



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

AUTUMN 2024 VOL. 69

Production v Protection

A COMPLEX BALANCING ACT



NATIONAL IRISH SAFETY ORGANISATION

Update!

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

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President's Message

As is the norm for NISO at this time of year, we are very busy preparing for this year's Annual Conference and All Ireland Safety Awards Presentation Dinner.

This year's conference will take place on 11 October in the Great Southern Killarney, Co Kerry and will see a wide range of issues covered against the theme of Building a Safer Future for All. Speakers include:

- **Brian Crooke, Work Well Ireland**
Brian is a wellbeing educator, speaker and adviser supporting organisations to promote and sustain wellbeing within their workplaces.
- **Louise Dennison, The Dennison Training Academy**
A qualified Advanced Mental Health Instructor and Registered EMT, Louise has significant experience working with individuals and companies to assess and deliver their training requirements.
- **Loretta Dignam, The Menopause Hub**
The Founder and CEO of The Menopause Hub, Ireland's first dedicated menopause clinic.
- **Kay Doyle, Irish Rail**
The Director of Health and Safety at Irish Rail.
- **Quentin Guimont, Kratos**
Quentin is the Sales Countries Manager for Kratos Safety.
- **Dr Victor Hrymak, Technological University Dublin**
A fire & safety consultant, expert witness and the principal lecturer for the MSC in Environmental Health & Safety at the Dublin Institute of Technology.
- **Hilary McGouran, Injuries Resolution Board**
Hilary is the Head of

Mediation with the Injuries Resolution Board

- **Conor O'Brien, Chief Executive Officer, Health and Safety Authority**
- **Michael O'Connor, Mercury Engineering**
Michael is Mercury's Environmental, Health & Safety (EHS) Director.
- **James Pomeroy, Arup**
James has been involved in leading safety and risk management programmes internationally for nearly 30 years. He is the Global Health and Safety Leader and Director for Arup.

All Ireland Safety Awards

NISO and NISG are also occupied with the final stages of the adjudicators' marking of the All Ireland Safety Awards. As the marking concludes, the All Ireland Safety Awards committee will meet a number of times to review the marking and to conduct our quality assurance programme to ensure that the correct award goes to the correct organisation.

Following the quality assurance programme, each organisation that entered the awards will receive correspondence advising whether they have qualified for an award and to indicate what category of award they are receiving.

The actual award each organisation will receive will not be revealed until the night of the All Ireland Safety Awards Gala Dinner.

Bookings for the Conference and Safety Awards are now open - visit niso.ie/shop.

ENSHPO Annual General Meeting

As the national representative organisation of the European Network of Safety and Health Professional Organizations



Fergal McKeivitt, President, National Irish Safety Organisation

(ENSHPO) representing Ireland, NISO attended the ENSHPO annual general meeting in Riga.

ENSHPO is the leading voice of EHS professionals in Europe to promote safety, health and environment protection at work. The organisation proactively engages with decision makers and regulators across the EU. NISO is actively involved with ENSHPO in developing a European Certification Standard.

Concluding Remarks

NISO represents in the order of 600,000 workers throughout Ireland, comprising a cross section of organisations in most sectors of business. However, the newly established IT companies, Public Sector organisations and Government departments/agencies are underrepresented.

The NISO Certificate Course in Safety Health and Welfare at Work is one of our many well attended and sought-after training courses and we have continued to run this in class and online over recent times.

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

HSA publishes its Annual Report for 2023

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has published its 2023 Annual Report. This is the HSA's second Annual Report under its Strategy Statement 2022–2024.

Key highlights from the 2023 Annual Report include:

- Inspections completed across all economic sectors totalled 9,995 proactive inspections, 463 reactive inspections and 225 investigations completed following incident reports received.
- Eighty-three investigations undertaken into fatal accidents, of which 43 were deemed work-related.
- Nineteen prosecutions concluded, with 15 prosecuted on indictment and four prosecuted summarily, resulting in fines totalling €1,377,500.
- Forty-three work-related fatalities reported, the majority of which (72%) occurred in agriculture, fishing and forestry (20 deaths) and construction (11 deaths).
- New regulations introduced, the first of their kind in the EU, making helmet wearing and training for all quad bike operators a legal requirement.
- New Health and Social Care Advisory Committee established.

Offering her condolences to the families and friends of the 43 people who lost their lives in workplace accidents in 2023, **Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Emer Higgins TD** said:

Each life lost is one too many and I urge all employers and employees to prioritise health and safety and make full use of the HSA's resources and tools. Employment in Ireland reached a record high of 74.2% in 2023. There has never been more people at work in Ireland but with more people working, we cannot become complacent. Together we can help ensure that every worker in Ireland can return home safely at the end of the day.

HSA records show an overall decrease in the rate of work-related fatalities per 100,000 workers in Ireland over the past ten years (2014–2023), from the rate of 2.8 in 2014 to 1.6 in 2023.

Noting the continued high number of workplace fatalities in the agriculture and construction sectors, particularly among the self-employed, **Conor O'Brien, CEO of the HSA** said:

We're urging all employers, but particularly the self-employed, to make health and safety a top priority as you go to work each day. As the Health and Safety Authority prepares its new 2025–2027 Strategy, I will be seeking input from our sectoral advisory committees as to how we can make a significant step change in these sectors to significantly reduce the fatality, illness and injury rates. We will continue to develop a wide range of user friendly tools and guidance to help achieve these aims.

Patricia Byron, Chairperson of the Health and Safety Authority, said:

As we publish the 2023 Annual Report, I am pleased to confirm the Board approved the establishment of a new Health and Safety Advisory Committee in 2023 to provide a forum for

stakeholders to advise and support the Authority in promoting best practice in occupational health and safety in the sector. The Health and Safety Authority is committed to driving change through collaboration and innovation. I thank our stakeholders for their steadfast support and look forward to our continued partnership in advancing workplace safety."

Source: hsa.ie

Sun safety advice for outdoor workers

A reminder from the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) to outdoor workers and employers that sun protection is vital during summer months.

Even in overcast conditions, sun protection for outdoor workers is still crucial. The HSA is calling on both employers and employees nationwide to take proactive measures against the harmful effects of ultraviolet (UV) radiation. The HSA suggests the following actions to reduce the risks linked with UV exposure:

1. **Risk Assessment:** Conduct thorough risk assessments to identify potential UV hazards and implement appropriate control measures.
2. **Education and Training:** Provide training programs to educate workers about the dangers of UV radiation and the importance of sun protection.
3. **Protective Clothing:** Ensure that workers wear appropriate clothing, including wide-brimmed hats, long-sleeved shirts, and sunglasses that offer UV protection.
4. **Sunscreen Provision:** Supply broad-spectrum sunscreen with a high SPF and encourage regular application.
5. **Scheduling Adjustments:** Whenever possible, schedule outdoor work to avoid peak UV radiation times, typically between 11 am and 3 pm.
6. **Shade and Breaks:** Provide shaded areas and encourage regular breaks to reduce prolonged sun exposure.

Employees should also take personal responsibility for their sun safety by:

- **Wearing Protective Gear:** Always wear sun-protective clothing, hats, and sunglasses.
- **Using Sunscreen:** Apply a generous amount of broad-spectrum sunscreen 20 minutes before going outside and reapply every two hours, or more frequently if sweating.
- **Seeking Shade:** Take advantage of shaded areas during breaks and lunchtime.
- **Hydration:** Stay hydrated to help the body cope with heat and sun exposure.

For more information about sun protection for outdoor workers, please visit the HSA website www.hsa.ie

Source: hsa.ie



Surge in Workplace Aggression and Harassment Reported by Employers

- **Retail, Public Services, and Hospitality Among the Highest Reported Cases**
- **Ibec Introduces Toolkit to Tackle Workplace Aggression and Harassment**

Ibec, the representative body for Irish businesses, has unveiled a new toolkit aimed at assisting companies in addressing workplace aggression and harassment. Ibec reports an increase in incidents of aggression and harassment within the workplace particularly in customer-facing sectors like retail, libraries and hospitality. These incidents often stem from factors such as gender, relationship status, sexual orientation, religion, age, disability, race or membership in the Traveller community.

A study by Circle K forecourt and convenience stores found that 75% of their retail staff have faced verbal, racial, gender-based or physical abuse from customers.

The toolkit provided by Ibec offers practical resources and guidance to help employers identify and implement effective risk controls. It covers employer responsibilities under equality and health and safety laws, and includes sample documents and checklists to aid in preventing and addressing incidents of workplace aggression and harassment. This enables employers to support employees who experience such issues.

Nichola Harkin, Head of Employment Law Services at Ibec, said:

Ireland has made notable progress in combating discrimination and promoting equality. However, there is a worrying increase in harassment, abuse, and violence, often targeted at individuals based on nationality, sexual orientation, or workplace. This alarming trend appears in various settings, including workplaces. It is crucial for employers to be empowered to mitigate risks and support employees in promptly responding to and reporting incidents.

Kara McGann, Head of Skills and Social Policy at Ibec, noted:

Recent trends have heightened employers' concerns about staff safety. Libraries, pharmacies, and bookshops are increasingly targeted by 'protestors' who verbally attack and intimidate staff. These protests, reflecting global movements, present new challenges in Ireland. The rise in such behaviour is partly due to the pandemic, the Ukraine conflict, rising energy costs, inflation, and supply chain disruptions. These crises have contributed to feelings of disenfranchisement and marginalisation, leading to increased resentment and polarisation. Misinformation often fuels these sentiments, undermining social cohesion and economic collaboration.

The toolkit is available at [ibec.ie](https://www.ibec.ie).

Public Consultation on Proposed Changes to Dangerous Goods Transport Regulations

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) invites submissions from interested parties to a public consultation on proposed draft amends to the European Communities (Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road and Use of Transportable Pressure Equipment Regulations), 2011, (S.I. No. 349 of 2011) as amended.

The proposed draft amends aim to update the existing regulations for the inspection of national tanks for the transport of dangerous goods.

Key Proposed Changes:

- The removal of the current exemption for national fuel tanks to undergo hydraulic testing.
- The removal of tanks deemed unfit for use from service.
- The introduction of new requirements for competent persons and national tanks regarding the documentation of test procedures, retention of tank records, the issuing

of certification forms and the marking of tanks.

- The requirement for LPG Annex C tanks to be inspected by accredited inspection bodies.
- The prevention of pre-2003 tanks or tank-vehicles from being imported into the State.

Consultation process

Copies of the regulatory impact analysis associated with these proposed draft amends, the proposed draft amends and draft schedules to the legislative proposals are available from hsa.ie.

Feedback

Interested parties are asked to provide feedback by downloading the relevant documents from hsa.ie and return your observations by email to WebContent@hsa.ie before 17.00hrs on Thursday, 31 October 2024.

By providing your feedback you are allowing the Health and Safety Authority permission to contact you in relation to this Public Consultation.

To read about this public consultation in full and to download the relevant documents please visit: <https://consultation.hsa.ie/Public-Consultations/european-communities-transport-dangerous-goods-pressure-equipment-2011-2023/>

Members of the NISO Management Committee in attendance at the ENSHPO Annual General Conference in Riga



Presentation of Certificates - Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 Courses

NISO Midland branch held their presentation of certificates for the NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work course in the Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone, Co. Westmeath on Friday, 12 July 2024.

Two courses were hosted by TUS Athlone between September and December 2023 and again between February and May 2024. Eighteen participants successfully completed the course. These included students from Westmeath, Offaly, Galway, Fermanagh, Longford, Roscommon, Mayo, Tipperary and Stockton on Tees in the UK.

Three hotel managers from the Hodson Bay hotel group and two managers from Udaras na Gaeltachta took part in the course. Others who took part included employees from Arran Chemicals/Almac, Athlone; John Sisk; Longford Co Council; The Dept of Education Athlone; Air-Products UK and Ireland; Ernco-group Fermanagh; Gaeltec Utilities; Thomas Nolan and sons; McDermott's pub Doolan, Co Clare; Outspan Training, Clonmellon, Co Westmeath; DPD Athlone; University Hospital Galway and Streamstown Moulding Co, Mullingar.

Each participant received their Certificate from Mr Philip Thornton, Vice President of NISO. John Henson represented

NISO Midlands along with Dr Sean Reidy (TUS and Chairperson of NISO Midland Region).

The course will run again this autumn, beginning on Monday 16 September in TUS Athlone. A number of the participants are advancing onto the part-time Level 7 degree in EHS Management in the autumn in TUS.

NISO Certificate in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work

13 weeks / 2 hours per week (evenings)

Upcoming dates / venues

- **TUS Athlone:** Technological University of the Shannon: 16 September 2024; 19.00hrs. (Online / class attendance required on 2 evenings)
- **Dublin / Online:** 17 September 2024; 18.30hrs. Classes: Hybrid (Classroom* & Online) Exam: Classroom only
- **Castlebar:** Atlantic Technological University Castlebar Campus: 17 September 2024; 18.30hrs. (In Class)

To book a place on the NISO course please visit <https://niso.ie/product/nisocert/>



NISO Autumn 2023 and Spring 2024 Certificate Course Graduation Group, Hodson Bay Hotel, Athlone

Back Row l to r. John Henson (Course lecturer/Managing Director, HB Safety Services), Michael O Flaherty (Hodson Bay group manager), Aaron Dunne, Kunjan Chaulagain, Lee Johnston (DPD Athlone) and Dr Sean Reidy (NISO course organiser and TUS).

Front Row l to r. Alisha Connolly, (John Sisk Builders), Philip Thornton (Vice-President NISO), and Orla O'Dea (HSE, UHG).

NISO WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

National Irish Safety Organisation would like to welcome all of the organisations that have recently joined. 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 9760 or email info@niso.ie for further information on NISO membership and to receive a copy of our Membership brochure.

NEW MEMBERS

Organisations that have recently joined NISO include:

- **Atlantach Technical Services**
- **Boston Scientific Clonmel Ltd.**
- **Cairn Homes PLC**
- **CMC Rigging Contracts Ltd.**
- **Construction 22**
- **Doyle Construction**
- **Heat Merchants Group**
- **Kenny Developments Contracting Ltd.**
- **Keypoint**
- **NUA Manufacturing**
- **Raymond Masterson Mechanical Services**
- **Storebest Shopfitting Co. Ltd.**
- **Sundstrom Safety AB**
- **Tirlán Lough Eglish**



Heat Merchants Group

Heat Merchants Group trades as Heat Merchants, Bathroom Merchants and Tubs & Tiles. There are 30 Heat Merchants and Bathroom Merchants branches, and 12 Tubs & Tiles showrooms nationwide. The group's customer support services include technical heating system design, installer training, aftersales servicing, estimation and specification.



Tirlán Lough Eglish

Tirlán is a global name in food and nutrition. Tirlán Lough Eglish delivers world class UHT Cream to our global customers. Our Zero Harm Vision and our Site Strategy of Health & Safety First, Quality Always, Compliance Everyday cements our commitment to operating in a safe & responsible manner.



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DEPENDABLE PRODUCTS WHEN IT MATTERS MOST

Critical Faults in Mast Climbing Work Platforms (MCWPs)

Target Audience:

- Construction and other industries using MCWPs
- Employers, dutyholders, and anyone responsible for MCWP supply, installation, use, inspection, servicing, maintenance and thorough examination

Issue:

The Health and Safety Executive (HSE - UK) has identified a serious technical fault in MCWPs widely used across construction projects. This fault, if undetected and unrectified, could result in platforms falling from height, posing risks of serious injury or even death.

Problem Outline:

MCWPs, often referred to as “mast climbers,” are used for high-level access and maintenance, and as an alternative to traditional scaffolding. These platforms are powered and attached to vertical masts. They are crucial in construction for providing access and a working platform on tall buildings and are also used for cladding operations.

The HSE has found that some MCWPs, which rely on two independent motor drive units per mast to prevent falling at overspeed, lack adequate controls to manage this risk. Failures in these drive units can render both the centrifugal brakes (which limit descent speed) and the automatic brakes (which engage when powered travel stops) ineffective. This fault increases the risk of platforms falling with overspeed.

Immediate Actions Required:

You are advised immediately to check that the necessary control measures are in place for all MCWP in use or available for use at a work.

If the control measures are not in place, you need to withdraw the MCWPs from use until those responsible for supply, installation, use, inspection, servicing, maintenance and for thorough examination of MCWPs ensure that:

- there is the means to identify a loss of mechanical integrity in each drive unit where this is the system to prevent falling with overspeed
- each individual drive unit is fitted with a mechanical device, e.g. centrifugal brake, that automatically prevents the work platform descending at excessive speed
- damage to drive units due to platforms being powered onto buffers/base frames is prevented
- platforms and associated equipment are not damaged by physical overloading
- thorough examinations, inspections and tests, and visual and functional checks are appropriately planned and carried out

To read this safety alert in full please visit hse.gov.uk.

Portwest FFP3 Valved Dolomite Flat Folded Respirator

The Health and Safety Authority (HSA) has issued a Safety Alert after being made aware of a Safety Notice issued by Portwest in respect of their FFP3 Valved Dolomite Flat Folded Respirator.

Audience: Distributors, retailers, owners and users of this particle filter mask.

The HSA advises users to stop using this product **immediately** and contact Portwest.

Name: FFP3 Valved Dolomite Flat Folded Respirator

Model: P351

Batch number: XI1122APL

Barcode: 5036108260164

Risk: This product does not comply with Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Regulations or European standard EN 149. The total filtration capacity of the mask is insufficient. Consequently, the product does not fulfil the health and safety requirements; thus, even if combined with other recommended measures, it may not properly protect the end user.

Action: In the interest of safety, Portwest request that any customer or end user with stock of P351 from this batch (XI1122APL), remove them from sale or use.

Further information is available at hsa.ie and portwest.com.

Production v Protection

Organisational Decisions

- Systems accidents have their primary origins in fallible decisions made by designers and high-level (corporate or plant) managerial decision makers.
- This is not a question of allocating blame but simply a recognition of the fact that even in the best run organisations a significant number of influential decisions will subsequently prove to be mistaken.
- Fallible decisions are an inevitable part of the design and management process.
- The question is not so much how to prevent them from occurring as how to ensure that their adverse consequences are speedily detected and recovered.
- In considering fallible decisions, it is important to be aware of the context in which high level decisions are taken.

- All organisations have to allocate resources to two distinct goals: production and safety (protection).
- In the long term, there are likely to be many occasions in which there are short term conflicts of interest.
- Resources allocated to the pursuit of production could diminish those available for safety; the converse is also true.

The dilemmas illustrated in the graphic below are exacerbated by two factors.

Certainty of outcome

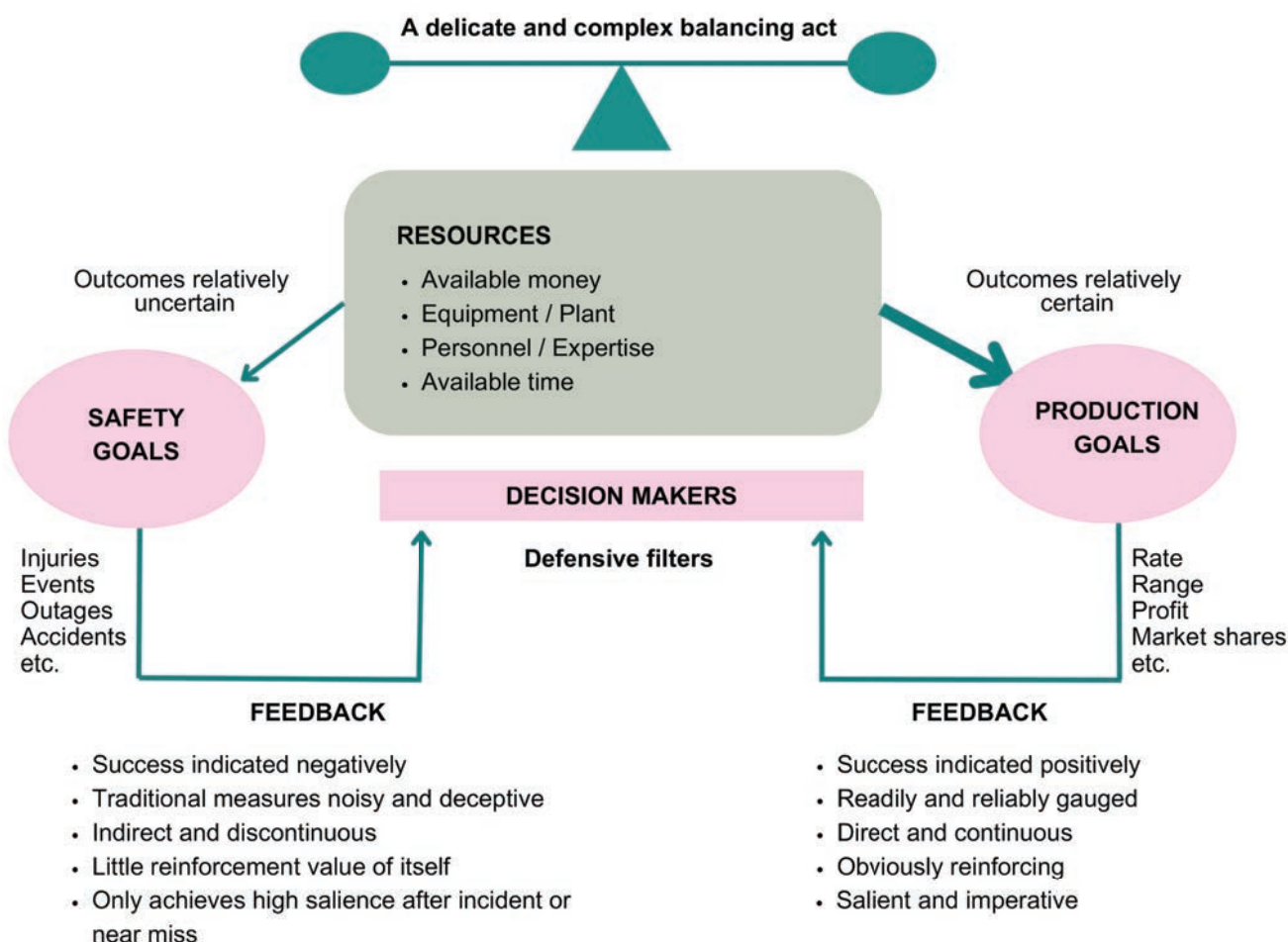
- Resources directed at improving productivity have relatively certain outcomes; those aimed at enhancing safety do not, at least in the short term. This is due in large part to the contribution to stochastic elements in accident causation.

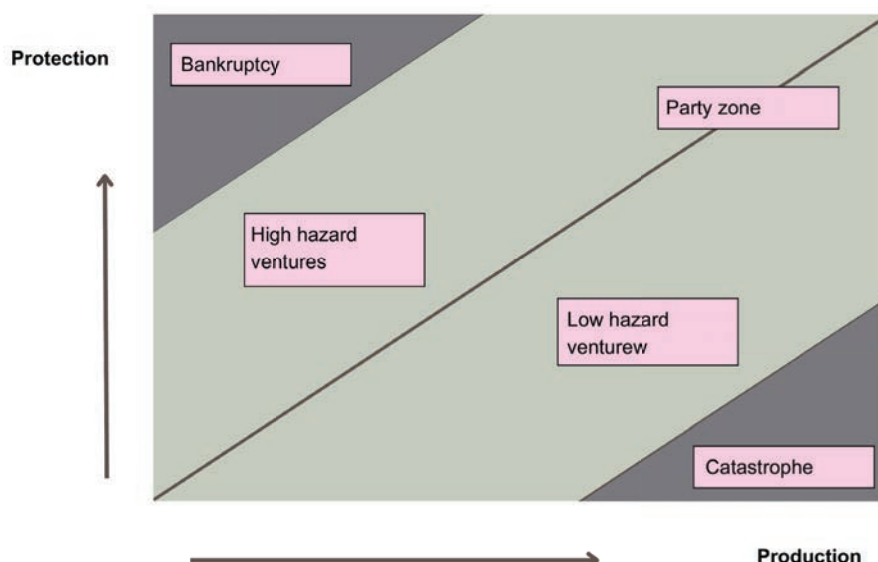
Nature of the feedback

- The feedback generated by the pursuit of production goals is generally unambiguous, rapid, compelling and (when the news is good) highly reinforcing.
- The feedback associated with the pursuit of safety goals is largely negative, intermittent, often deceptive and perhaps only compelling after a major accident or a string of accidents.
- Production feedback will, except on these rare occasions, always speak louder than safety feedback.
- This makes the managerial control of safety extremely difficult.

In summary...

- The relationship between production and protection is not equal.
- Production produces positive results that are easily understood.
- Protection in contrast is indicated by absence of negative outcomes.





The See – Saw Effect

- Organisation begins with a safety margin.
- Safety is diminished — accidents occur.
- Improvements are put in place immediately after accident.
- This gives production an advantage until catastrophe.
- For example, the Davy Lamp, which was used by miners, whereas in the past, they had used a canary. The Davy lamp was much more reliable but problems arose when miners came to rely on it too much, going deeper and deeper into mines resulting in accidents occurring in bigger explosions.

Unrocked Boat

- Lengthy period without accident can lead to erosion of protection.
- It is easy to forget to fear things that rarely happen.
- The result is an investment fall off in the care and maintenance of existing defences.
- Decision makers do not always interpret feedback on either the production or the safety channels accurately.
- Defensive “filters” may be interposed that both protect them from bad news and encourage extra punitive reactions.
- Thus poor achievement on the production front can be blamed

upon an inadequate workforce, union interference, market forces, world recession, shortages of materials and the like.

- A bad safety record can be attributed to operator carelessness or incompetence.
- This position is sometimes consolidated by cataloguing the various safeguards, engineered safety devices and safe operating practices that have already been implemented.
- Indeed, given the almost diabolical nature of some accident sequences, these are perfectly understandable reactions.
- However, this could block the discovery of effective remedies and contribute to further fallible decisions.

This trade-off between production and protection is hugely important to recognise and to stay on top of to maintain high safety standards.

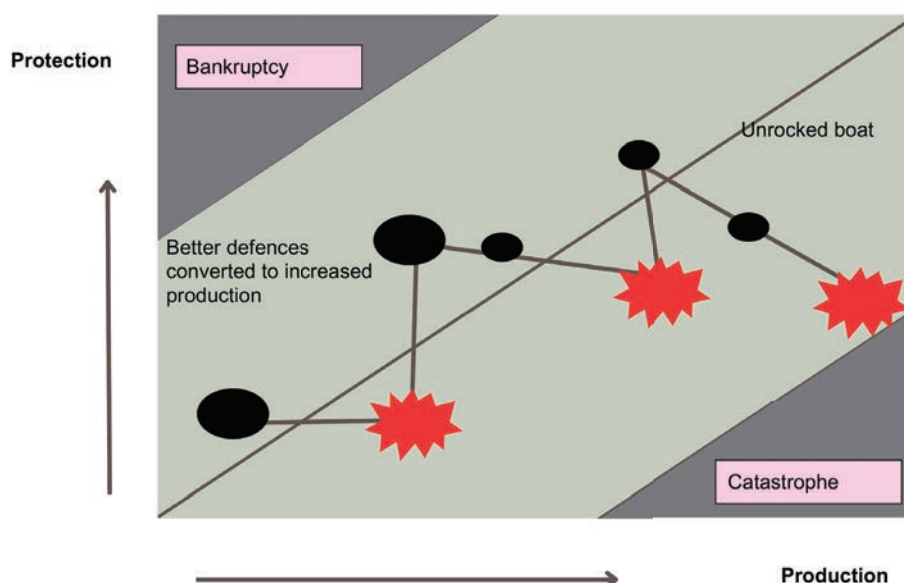
Production v Protection is covered in greater depth as part of the NISO CPD Certificate Course in Behavioural Safety Management in association with Technological University Dublin (TU Dublin).

Behavioural Safety Management Course – Contents

- **Introduction to Behavioural Safety Management**
- **Workplace Taskings effects of safety behaviour**
- **Factors effecting Individuals**
- **Teams development and cohesion of individuals**
- **Organisational structure effects on team and individual performance.**

The CPD Certificate in Behavioural Safety Management is taking place from 9 to 13 December 2024.

Visit <https://niso.ie/product/cpd-cert/>





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Winning Team: Glanua Civils Limited

NISO Charity Golf Day a Success

National Irish Safety Organisation held a Golf Classic in support of the Irish Guide Dogs for the blind at the Heritage Golf Resort in Co. Laois on 21 June 2024. Twenty-two teams participated on the day. Many thanks to the Heritage Golf Resort and also to Dooks Golf Club, prize sponsors for the golf and Designer Group, sponsor of the super raffle prize. Thanks to all the staff at The Heritage and The Thatch Pub for helping to make the day a great success.

Feedback from those taking part was very positive. NISO looks forward to planning another Golf Classic for Charity in 2025.

WINNERS

1st Prize: Glanua Civils Limited (Four-ball at The Heritage)

2nd Prize: DS Ventilation Ltd.

3rd Prize: Curtis & Smith Plasterers Ltd.

Longest Drive (Men): Chris Maguire

Longest Drive (Women): Cathy Glynn, Glanua Civils Limited

Nearest the Pin: Graham Barry, DS Ventilation Ltd.

Main Raffle Prize Winner: Damian Barry, DS Ventilation (4 tickets to The Script in the 3Arena plus a voucher for food and drink. Sponsored by Designer Group)



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- Dooks Golf Club
- EHS International
- Moston Construction
- National Vibration Monitoring Ltd
- Skillko
- The Heritage

PARTICIPATING TEAMS

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- Castlethorn & Chartered Land Group
- Circet Networks (Ireland) Limited
- CJK Engineering
- Curtis & Smith Plasterers Ltd.
- Designer Group
- DS Ventilation Ltd.
- Ferndale Lane Investments Ltd. TA
- Gray Integrated Services of Europe
- Glanua Civils Limited
- Lynskey Engineering
- Moston Construction Ltd.
- NISO
- Obelisk Group
- Occupli
- ShareRidge Ltd.
- Suir Engineering Limited



Team representing NISO



GMC Utilities Group

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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European Good Practice Awards: Safe and Healthy Work in the Digital Age



Gavin Lonergan, Head of Communications & Customer Relations with the Health and Safety Authority writes about the EU-OSHA Good Practice Awards and encourages Irish businesses to put themselves forward on the European stage.

As part of its Europe-wide campaign, the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work (EU-OSHA) makes Good Practice Awards to businesses and organisations that devise innovative, practical solutions to workplace safety and health problems. The theme for the 2023/25 campaign is “Safe and Healthy Work in the Digital Age” and the Irish leg of this pan-European competition is now open for entries.

The key purpose of the Good Practice Awards is to highlight and promote best practice, ensure a human-centred approach to managing digital technologies in the workplace and share best practice examples.

The judging panel is looking for examples of best practice that demonstrate a holistic approach and real improvements in the management of digital technologies in the workplace. The evaluation criteria include important considerations such as commitment of senior management, worker involvement, sustainability and transferability.

We are living and working in a time of exciting innovations. From cloud computing and automation to virtual assistants and employee apps, the adoption and integration of digital technologies are forever changing the world of work. No sector is untouched by these changes. To prepare workplaces, it is important to go beyond the bits and bytes and put people at the centre of the digital transformation.

Occupational safety and health (OSH) is an essential aspect to be considered. This campaign raises awareness of both the opportunities and risks for OSH that digital transformation brings to the way we work. It promotes a human-centred approach and collaboration among all stakeholders to prevent risks. It helps ensure worker safety and business productivity by sharing practical tips and case studies of good practice.

Specifically, the campaign aims to:

- increase knowledge about the safe and productive use of digital technologies across all sectors;
- raise awareness of OSH challenges related to the digital transformation of work;
- inform about emerging risks and opportunities;

- promote risk assessment and safe management of digital technologies in the workplace; and
- encourage the exchange of information and good practices among relevant stakeholders.

The specific aim is to highlight outstanding examples of organisations that actively prevent OSH risks related to the introduction of digital systems in the workplace. EU-OSHA is looking for examples that demonstrate a holistic approach to OSH management, with both employers and employees committed to working together.

Is your organisation already making innovative contributions to workplace safety and health from a digital perspective? Apply for the Good Practice Awards now!

The Irish leg of the Good Practice Awards is now open and the closing date for entries is September 27th 2024. To discuss the Good Practice Awards or any element of the Healthy Workplaces Campaign in more detail, contact Gavin Lonergan, Head of Communications & Customer Relations at the HSA, on (01) 7997838 or email pressoffice@hsa.ie.



Pictured at the launch of the Good Practice Awards are (L-R) Gavin Lonergan, HSA Head of Communications, Emer Higgins TD, Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, and Dr Marie Dalton, HSA Programme Manager

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NATIONAL IRISH
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60th ANNUAL

Health & Safety Conference & Trade Exhibition

Friday 11 October 2024
Great Southern
Killarney, Co. Kerry



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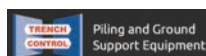
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New Publications

Chemical Agents Code of Practice 2024

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



Guidance on Managing the Risk of Work-Related Violence and Aggression

The purpose of this guidance from the HSA is to provide information and guidance on managing the risks associated with work-related violence and aggression.



Use Chemicals Safely on the Farm

New information sheet from the HSA on using chemicals safely on the farm. Chemicals such as fertilizers, detergents, oils, disinfectants and plant protection products can play an important role in everyday life on the farm. However, if these chemicals are not used safely, then you could be at risk.



Use Chemicals Safely on Construction Sites

New information sheet from the HSA on using chemicals safely on building sites. Chemical products such as sealants, adhesives, glues, epoxy resins, solvent based paints, isocyanate based foams/ paints, mineral oil and cement based products are used every day on construction sites.



Why a Health and Safety Inspector Calls to your Workplace

This guidance from the HSA explains to you what to expect when a HSA inspector calls to your workplace to carry out an inspection or investigation. It also explains what the HSA does with the personal data they are required to collect during their workplace inspections and investigations.



Reporting Workplace Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences

This information sheet from the HSA is for employers, employees and the self-employed. It provides key requirements for reporting workplace accidents and dangerous occurrences to the HSA.



All publications available at hsa.ie.

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	5+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	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	1	3	0
F Construction	4	10	7	10	17	12	5	6	10	11	6
G Wholesale and retail trade; repair of motor vehicles and personal goods	4	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	21	43	28	38	55	49	39	48	48	56	55

Source: HSA, correct at 23 July, 2024. Note that some accidents may be under investigation and may not have been recorded yet.



SEMINAR

Navigating Return to Work Planning for Absent Employees

Are absenteeism challenges affecting your organisation's productivity and bottom line?

It is not always straightforward for an employee to return to work after an absence. Barriers often present themselves and when people are unsure how to work around them both employers and employees lose out.

This seminar will look at the impact of employee absence due to injury, illness, or other reasons and at the supports available.



ATHLONE

7 November 2024

LIMERICK

14 November 2024

DUBLIN

21 November 2024

Book online at niso.ie/product/return-to-work/

ONE DAY

Temporary Traffic Management at Roadworks: Latest Standards

FEE
NISO Members €125
Non Members €150

Are you...

- An employer with employees working on or beside the road
- A holder of a CSCS Card and looking for refresher training
- A Manager, Supervisor and Engineer responsible for employees working on or beside the road?

...then this is for YOU!

LIMERICK | 4 September 2024 **KILLARNEY** | 10 October 2024

CASTLEBAR | 24 October 2024

Book online at niso.ie/product/ttm/



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NISO/TU Dublin
CPD Certificates/Diploma in Safety Management at Work

Upcoming NISO CPD Certificates in Safety Management at Work

(Certified by TU Dublin)

Workplace Safety Manager I

9–13 September 2024 (Hybrid);
Exam (in class) 20 September 2024

Workplace Accident Investigation

11–15 November 2024 (Hybrid);
Exam (in class) 22 November 2024

Behavioural Safety Management

9–13 December 2024 (Hybrid);
Exam (in class) 20 December 2024

Visit niso.ie/product/cpd-cert/



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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)

Kilkenny: 8 August; 16 August

Carlow: 9 August; 23 August

Clonmel: 10 August; 29 August

Youghal: 15 August

Enniscorthy: 22 August

DSE-VDU Risk Assessor Course

(Online); NISO Certificate (1 day);
14 August

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

CPD CERTIFICATES IN SAFETY MANAGEMENT AT WORK

(Certified by TU Dublin) 5 days plus exam

Workplace Safety Manager I;

9–13 September 2024

Workplace Accident

Investigation; 11–15 November 2024

Behavioural Safety Management;

9–13 December 2024

WORKSHOP: 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. Mayo
24 October 2024

SEMINAR: NAVIGATING RETURN TO WORK PLANNING FOR ABSENT EMPLOYEES

Midland Region

Athlone: Radisson Blu Hotel, Northgate Street, Athlone, Co. Westmeath
7 November 2024

East Region

Dublin: NISO Training Centre, A11 Calmount Park, Ballymount, Dublin 12, D12 EH21
21 November 2024

SEMINAR: NEW SUPPORTS AVAILABLE FROM THE HSA

Western Region

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

Southern Region

Cork: Oriel House Hotel, Main Street, Ballincollig, Co Cork
9 October 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.
Tel: 01 465 9760 | Fax: 01 465 9765 | Email: info@niso.ie | Website: niso.ie

