 2024.



The Annual General Meeting of the National Irish Safety Organisation underway in Limerick



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A Case Study: Irelands first Water Mist System installed in an Adult Intellectual Disability Residential Setting

This article outlines a real-life case study of a person living independently in a St. Michael's House (SMH) premises supported by a community team. The person has several risk factors that increase the chance of a fire incident; hoarding behaviour, smokes inside, has alcohol dependency compounded by mental health difficulties. Numerous measures have been exhausted by the support workers, clinical team and SMH Fire Prevention Officer to reduce the risk to no avail, leaving a fixed fire suppression system as the only solution to reduce the risk to an adequate level.

Independent living for those with a disability is a significant achievement for both the person and staff supporting them. Continuing to support a person to maintain independent living can be challenging especially if this is compounded by other inherent factors such as ageing, dependency, hoarding and mental health issues. In this case study the overarching risk was the person not evacuating or not being able to evacuate in the event of a fire or other similar emergency. Another concern was the likelihood of the person to cause a fire in the first instance for the reasons mentioned above.

A collaborative team approach involving management, clinical and the community support team evaluated all options to further mitigate the fire risk due to behaviours outlined above. Balancing the persons individual needs and preferences and the fire risk proved very challenging for all involved. The environment has an L1 fire alarm system in place, emergency lighting, 30-minute fire doors and a final exit in place to his bedroom and the front door so travel distances were very short. Staff would visit and support the person for short periods daily and there is remote monitoring of the fire alarm out of hours. The person did not wish to move into a supported living environment and to ensure our duty of care was met to this person we had to consider an option not usually taken in intellectual disability services in Ireland — a fixed fire suppression system.

A fire safety company provides service/ maintenance for St. Michael's House fire fighting equipment. The SMH Fire

Prevention Officer contacted them regarding a fire suppression system. Following discussion to outline the risks involved the company proposed a water mist system. The reason for this is the discreet nature of the equipment involved and its positive installation in other similar type services in Northern Ireland. In addition, its ability to suppress both an electrical and non-electrical fire risk. The system uses a fine water mist to control or extinguish fires. It works by breaking down water into tiny droplets which increases the surface area of the water allowing it to absorb heat more efficiently and suppress the fire. They are effective, environmentally friendly and cause minimal damage compared to traditional sprinkler system. On activation of the fire alarm system — there is an inbuilt camera which scans the room to determine if there is a heat source, if there is the system activates but only in this room to extinguish the fire. When this was proposed at the subsequent collaborative team meeting misconception regarding fire suppression systems had to be corrected. This system creates a localised approach contrary to what you may have seen in the movies!

It was seen as the most viable solution given the limitations of other options to reduce the risk to a reasonably practicable level. All involved agreed that this would be the best and most effective approach to address the risk. A considerable amount of work was done by everyone to discuss the work involved with the person and to organise the individual to be out of the premises for the work to be completed. It took

1.5 days to complete with minimal disruption, which was a reassurance for the person living there, as they had been anxious about the work scheduled to be carried out and the disruption to their routine. Once installed the support staff explained what the system was and how it would operate to maintain safety while living there. The system has had no direct impact on the person, and is subtle in design, which means it blends in with the home aesthetic.

This case study shows how well a collaborative team approach provided a solution which allowed the person to continue to live independently with the addition of other supportive measures being taken by other disciplines. It is the first installation of its kind in an intellectual disability service in Ireland and demonstrates St. Michael's House solution focused team to pioneer this technology in this setting. It can be challenging for support staff to engage and discuss the potential fire risks with some people supported to live independently, so the presence of such a passive system does contribute to reducing, to an extent, such risks. St. Michael's House strives to maintain independence where possible and is also mindful of risks and will take all reasonably practicable measures to keep a person safe in their home for as long as reasonably possible.

The views expressed in this article are the views of the author and do not necessarily reflect the views of NISO.

*Isolde Veld, Fire Prevention Officer,
St. Michael's House*

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Atlantic Technological University Castlebar Campus

17 September 2024; 18:30hrs

In class

Technological University of the Shannon Midlands - Midwest: Athlone Campus

16 September 2024; 19:00hrs

Online except first evening and exam

Further information overleaf or at niso.ie

**National Irish Safety Organisation
A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount,
Dublin 12, D12 EH21**

T 0818 SAFETY F 01 4659765

E info@niso.ie W niso.ie

Course Price: €425 (NISO members); €525 (Non members)



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GMC Utilities Group is one of Ireland's leading civil and engineering companies, successfully delivering large-scale infrastructure projects for over 40 years. Our wealth of expertise and innovative solutions are the pillars of our success in the modernisation of Ireland's infrastructure. We specialise in 5 core sectors: Water, Gas, Power, Public Sector and Renewables.

Water improvements at Ballycoolin to Forrest Little



This crucial project upgraded and secured the water supply for over 350,000 people across North County Dublin. The €28million investment involves the construction of a major new pipeline between Ballycoolin Reservoir and Swords, ensuring a more secure and reliable water supply to homes, businesses, hospitals and farms for generations to come

Strand Road Donabate – East City Arterial Water Main Replacement Project

GMC Utilities has installed the new 560mm HDPE water main inside the existing 24" steel main. We were also open-cutting past the Martello Tower, which is one of the only sections of the project that was open-cut. The project is now complete, with reinstatement works ongoing.



Greenlink - UXO in Wales

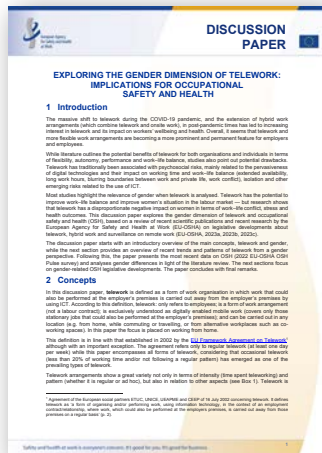


GMC Utilities are currently undertaking UXO (unexploded ordnance) and archaeological investigation on behalf of Sumitomo Electric and Greenlink Interconnector. The works are happening in the Devil's Quoit area of Freshwater Beach, Pembrokeshire, in West Wales, in preparation for the offshore drill works. As part of the investigations, a standing stone, associated cremations, and flint finds, which continue to emerge, have been discovered. These finds are prehistoric and are somewhere in the region of 4,000-6,000 years old

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New Publications

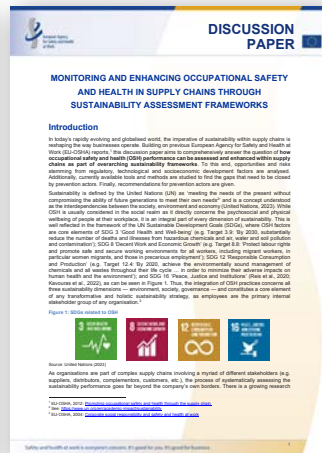


Exploring the gender dimension of telework: implications for occupational safety and health

The increasing shift to telework and hybrid work since the COVID-19 pandemic has strongly impacted women. This discussion paper explores the gender dimension of telework and occupational safety and health (OSH) and reviews developments in related legislation.

Identified research gaps include the gender dimension of cyberbullying, gender and company-level OSH policies in the field, and absence of gender aspects in OSH-focused regulation of telework. The paper highlights that gender-sensitive provisions in the area of telework and hybrid work can contribute to women's work-life balance and labour market integration.

Available at osha.europa.eu

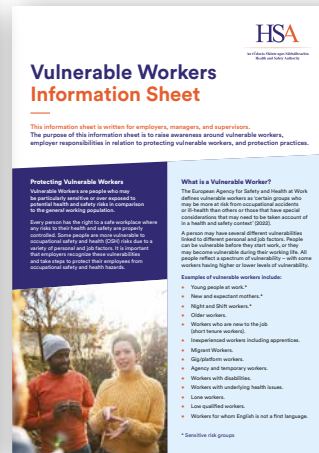


Monitoring and enhancing occupational safety and health in supply chains through sustainability assessment frameworks

The need for sustainability is reshaping business operations, especially within supply chains. This paper explores how occupational safety and health (OSH) in supply chains can be evaluated and improved using sustainability assessment frameworks.

It reviews factors impacting OSH in supply chains and the potential of tools and methods used to assess sustainability performance and OSH performance. Recommendations for policymakers, buying companies, sector initiatives, and customers/end users underline the need to harmonise OSH criteria within sustainability assessment frameworks.

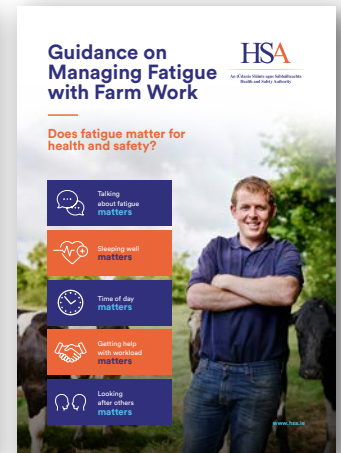
Available at osha.europa.eu



Vulnerable Workers Information Sheet

The purpose of this information sheet is to raise awareness around vulnerable workers and employer responsibilities in relation to protecting vulnerable workers and protection practices.

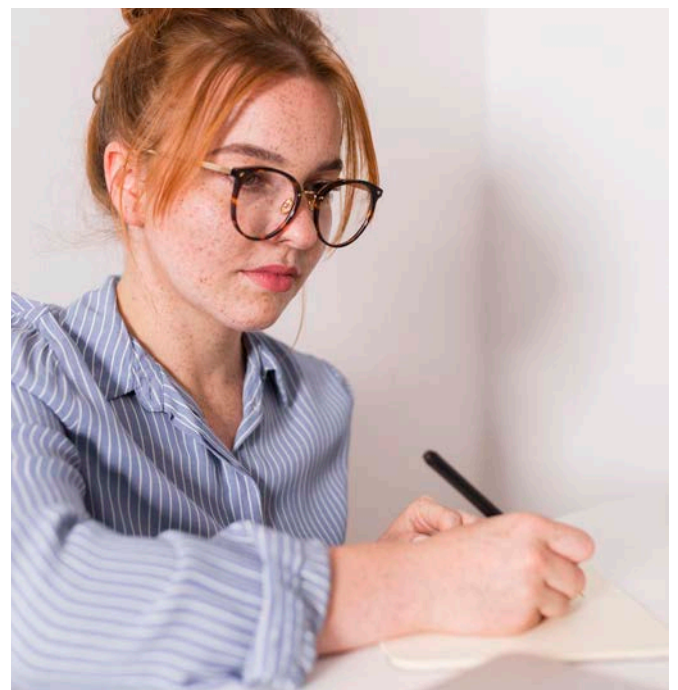
Available at hsa.ie



Guidance on Managing Fatigue with Farm Work

The aim of this guidance is to help you make informed choices in the management of farm work and fatigue to reduce safety and health risks.

Available at hsa.ie



Legislation

SI No. 25 of 2024 – European Union (international Labour Organisation Work in Fishing Convention) (Working Hours) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

These Regulations make an amendment to the working time regulations which apply to fishermen (European Union (International Labour Organisation Work in Fishing Convention) (Working Hours) Regulations 2019) and make it clear that the calculation of hours for the average working week over the relevant reference period should not include periods of paid annual leave or sick leave.

SI No. 90 of 2024 – Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (Commencement) Order 2024

This Order provides that the 6th day of March 2024 is appointed as the day on which Part 3 (Requests for remote working arrangements), Part 4 (Code of practice) and section 40 (Amendment of Workplace Relations Act 2015) of the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 shall come into operation.

SI No. 92 of 2024 – Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (Workplace Relations Commission Code of Practice on the Right to Request Flexible Working and the Right to Request Remote Working) Order 2024

The purpose of this Order is to declare the Code of Practice, set out in the Schedule, to be an approved Code of Practice for the purposes of the Work Life Balance and Miscellaneous Provisions Act 2023 (No. 8 of 2023). The Code of Practice is for the purpose of practical guidance to employers, employees and any other persons as to the steps that may be taken for

complying with one or more provisions of Part 2, in relation to flexible working arrangements, and Part 3, in relation to requests for remote working arrangements.

SI No. 110 of 2024 – European Communities (Safe Loading and Unloading of Bulk Carriers) (Amendment) Regulations 2024

These Regulations amend S. I. No. 347 of 2003 by making the Marine Survey Office of the Department of Transport the competent authority in the State for enforcing the Regulations. The Regulations make consequential changes and provide for penalties and fixed payment notices.

SI No. 122 of 2024 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Carcinogens, Mutagens and Reprotoxic Substances) Regulations 2024

These Regulations, which came into force on 5 April 2024, give effect to Directive (EU) 2022/431 of The European Parliament and of The Council of 9 March 2022 amending Directive 2004/37/EC on the protection of workers from the risks related to exposure to carcinogens or mutagens at work.

Directive 2022/431 amends Directive 2004/37/EC by introducing reprotoxic substances as a group of chemicals to be regulated. Reprotoxic substances are chemicals which affect fertility, sexual function or have adverse effects on the offspring of workers. Reprotoxins were previously regulated under Directive 98/24/EC (the Chemical Agents Directive), but it was determined that it was more appropriate to regulate them under the stricter requirements of Directive 2004/37/EC.

These Regulations also introduce allowances for biological monitoring for those companies who wish to carry it out.

FATAL WORKPLACE INJURIES BY ECONOMIC SECTOR 2013–2024 (NACE REVISION 2)

	2024	2023	2022	2021	2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
A Agriculture + forestry + fishing	2+0+0	16+1+3	14+0+0	10+1+0	20+0+3	20+0+3	15+1+4	25+0+2	21+1+4	18+1+5	32+0+1
B Mining and quarrying	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
C Manufacturing	0	1	0	5	4	2	2	0	2	3	3
D Electricity; gas, steam and air conditioning supply	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
E Water supply, sewerage, waste management and remediation activities	0	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	0
F Construction	2	10	7	10	17	12	5	6	10	11	6
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods	1	2	1	2	4	2	2	3	2	3	5
H Transportation and storage	2	2	1	6	2	6	8	5	1	3	3
I Accommodation and food service activities	2	0	1	0	1	0	0	1	0	0	0
J Information and communication	0	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	0	0	0
K Financial and insurance activities	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
M Professional, scientific and technical activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	1
N Administrative and support service activities	1	3	0	0	0	1	0	0	2	0	2
O Public administration and defence; compulsory social security	0	0	2	0	1	0	0	5	1	4	0
P Education	0	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Q Human health and social work activities	0	2	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	2	0
R Arts, entertainment and recreation	0	0	0	1	2	0	0	0	1	1	1
S Other service activities	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
Totals	11	43	28	38	55	49	39	48	48	56	55

Source: HSA, correct at 7 May 2024. Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.

National Irish Safety Organisation

GOLF

C L A S S I C

In support of Irish Guide Dogs for the blind

GOLF



CHARITY



FUN



NETWORKING

FRIDAY, 21 JUNE 2024

SHOTGUN START AT 12 NOON / REGISTRATION FROM 10AM

This event will be held at the

Seve Ballesteros Golf Course
The Heritage Resort, Killenard, Co Laois

National Irish Safety Organisation

A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12, D12 EH21, Ireland

Tel: +353 1 465 9760 Email: golf@niso.ie Web: niso.ie/golf

Facebook: [NISOIreland](https://www.facebook.com/NISOIreland) ; Twitter: [NISOIreland](https://twitter.com/NISOIreland)

NISO TRAINING AND EVENTS

For further details and to book visit <https://niso.ie/shop/>

TRAINING SCHEDULED AT NISO TRAINING CENTRE, DUBLIN 12 AND/OR ONLINE

SOLAS Safe Pass (1 day)

Clonmel: 17 May
Kilkenny: 18 May
Carlow: 23 May; 7 June

Safety Representation;

(Online); NISO Certificate (2 day);
14–15 May; 27–28 June

DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course

(Online); NISO Certificate (1 day);
26 June; 16 July

NISO CERTIFICATE IN SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK

13 weeks / 2 hours per week (evenings)

Midland Region

Venue: Technological University of the
Shannon (TUS) Athlone
Commencing 16 September 2024

Dublin / Online

Venue: NISO Training Centre, Dublin 12
and/or online
Commencing 17 September 2024

Western Region

Venue: Atlantic Technological
University (ATU) Castlebar Campus
Commencing 17 September 2024

Seminar: Permit to Work and Silica Dust

Southern Region:

Radisson Blu Hotel & Spa,
Little Island, Cork
22 May 2024

Seminar: New Supports Available from the HSA

North Eastern Region:

Dundalk: Fairways Hotel, Dublin Rd.,
Haggardstown, Dundalk, Co Louth
22 May 2024

Western Region:

Galway: Oranmore Lodge Hotel, Station
Rd., Carrowmoneash, Oranmore, Co
Galway
2 October 2024

Southern Region:

Cork: Oriel House Hotel, Main Street,
Ballincollig, Co Cork
9 October 2024

Seminar: Temporary Traffic Management at Road Works – Latest Standards

Mid West Region:

Limerick: Greenhills Hotel, Ennis Road,
Limerick
4 September 2024

Southern Region:

Killarney: Great Southern Killarney,
Town Centre, Killarney, Co. Kerry
10 October 2024

Western Region:

Castlebar: Ellison Hotel, Lannagh Rd.,
Knockcroghery, Castlebar, Co. Kerry
24 October 2024

NISO Golf Classic for Charity

In Support of
Irish Guide Dogs for the blind
Venue: The Ballesteros Course at
The Heritage Resort, Killenard,
Co Laois
Date: 21 June 2024

NATIONAL EVENTS

NISO Annual Safety Conference and Trade Exhibition

Killarney, Co. Kerry
11 October 2024

NISO/NISG All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner

Killarney, Co. Kerry
11 October 2024



NISO, A11 Calmount Park, Calmount Avenue, Ballymount, Dublin 12, D12 EH21.
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