



HEALTH AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY



Health and Safety Authority
Programme of Work
2007

Working to create a
National Culture of
Excellence in Workplace
Safety, Health and Welfare
for Ireland

PROGRAMME OF WORK 2007**CONTENTS**

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1 FOREWORD

I am pleased to present the Authority's Programme of Work for 2007. This represents our operating priorities in the year ahead; the first year of our forthcoming three-year strategy *Creating a National Culture of Excellence in Workplace Safety, Health and Welfare for Ireland*.

This coming year will build on major initiatives and programmes in safety and health in 2006. The range of significant new regulations developed last year has meant an exceptionally busy time for the Authority in preparing and communicating guidelines to accompany these regulations.

New construction regulations came into force in November 2006 following a long and valuable consultation process with all involved. The Authority has been very encouraged at the response of this sector to the application of these regulations in the workplace.

The participation of non-Irish nationals in our workforce became a significant issue last year with evidence of the increased risk of accidents and fatalities for this group. This calls for ongoing co-ordination and leadership among the Government departments and state agencies concerned for the integration of non-Irish nationals. In 2007 we are taking a lead in initiatives to address the safety aspects of this integration and will encourage others to do likewise.

Last year, the Authority put in place the plans, structures and resources to fulfil our national Competent Authority role for the two future EU chemical regulations - REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and GHS (Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals). We will build on this foundation in 2007 by implementing the REACH regulation, which enters into force on June 1st, and providing support to stakeholders through a dedicated helpdesk and awareness raising measures.

Under the 2005 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, the Authority's scope of action has widened in key areas including the provision to introduce Codes of Practice. The Act has also provided the scope to introduce Codes of Practice for employments which have three or less employees. In December 2006 we issued a new Code of Practice to all farmers. During 2007 we will support this initiative with a comprehensive training and awareness programme. In the coming year we will also publish and promote Codes of Practice for equally important micro-enterprises in the construction and fishing sectors.



We will also introduce a revised Code of Practice for the prevention and resolution of bullying at work.

In 2007, the Authority seeks to ensure high standards in the management of health and safety in the public sector in general with a particular emphasis on health services, local authorities and the education sector.

Enforcement through our inspection processes will be promoted by prioritising the monitoring of compliance relating to high risk sectors, hazards and new legislative requirements.

Finally, in introducing our 2007 programme, I wish to acknowledge the support of our Board who have worked enthusiastically to agree our priorities in this continuously changing work environment of Ireland. I also wish our staff a successful year during which they can again contribute to the safety, health and welfare of all workers in Ireland.



Michael Henry

Acting Chief Executive Officer



2 OVERVIEW OF 2007 PROGRAMME

This document refers to the principal activities planned by the Authority which will have a significant and direct impact on its customers in 2007. The Authority is involved continuously in a very wide range of operational activities but not all of these are detailed in this programme. For ease of reference, our principal activities are addressed under five main headings:

- Key Sectors
- Key Hazards
- Multi-Sector Programmes
- Chemicals
- Corporate Enablement Programmes

The Authority works in consultation and partnership with a wide range of interests to provide advice, assistance and encouragement aimed at the prevention of work related accidents and the promotion of occupational safety and health at all levels of our economy.

The areas of work that we cover are as diverse as the economy itself, covering every type of workplace and every kind of work in the public and private sectors. Our work has two principal strands – on the one hand it involves a focus on prevention, education and training, and on the other it involves enforcement of the law.

In 2007 we will conduct well over 16,000 individual inspections of workplaces, on both a targeted and randomised basis

Where our partnership or advisory approach to such matters does not have the desired effect, or where breaches of legislation occur, the Authority is empowered to enforce compliance and to seek penalties wherever necessary. In 2007 we will conduct well over 16,000 individual inspections of workplaces, on both a targeted and randomised basis, based on the overall approach outlined below. Compliance will be looked for in all inspections, which may then be followed up with advice, compliance enforcement notices or prosecutions where necessary.

A challenging legislative programme will see the continuing promotion and implementation of the 2005 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act. This will be supported by the Authority's Grant of €22.5 million for 2007.



2.1 KEY SECTORS

There are over 200,000 workplaces and a workforce of over 2 million in Ireland and in order to make best use of its resources, the Authority will prioritise a number of sectors for attention. These include the high-risk sectors of agriculture, construction, mines and quarries, as well as the health services, local authorities and process industries.

Following the national distribution of the Authority's new Agriculture Code of Practice, a new promotion and training support programme will be targeted at the agriculture sector. The Authority will also publish a Code of Practice tailored to those employing three or less in the construction sector. A similar Code of Practice will be developed for the fishing sector and an extensive inspection programme will target key risks.

The public sector will be the focus of an inspection and information programme to identify compliance levels and to seek remedial action where necessary.

Research will be conducted into the safety issues involved in the employment of non-English speaking workers including levels of awareness of employer obligations and worker entitlements in this regard. This will be with a view towards establishing a best practice approach to the health and safety of new workers in our economy in partnership with all interests.

2.2 KEY HAZARDS

Following analysis of inspection reports, accident statistics and the changing nature of the Irish workplace, the Authority will be targeting a number of key hazards.

Slip and trip hazards and manual handling, two of the biggest causes of reported injuries each year, feature strongly. Working at heights is one of the biggest causes of accidents in a number of sectors, most notably construction.

Manual handling will be targeted through an active inspection programme in the Healthcare and Transport Sectors in 2007. This will be carried out in conjunction with the Health and Safety Executive (Northern Ireland) as part of an EU wide manual handling campaign.

Vehicles, machinery, noise and vibration, the transport of dangerous goods, electricity, asbestos, and stress are also singled out for attention. In relation to vehicles, the primary focus will be the particular danger they pose to workers/pedestrians on construction sites and the implementation of new requirements for reversing vehicles arising from the 2006 Construction Regulations.



2.3 MULTI-SECTOR PROGRAMMES

While much of the Authority's work is by necessity sector-specific or hazard-specific, there are many programmes that clearly span all sectors and hazards.

We will commence a youth education programme to influence the managers and workers of the future, and an innovative micro-business support programme will be tailored to meet the needs of those employing 10 or less, including the self-employed. Our inspection system will undergo a peer review process in 2007 under the auspices of the EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) Programme.

Across all of our activities, we will continue our programme aimed at influencing CEOs and senior management in favour of workplace health and safety. This is a 3 year programme which started in 2006 and we will compare the results found in 2006 with those from 2007 with a view towards ongoing improvement of our initiatives.

2.4 CHEMICALS

Chemicals remain a key focus for the Authority in 2007 as the Authority continues its implementation strategy on REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and the GHS (Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals), two new EU-wide chemical regulations. REACH will come into effect on June 1st 2007 while the EU Commission is aiming to ensure that GHS will come into effect around the same time as REACH becomes operationally effective for industry [November 2008]. REACH and GHS will augment existing regulations and fundamentally change the way in which industry registers, classifies, packages and labels chemical products. The Authority will carry out an advisory inspection programme in this regard in 2007.

In addition to REACH and GHS, the Authority will continue to fulfill its competent authority role for existing legislation on dangerous substances and preparations as well as occupational health in regard to carcinogens, chemical agents and asbestos.



3 KEY SECTORS

3.1 AGRICULTURE, FORESTRY AND FISHING

We will work to improve the standard of safety on Irish farms and to achieve an increase in the percentage of farms in compliance with the Agriculture Code of Practice.

We will carry out 1,500 farm inspections, concentrating on intensive farming counties. These inspections will focus on machinery related activities, slurry handling, animal handling, child safety, safety for the elderly, electrical installations and contractor safety.

The Authority will attend relevant national agricultural and forestry events to promote safety across the sector. We will also support the work of the Farm Safety Partnership and the joint safety promotion initiative between the Authority and Teagasc.

The Authority will facilitate a review of livestock handling facilities at marts, abattoirs and meat factories, among other outlets, to establish best practice with regard to the safety, health and welfare of workers.

A comprehensive farm safety campaign will be initiated to promote the new Code of Practice and to change attitudes to farm safety. This will include training and education within the sector. In the mushroom farming sector, current levels of safety and health management will be evaluated and an appropriate response programme will be implemented.

The Authority also aims to achieve an improvement in safety performance in forestry by reviewing, updating and promoting the Code of Practice for forestry safety. A particular focus will be placed on the self-employed and on employments of three or less in the forestry sector.

Over 50 forestry related inspections will be carried out to promote the use of the Forestry Code of Practice, concentrating on forestry worker training, machine safety, chemical handling and compliance with the need to carry out risk assessments.

In addition to ongoing prevention and enforcement activity, the Authority will produce a Code of Practice for micro enterprises in the fishing sector where, apart from large scale operators, many are self-employed and/or employ only a small number of people.



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **An overall 5% increase in the compliance rates recorded through inspections, correlated to the known and targeted hazards/risks in the sector.**
- **A substantially increased level of awareness and adoption of the Codes of Practice in Agriculture and Forestry.**
- **The Fishing Code of Practice introduced and promoted.**

3.2 CONSTRUCTION

The Authority's priority is to improve health and safety standards on construction sites given the prominent nature of this sector in the economy, employment levels involved and the high risks associated with employment in construction. We will run a hard-hitting awareness and enforcement campaign to change attitudes to construction safety.

This will be achieved through a focused programme of 7,000 construction site inspections in 2007 covering factors ranging from the appointment of competent designers, project supervisors and contractors, through to the provision of safety and health plans and safety statements, the management of work at heights, traffic and safety in the operation of vehicles, welfare arrangements and slips, trips and falls.

In addition, we will carry out 100 inspections of designers concentrating on design risk assessments for work at a height and the provision of slip resistant floor surfaces. We will assist professional bodies in the design sector in the development of competence for their members.

We will contribute to the implementation of the construction safety partnership plan and the implementation by FÁS of the Claritas Report on the administration of Safe Pass and Construction Skills by FÁS. We will also enforce and provide information on the Construction and Work at Height Regulations.

We will publish and promote a Code of Practice for employers of three or less in construction and commence research on the issues involved in the employment of non-English speaking workers. We will also prepare draft guidance on construction-specific aspects of work at a height, client best practice and progress draft codes of practice on pre-cast construction, concrete anchors, scaffolding, underground services and roof work, offering guidance on best practice.

The Authority will implement a further development programme for its scheme of Safe System of Work Plans (SSWP), including local authorities in that process.

The Authority will also co-ordinate an inter-agency approach in the construction sector to address reasons for the currently high rate of death and injury among non-Irish nationals, particularly those from the recent accession states. New initiatives will be aimed at simplifying the safety message for both English and non-English speakers in the construction sector.



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- An overall 5% increase in the compliance rates recorded through inspections, correlated to the known and targeted hazards/risks in the sector and particularly with reference to senior management responsibilities.
- Relevant guidance developed and drafted on the construction-specific aspects of work at a height and Codes of Practice on pre-cast construction, concrete anchors and client best practice.
- Code of Practice published for construction employers of three or less.
- Research completed, recommendations made and actions taken on the issues involved in the employment of non-English speaking workers.

3.3 MINES AND QUARRIES

Health and safety management in the mines and quarries sectors will be achieved by a number of key measures. We will carry out a programme of 500 inspections, particularly among smaller operators, with a focus on machinery, mobile and fixed plant, work at a height, safe use of explosives and slips, trips and falls.

New quarries regulations will be implemented and guidance disseminated to all quarry interests. New mining regulations will also be drafted and speedy implementation will be sought. The Authority will also review safety in the use of explosives across the sector.

The Authority will strongly support the work of the Quarries Safety Steering Committee, developing best practice approaches for quarry safety and supporting the running of the national quarries safety seminar which forms an important element of overall initiatives within the sector.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- An overall 5% increase in the compliance rates recorded through inspections, correlated to the known and targeted hazards/risks in the sector.
- New quarries regulations produced.
- New mining regulations produced.
- Review compliance with new legislation across the sector such as working at a height, vibration and noise regulations.
- Explosives legislation reviewed in conjunction with the Department of Justice, Equality and Law Reform.
- National conference held with maximum attendance by the sector.



3.4 HEALTH SERVICES

Existing health and safety management systems and practices will be targeted through a programme of 200 inspections. These will focus on worker protection in general hospitals, nursing homes and psychiatric institutions and will include risk assessments for work activities, maintenance/cleaning procedures, security/violence procedures, manual handling and control of biological agents. The Authority will liaise with the Health Services Executive and representative organisations to tackle violence at work for psychiatric care workers and will oversee the roll-out of the Health Sector Audit Tool.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Follow up inspections carried out in A&E Departments inspected in 2006.
- A 5% increase in the overall compliance rate correlated to the known and targeted hazards/risks in the sector.
- Improved overall awareness among target audience of requirements and responsibilities with regard to worker safety.

3.5 LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Authority will work to improve health and safety management in the local authority sector. We will particularly seek to ensure that local authority managers and officers comply with their duties in respect of the Construction Regulations. Key to this will be a programme of 300 inspections in local authorities with a focus on client duties regarding construction work and the health and safety of employees. Evidence will be sought that local authorities are implementing systems to ensure the competence and resources of those appointed to manage major construction projects including road works.

The Authority will support the implementation of a best practice safety management system for all local authorities, in co-operation with the social partners. We will also liaise with the local authorities to introduce health and safety as a key driver in their procurement policies in particular with regard to construction projects.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- An overall 5% increase in the compliance rate correlated to the targeted hazards/risks in the sector and in particular under the heading of client responsibilities.
- Clear examples recorded of local authority systems in place to ensure the competence and resources of those appointed as project supervisors.
- New occupational safety and health management system piloted for the sector.



3.6 WASTE RECYCLING

The Authority will carry out 100 inspections of waste recycling centres operated both by local authorities and private organisations, covering land fill sites, waste transit and sorting centres, and which handle construction, domestic and hazardous wastes.

These inspections will concentrate on safety and health management including the designation of traffic and pedestrian routes, the provision of information to all workers with a particular emphasis on non-Irish nationals, and the presence of risk assessments and safety statements.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **Evidence will be sought of a commitment to occupational safety and health management in compliance with the implementation of the 2005 Act and relevant regulations.**
- **100 inspections of waste recycling centres undertaken.**



4 KEY HAZARDS AND ISSUES

Each year, the Authority prioritises a number of key hazards for specific attention across its various activities. In all cases, the Authority's primary objectives are:

- to raise awareness and increase understanding of the hazard;
- to provide information or advice on how to manage the risks associated with the hazard;
- to ensure compliance with relevant legislation;
- to reduce the numbers of accidents or instances of ill-health arising from the hazard.

The activities planned to meet these objectives are set out under each heading below.

4.1 MAJOR ACCIDENT HAZARDS

The Authority acts as the National Competent Authority under the 2006 COMAH Regulations on the "Control of Major Accident Hazards". It is also our role to ensure compliance with health and safety legislative requirements in other designated workplaces that present a potential risk of major accident hazards.

In 2007, we will inspect all designated sites under the 2006 COMAH Regulations and assess the safety reports required to be submitted in 2007. We will also monitor the level of awareness and implementation of the new EU REACH Regulation during these inspections.

We will provide land-use planning advice to planning authorities and to An Bord Pleanála in respect of major accident hazard establishments and nearby developments. The Authority will also ensure that "top-tier" SEVESO sites meet their obligations to provide information to the public.

Overall we will monitor the preparedness of systems for the testing of external emergency plans at all designated hazard sites. Oil jetties and offshore installations will be inspected as well as other potential high-hazard sites not covered by the 2006 COMAH Regulations. The Authority will also fulfil its responsibilities as they relate to the provisions of the Chemical Weapons Act.



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- All 2006 COMAH sites inspected and follow-up actions taken where deemed necessary.
- All land-use planning requests responded to within the mandatory time frame and planning appeal hearings attended as requested by relevant authorities.

4.2 BIOLOGICAL AGENTS**IN 2007, WE WILL:**

- Finalise the development of the agreed Composite Text Regulations to incorporate existing biological agents regulations.
- Develop guidelines for biological agents.
- Provide specialist support and advice to the inspectorate as required regarding exposure to biological agents at the workplace.
- Monitor biological agents in the workplace as part of the 600 total occupational hygiene inspections envisaged.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Biological agents inspections carried out as planned.
- Appropriate guidelines in place for biological agents legislation.
- Legislative proposals and inputs provided in a timely manner to the drafting of Composite Text legislation.



4.3 SUMMARY OF OTHER HAZARDS AND ISSUES**SLIPS, TRIPS AND FALLS**

Slips, trips and falls account for a considerable volume of work related accidents and this category of accident will be addressed as a key hazard across all programmes and sectors in 2007. A specific slips, trips and falls safety programme will be piloted in a number of different companies and findings rolled out into wider programmes as required. Information will also be produced for employers and building designers on the prevention of slips, trips and falls on premises. General awareness of this hazard will be maintained through inspection and promotional activities.

WORKING AT A HEIGHT

The Authority will carry out inspections to monitor compliance with the 2006 Work at Heights Regulations. In particular, we will address ladder safety, the use of A-frame ladders and the use of trestles in all relevant construction activities with a special focus on SMEs. Guidelines will be produced and publicised concerning ladder safety and a 50% level of compliance will be targeted.

WORKPLACES AND EQUIPMENT

The correct installation, maintenance and usage of equipment in workplaces are important in the avoidance of accidents or injuries among the workforce. Consequently, the Authority will place a priority on initiatives designed to minimise incidents arising from incorrect procedures with regard to equipment usage.

We will develop an approach for the introduction of competency requirements for the statutory inspection of plant. Regulations will also be developed to implement the new Machinery Directive [2006/42 /EC] and amending Directive 95/16/EC on lifts. We will also revise and publish guidance relating to the management of workplace equipment

We will review and recommend updates to legislation relating to pressure systems in workplaces. The Authority will also develop a coordinated approach to machinery and gas safety issues with other relevant agencies. We will also publish guidelines on noise and vibration and develop guidelines on optical radiation. The Authority will also be represented at EU level through the various policy formulation and implementation groupings.

A programme of 200 machinery inspections will be carried out to address the requirement for CE marking, declarations of conformity and the provision of satisfactory user information. Guidance information will also be published on the marketing and purchase of machinery.

VEHICLES AND TRANSPORT SAFETY

In prioritising workplace vehicles as a hazard, the Authority is concerned particularly with the potential risks to pedestrians in the workplace. In 2007, we will communicate and enforce new construction regulations requiring reversing aids and will carry out inspections in this area to address driver competence, pedestrian segregation, safe layout, risk assessments, and vehicle maintenance.

The Authority will work with the Road Safety Authority and An Garda Síochána to develop a common system for classifying and recording work related road traffic deaths and injuries.

We will develop information on road and fleet safety, emphasising that road safety requirements should be included in safety statements where appropriate. Inspectors will also look for risk assessments of vehicle usage on the road when inspecting transport facilities with particular reference to vehicle maintenance/road worthiness.



Additionally, the Authority will carry out a manual handling survey in the transport sector as part of an EU SLIC (Senior Labour Inspectors Committee) manual handling campaign.

The Authority will also liaise with the defence forces to ensure that health and safety is managed and that there is provision made for adequate and appropriate training with regard to transport and noise.

TRANSPORT AND STORAGE OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

The Authority develops legislation and guidance relating to the carriage of dangerous goods by road (ADR), the examination of dangerous goods drivers and safety advisers and the storage and transport of liquid fuels. The Authority is the Competent Authority in this regard and in respect of the Transportable Pressure Equipment (TPED) regulations.

The Authority will carry out 1,200 inspections for the storage and carriage of dangerous goods by road, in particular as it relates to DGSA (Dangerous Goods Safety Advisor) duties, training and safety management systems, and retail and private petroleum stores. Dangerous goods drivers and Safety Advisers will be assessed through examination.

The Authority will also assist in the review of the Dangerous Substances Acts and associated regulations. Process exemptions, derogations and approval requests will be assessed and decisions granted on a timely basis. We will also act as the appeals body for the licensing of retail and private petroleum stores. Overall, a guidance and information programme will be specifically targeted at small enterprises.

The Authority will partner with the Competent Authorities in other Member States and internationally to develop an integrated and consistent approach to ADR, GHS and TPED implementation and enforcement. The necessary regulations will be drafted to implement 2007 ADR provisions for Ireland. We will also contribute to the development of national and international legislation where required.

ELECTRICITY

In 2007, we will continue to implement our strategic alliance plan with ESB whilst also working with customers, designers and contractors to ensure that safe practices are used in respect of electrical installations and the use of electricity generally in all workplaces. Ten inspections of electricity generating stations will also be carried out and the Authority will work with ESB Networks to develop a Code of Practice relating to work on overhead lines.

VIBRATION AND NOISE, OPTICAL AND ELECTRO-MAGNETIC RADIATION

Guidance will be published for employers and employees in relation to the 2006 Vibration Regulations, and up to 50 on site inspections will be carried out in 2007. Guidance will also be published on the 2006 Noise at Work Regulations. Overall, the Authority will work to raise awareness of the key provisions of the above regulations. Information will also be provided to industry in 2007 on new requirements relating to Optical and Electromagnetic Radiation which will be implemented in 2008.

COMMERCIAL DIVING

The Authority plays a leading role in the development of legislation and guidance relating to commercial diving. In 2007 we will contribute to the development of new commercial diving regulations and enforce their provisions when enacted. This will also involve the provision of easy to understand guidance and information in support of the regulations.



MANUAL HANDLING

The Authority will carry out 200 manual handling inspections in the healthcare and transport industries in 2007. We will also co-operate with HSE (Northern Ireland) in this regard as part of the EU SLIC Campaign and promote national guidelines on the manual handling of loads.

We will also continue to liaise with FETAC towards the achievement of a competency standard in manual handling training with the aim of improving the consistency and content of such training. The Authority will promote guidance on ergonomics in the workplace and will support the dissemination of information relating to the prevention of MSDs (musculo-skeletal disorders) in line with an EU-wide prevention campaign.

PSYCHOSOCIAL ISSUES

The safety, health and welfare of workers can be impacted by a range of factors other than immediately tangible incidents. These include incidents of harassment and/or bullying of employees which if not prevented or left unchecked can have profound implications for individuals.

In 2007, the Authority will develop and promote a revised Code of Practice on the Prevention and Resolution of Bullying at Work. We will inspect larger workplaces (of more than 100 employees) for the existence and implementation of a policy for dealing with bullying in line with this Code. Additionally, we will follow-up individual enquiries and complaints at workplace levels within our remit with requests to employers for the submission of their organisation's policy for dealing with bullying, both formally and informally, in line with our Code. The Authority will promote, inform and guide workplaces in the management of such hazards at the workplace with specific initiatives and a general support programme.

MEASUREMENT AND EVALUATION

Across all of the above areas, the Authority will monitor and measure progress on a qualitative and quantitative basis and will also conduct research into the effectiveness of its various campaigns. Where specific numbers of inspections are not outlined in the performance criteria above, it should be taken that these are included in the overall target figure for inspections planned for the year.



5 MULTI-SECTOR PROGRAMMES

A number of initiatives in which the Authority will engage in 2007 have implications for and relate to all sectors. Each year the Authority concentrates on certain important themes and develops special initiatives around these. There are also those significant national programmes which continue year on year and which span all work activities. These are included below:

5.1 INFLUENCING DIRECTORS AND CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

The chief executives, directors, senior managers and/or proprietors of workplaces have enhanced responsibilities under the 2005 Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act. In certain instances, there is now also the possibility for senior executives to be found personally culpable where regulations may have been breached. This is particularly so where injury or fatality has been the consequence for a worker to whom the senior executive has had a duty of care under the Act.

During the year ahead, the Authority will work to inform this category of manager of their enhanced responsibilities under the 2005 Act. New guidelines will be produced outlining safety and health responsibilities for directors and senior managers and these will be distributed by our inspectors. Inspections will focus on influencing chief executives and senior management in favour of active workplace safety and health management and awareness of their duties in this regard.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- Satisfactory awareness and compliance levels will be anticipated in up to 60% of all inspections and advisory or enforcement action will be taken in the remainder of inspected workplaces where a sufficient commitment to compliance is not recorded.
- 2007 figures will be benchmarked against 2006 returns and appropriate measures factored into the ongoing programme into 2008.



5.2 INVESTIGATION AND PROSECUTION PROGRAMMES

To facilitate customers seeking to report notifiable accidents and make complaints, and to ensure that reports of accidents and complaints received are dealt with efficiently and effectively, the Authority will promote simplified reporting procedures with an improved user-friendly on-line accident notification form. This will augment the availability of our Workplace Contact Unit which also deals with such matters.

We will prioritise serious complaints and accident reports, investigate them and take any actions necessary to achieve required improvements. Where breaches of regulations are identified, this will result in enforcement action or prosecution where appropriate. In such instances, prosecution files will be prepared in accordance with procedures and timeframes agreed with the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions.

The Special Investigations Unit will conduct criminal investigations into serious incidents and workplace fatalities where there is the potential for duty-holders to be prosecuted on indictment. Other legal proceedings may be undertaken where necessary to ensure compliance with regulations.

All other complaints received will be dealt with in accordance with available resources. Reactive work within the terms of section 12 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, i.e. where the safety of non-employees may be at risk from work activities, will only be undertaken where a work activity directly impacts on the health and safety of the non-employees concerned. The Authority does not have a role in the promotion of risk avoidance for the general public where such risks are unrelated to work activity.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **At least 90% of prioritised complaints investigated across all sectors.**
- **Improved system for reporting accidents on-line in place.**
- **All prosecution files prepared in accordance with procedures and timeframes as agreed with the office of the DPP.**

5.3 OVERALL INSPECTION PROGRAMME

The Authority will carry out a programme of targeted workplace inspections, across all sectors, so that our inspectors can provide advice and information on-site, assess compliance with the law and take enforcement action where appropriate.

To achieve this we will target our resources effectively throughout 2007, focusing on prioritised sectors and hazards, and those companies and regions with a poor compliance record. Our inspections will focus on influencing chief executives and senior management in relation to workplace safety and health management requirements and duty-holder responsibilities. Safety statements will be sought and assessed in the majority of all workplaces routinely inspected and assessed by our inspectors. In line with best practice, those who are served with enforcement notices will be targeted for follow-up inspections.



Our IT based enforcement and accident notification system (known as SAFE) will be upgraded to facilitate more targeted inspection programmes. We will evaluate our systems in a peer review programme with the EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee to ensure efficiency and effectiveness in this regard.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **16,000 inspections carried out.**
- **SAFE system re-development programme completed.**
- **All Improvement and Prohibition Notices complied with by the recipient(s).**

5.4 RECOGNITION PROGRAMMES

There are a number of established international programmes, such as the Voluntary Protection Programme (VPP), that promote and implement health and safety management through a system based approach. These programmes encourage and subsequently recognise excellence in the management of safety and health on a "best practice" basis.

In 2006 the Authority produced updated guidance on the management of health and safety and we will continue to encourage and support companies to implement such systems in accordance with these guidelines. We also piloted the VPP recognition system in Ireland making a number of VPP STAR awards to outstanding companies. In 2007, we will define and implement Board policy on such recognition programmes.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **Agreed policy implemented.**
- **Evidence of support as appropriate to existing recognition programmes.**

5.5 MICRO-BUSINESS AND SELF-EMPLOYED SUPPORT PROGRAMME

The attainment of safety, health and welfare at work is just as important to the success of small businesses as it is to larger enterprises. Small businesses, e.g., those with less than ten employees; micro businesses, e.g., those with between 1 and 3 employees, and the self-employed may find it more difficult and challenging to implement health and safety systems because of a lack of information, access to resources, or perceived costs to the business.

The Authority will work to support the small business and self-employed sector in a research driven approach to ensure that our initiatives are relevant and usable by this key grouping in the economy.



User friendly safety assessment systems will be promoted around critical safety issues in this sector. The range of easily accessible information material designed to meet the needs of micro-businesses and the self-employed will be expanded and promoted. Specific guidelines will be developed for the self-employed to promote health and safety management among sole traders. The Authority will also develop guidance for small businesses as to how best to choose a safety consultant which is an important consideration for many businesses.

We will involve third level students of health and safety, where appropriate, on the development of initiatives and special projects to support micro businesses, with a view towards inculcating such concerns into their future careers.

A specially targeted initiative will be piloted among micro business in the North West region, working with local stakeholders and the Authority's Regional Advisory Committee and findings from this will be adopted and rolled out nationally.

An internet based training programme will be put in place that supports owner/managers of micro-businesses using media and material that is most relevant and accessible for the target group. The use of e-learning solutions in particular will be explored.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **Pilot programme undertaken in the North West region.**
- **Guidance document for small business on choosing a safety consultant produced and appropriately distributed.**

5.6 OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH PROGRAMME

In 2007, the Authority will identify, develop and implement specific initiatives, which contribute to improved workplace health.

The Authority will promote education in workplaces around occupational health management using channels which reach as many as possible. Standards will be developed for the instruction and practice of first aid and also for manual handling training (in conjunction with FETAC) and a range of online and promotional material will be prepared and disseminated.

In co-operation with other relevant bodies, guidelines for the safe employment of people with disabilities will also be developed and published. Regulations and guidance on medical fitness to work will also be drafted and will require widespread consultation.

The Authority will report back to the EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee (SLIC) on Irish employer's compliance with health surveillance aspects of health and safety legislation. In this regard, health surveillance means the periodic review of the health of employees appropriate to the hazards and risks they are exposed to in their workplace to protect their health and prevent disease.



Health surveillance consists of a number of constituent parts including maintenance of a health record, self reporting of symptoms, use of questionnaires, nursing/medical examination and application of special tests such as audiograms, lung function tests, vision tests and biological monitoring by competent persons such as occupational physicians, occupational health nurses and others as appropriate.

As part of the inspection process in 2007, inspectors will check whether employers having carried out a risk assessment, require health surveillance and have made it available to workers.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **130 occupational health workplace inspections undertaken.**
- **National Occupational Health Strategy endorsed by the Board.**
- **First aid standards approved by FETAC.**
- **Guidelines developed for employment of people with disabilities.**

5.7 EDUCATION AND COMPETENCE PROGRAMME

As part of overall programmes, the workers and workplace managers of the future must be influenced and encouraged to develop a “safety first mindset” which will become engrained in their careers on a long term basis. This necessitates fostering a culture of safety among students at all levels of education, and to achieve a safe whole-school environment.

In pursuit of this aim, the Authority will engage in a number of education specific initiatives including the following:

- Development of an internet/CD ROM-based safety and health management system and audit tool for use at post-primary and further education levels;
- Implementation of the key recommendations of the report of the National Council for Curriculum Assessment (NCCA) into the mainstreaming of safety in education from pre-school through post-primary levels;
- Development of learning resources for schools including the development of a CD ROM/ resource pack on Work Experience for post-Junior Certificate students;
- Establishment of a ‘Summer Course’ programme on health and safety for primary level teachers through education centres nationwide;
- Promotion of a safety and health culture to students through sponsorship of and involvement with Junior Achievement Ireland and the Young Scientist and Spirit of Enterprise programmes;
- Development of appropriate curriculum supports for teachers around health and safety in conjunction with Second Level Support Services;
- Promotion and examination of competency requirements among those engaged in the statutory examination of plant.



PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **Roll-out of Safety and Health Management System in post-primary schools.**
- **High level of recognition and usage of Authority education programmes and resources.**
- **Implementation of key recommendations of NCCA report.**
- **High levels of interaction and strong relations built with the Second Level Support Services and other support services to schools.**
- **Policy agreement in place with IT and Independent Colleges Sector.**

5.8 COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMME

The Authority will provide its customers with expert advice and information and will encourage two-way communication and interaction with workers, employers and other stakeholders. To achieve this aim, the most appropriate communications techniques will be used to ensure optimum levels of awareness of health and safety messages among target audiences.

The principal focus of communications will take effect through publications, online media, advertising, conferences, trade fairs and special events, in addition to press and public relations activity. The Authority's website (www.hsa.ie) will be further evolved to become a more useful and interactive resource for users.

The Authority will continue to support and resource six specialist advisory committees, including four regional advisory committees, to maintain its relevancy and efficacy across multiple sectors of the economy and in all regions of the country.

The services offered by our Workplace Contact Unit will continue to be enhanced in terms of its availability, reach, speed and quality of response to many thousands of customers using this facility each year. Research will also be undertaken to measure the levels of satisfaction with this service among the customer base.

Specific communications campaigns will support the introduction of new legislation, guidelines and Codes of Practice and the Authority will also fulfil its role as the Irish Focal Point for the European Health and Safety Agency.

The Authority's long term communications agenda is to contribute to an overall "cultural shift" towards a realisation of health and safety as a priority for all employers and employees in Ireland.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **Redevelopment of Authority website undertaken.**
- **Workplace Contact Unit quality statistics within approved range.**
- **Evaluation of all major communications campaigns undertaken.**



5.9 MUSCULOSKELETAL DISORDERS PROMOTION PROGRAMME

The Authority will support the European Agency for Safety and Health by raising awareness of the EU wide theme of Musculoskeletal Disorders (MSDs) during European Safety Week, acting as the national focal point for this campaign.

European Safety Week will be launched in advance of the week itself in order to raise awareness of the particular hazards associated with MSDs, and the ways in which associated risks can be managed. A national press and communications campaign will be initiated and the issue will also be addressed during inspections where necessary. The Authority will also seek to influence organisations who work in this field to promote the theme of European Safety Week throughout the year.

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS

- **National media coverage of EU Safety Week obtained.**
- **Regional events promoting MSD awareness undertaken.**



6 CHEMICALS

With the establishment of the Chemicals Policy and Services division in 2006, the Authority has assumed a leading role in Ireland for the implementation and enforcement of chemical legislation.

In 2007, the Authority will continue to fulfil its competent authority role for existing legislation on dangerous substances and preparations as well as occupational health in regard to carcinogens, chemical agents and asbestos. The Authority will further develop structures, policies and procedures for the enforcement of chemical legislation in Ireland, whilst also contributing to this process at the EU level.

The Authority will continue working on the introduction and implementation of the new EU regulations, REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) and GHS (Globally Harmonised System for Classification and Labelling of Chemicals). REACH will enter into force on June 1st 2007 while the EU Commission is aiming to ensure that GHS will come into effect around the same time as REACH becomes operationally effective for industry [November 2008].

We will fulfil our role as the Competent Authority in relation to regulations on the classification, packaging, labelling and notification, export and import and restrictions on the marketing and use of dangerous substances and preparations. This role involves not only enforcement but also the provision of services to, and consultation with, Irish industry and stakeholders and participation by the Authority in EU working groups.

Ensuring that the necessary structures, legislation and resources are in place to implement and enforce the REACH and GHS regulations will be a key role for the Authority in 2007. We will partner with Competent Authorities in other Member States to develop an integrated and consistent approach to REACH and GHS implementation and enforcement. We will also contribute to the ongoing negotiations and interim strategy development of REACH and GHS at EU and UN levels as appropriate.

Stakeholders will be supported through awareness campaigns and a dedicated helpdesk to assist them in fulfilling their obligations under REACH and GHS. A key focus of this effort will be on Small and Medium Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

During the year, the Authority's inspectorate and staff will be equipped with all necessary resources to enable them to fulfil their REACH and GHS mandates including the provision of all necessary guidelines, manuals and training required.



The Authority will conduct 500 chemical related inspections in companies which manufacture, supply and use significant quantities of chemicals, determining levels of awareness around the REACH and GHS regulations.

A further programme of 600 inspections will be carried out on a proactive and reactive basis for chemical agents and asbestos in workplaces, with particular regard to control measures based on risk assessment.

Other specific activities are outlined in the following table:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finalise three human health risk assessments for existing substances.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Contribute to the EU and Irish development of chemical safety regulatory policies on nanotechnology.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finalise the chemical agents regulations and associated guidance including carcinogens guidance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finalise the development of the agreed Composite Text Regulations to incorporate existing chemical agents and carcinogens regulations.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Finalise the revised code of practice and develop simple information on the use of chemical agents.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop and finalise the Comprehensive Guidelines to the Asbestos Regulations of 2006. Finalise and publish the short guide on asbestos.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Develop and finalise Irish guidelines on training of asbestos workers in line with the EU Training Guidelines which are included under the 2006 Asbestos Regulations implementing Directive 2003/18/EC.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide the specialist support and advice to the inspectorate as required regarding exposure to chemical agents and asbestos fibres in air at the workplace.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Provide EU support relating to chemical agents exposures and Occupational Exposure Limit Values (OELVs).

PERFORMANCE INDICATORS:

- Implementation strategy for REACH and GHS on schedule.
- All REACH awareness inspections carried out as planned.
- Resources and processes in place to ensure fulfilment of competent authority role.
- Legislative proposals and inputs provided in a timely manner to the drafting of chemicals legislation on REACH, GHS, Export/Import and carcinogens regulations.
- Appropriate guidelines in place for chemical legislation.
- Codes of practice in place as required.



7 CORPORATE ENABLEMENT PROGRAMMES

7.1 RESEARCH AND STATISTICS PROGRAMME

The collection and analysis of data to monitor health and safety performance is vital to the Authority's overall functioning and to assist in the identification of major risks.

The Authority will commission a programme of high-quality research on priority topics to support decision making and to add value to its activities. In particular, we will:

- Conduct research on a range of priority topics. Proposals for research projects to be completed in 2007 include:
 - manual handling in the healthcare sector;
 - evaluation of the Authority's investment in reducing fall from height incidents in the construction sector;
 - pilot of occupational disease reporting system;
 - differences in risk perception and locus of control between Irish and non-Irish national workers.
- Extend the scope of our statistical analysis by exploring possibilities for data sharing with other public sector and international agencies. Data may be used to provide a context for the Authority's statistical output. In 2007, the Authority will collaborate with the Road Safety Authority to develop measures for quantifying the number of road traffic accidents involving individuals at work.
- Produce the Authority's Annual Statistical Summary.
- Continue to service Eurostat (Statistical Agency of the European Commission) Working Groups and Technical Groups.
- Contribute to communications programme with meaningful data.



7.2 INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGIES (ICT) PROGRAMME

ICT systems and processes will be developed and maintained to the highest standards to support all divisions. Key activities will include:

- Exploit information systems to support all aspects of prevention and enforcement including Internet/Intranet, SAFE Inspection/Enforcement database, E-mail and file sharing.
- Develop secure VPN systems to allow remote access by staff to the Authority's systems over broadband and examine the feasibility of VPN connection via mobile connection, enabling new and more flexible ways of working including the support of decentralisation.
- Assess and implement the required telecommunications links to the REACH Database in the European Chemical Agency (ECA) and undertake necessary testing.
- Support the establishment of a helpdesk to answer queries on REACH and GHS – by phone and internet.
- Conduct a feasibility study of the use of collaborative software to facilitate team working across the organisation.
- Enhance the Authority's Disaster Recovery capability.
- Implement on-line payment systems to include facilities enabling the collection of proposed new fixed penalties.
- Support systems transfer/installation into the Authority's new Sligo offices.

7.3 FINANCE PROGRAMME

The Authority ensures that robust controls exist over financial processes and that the Authority's assets are effectively safeguarded in line with best practice accounting standards. In 2007, key responsibilities will include:

- Deliver best in class financial management information systems and reporting to ensure effective allocation of resources and to drive cost savings.
- Ensure that the Authority meets its overall budget projections.
- Fully implement Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT) systems for Creditors payments.
- Fully implement new electronic procurement systems (e-procurement).
- Maintain the Authority's risk register.
- Project manage the HQ move from Dublin to Thomastown.
- Move Sligo office accommodation to adequately support the number of current staff.
- Ensure appropriate Property, Indemnity and Public Liability Insurance levels.
- Ensure compliance with all Public Procurement Guidelines and EU legislation with regard to Competitive Bid and Tendering activities.
- Ensure satisfactory external and internal audit reports and incorporate recommendations made by the external and internal auditors into revised operating procedures and protocols.



7.4 HUMAN RESOURCES AND TRAINING PROGRAMME

The Authority will endeavour to ensure that its staff, resources and facilities deliver on corporate goals in line with best practice and value for money. In respect of the human resources programme, responsibilities will include:

- Recruitment of REACH staffing levels in accordance with project timelines.
- Develop new Human Resource Strategy for 2007-2009 in consultation with staff.
- Manage the overall recruitment programme to ensure delivery of competent staff.
- Strategic partnership with Public Appointment Service for external recruitment programme as required.
- Contribute to the change management process.
- Continue to develop decentralisation implementation plan.
- Manage staff occupational health services.

In respect of the training programme, responsibilities will include the following:

- Implement Excellence Through People Programme 2007.
- Implement organisational learning strategy in accordance with agreed action plans and upgrade of HR system.
- Manage roll out of Technical and Developmental Training programmes.
- Implement Performance Management and Development System (PMDS) Integrated Model.
- Tender for external ICT training provider and manage revised service delivery model.
- Assist with developing training material/courses for REACH staff.



APPENDIX ONE LEGISLATION AND GUIDANCE PROGRAMME

PART 1 – FINALISE

- Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations and associated draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act (Quarries)(Repeals and Revocations)(Commencement) Order.
- Finalise associated Guidelines.

PART 2 – FINALISE GUIDELINES FOR NEW REGULATIONS MADE IN 2006

- (1) Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Control of Vibration at Work) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 370 of 2006).
- (2) Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 371 of 2006).
- (3) Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Exposure to Asbestos) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 386 of 2006).
- (4) Draft Guidelines on the European Communities (Control of Major Accident Hazards Involving Dangerous Substances) Regulations 2006 (S.I. No. 74 of 2006).

PART 3 - DIRECTIVES DUE FOR TRANSPOSITION IN 2007

- (1) Commission Directive 2006/8/EC of 23 January 2006 amending, for the purposes of their adaptation to technical progress, Annexes II, III and V to Directive 1999/45/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the approximation of the laws, regulations and administrative provisions of the Member States relating to the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations To be transposed by 1 March 2007 at the latest.

Note: This directive was transposed on the 26 February 2007.

- (2) Commission Directive 2006/89/EC of 3 November 2006 adapting for the sixth time to technical progress Council Directive 94/55/EC on the approximation of the laws of the Member States with regard to the transport of dangerous goods by road (2007 ADR) To be transposed by 1 July 2007 at the latest.



- (3)** Commission Directive 2006/15/EC of 7 February 2006 establishing a second list of indicative occupational exposure limit values in implementation of Council Directive 98/24/EC and amending Directives 91/322/EEC and 2000/39/EC (O.J. L 38, 9. 2. 2006) To be transposed by 29 August 2007 at the latest. (To be transposed through “2007 Code of Practice for the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001 (S.I. No. 619 of 2001)”.
- (4)** Commission Directive 2006/122/EC (PFOS), to be transposed by 26 December 2007 at the latest.

PART 4 - DIRECTIVES DUE FOR TRANSPOSITION POST 2007

(1) Electromagnetic Fields

Directive 2004/40/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 29 April 2004 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to the risks arising from physical agents (electromagnetic fields). [To be transposed no later than 30 April 2008].

(2) Optical Radiation

Directive 2006/25/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 5 April 2006 on the minimum health and safety requirements regarding the exposure of workers to risks arising from physical agents (artificial optical radiation) (19th individual Directive within the meaning of Article 16(1) of Directive 89/391/EEC) (O.J. L 114, 27. 4. 2006, p. 38) [To be transposed by 27 April 2010].

(3) Machinery

Directive 2006/42/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 17 May 2006 on machinery, and amending Directive 95/16/EC (recast) (OJ L157, 9.6.2006, p. 24 – 86) - in conjunction with the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment - [To be transposed no later than 29 June 2008 and to apply from 29 December 2009].

PART 5 – OTHER EU REQUIREMENTS

(1) Export/Import Enforcement Legislation

Draft Enforcement Legislation in relation to the European Commission proposal for a Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council concerning the export and import of dangerous chemicals. Note that Regulation EC 304/2003 implemented the Rotterdam Convention. However, following a decision by the European Court of Justice in January 2006, the legal basis of Regulation 304/2003 was found to be incorrect and the regulation was annulled. As a result, the European Commission had to propose a new Regulation with the correct legal basis, which they did in November 2006. Regulation EC 304/2003 remains in force until a new Regulation is in place.

(2) REACH Enforcement Legislation

Draft Enforcement Legislation in relation to Regulation (EC) No 1907/2006 of the European Parliament and of the Council of 18 December 2006 concerning the Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals (REACH), establishing a European Chemicals Agency and amending Directive 1999/45/EC [adopted and published in the Official Journal of the EU].

(3) GHS Enforcement Legislation

Draft Enforcement Legislation in relation to Regulation of the European Parliament and of the Council on Classification and Labelling of Substances and Mixtures based on the Globally Harmonised System. [when adopted and published in the Official Journal of the EU].



PART 6 – OTHER ONGOING LEGISLATIVE COMMITMENTS**REPLACEMENT REGULATIONS**

- (1) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations.
- (2) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Extractive Industries) Regulations [Temporary pending the making of replacement Mines Regulations].
- (3) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Carcinogens, Mutagens, Chemicals and Biological Agents) Regulations.
- (4) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Fishing Vessels) Regulations
 - Finalise associated Guidelines as necessary for the above.
- (5) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Mines) Regulations.

PART 7 – “DOMESTIC” IRISH LEGISLATION AND CODES OF PRACTICE

- (1) In conjunction with Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment, conduct a fundamental review of the Dangerous Substances Act 1972 and associated Regulations and the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road Act 1998.
 - (2) Draft Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Diving) Regulations (and associated draft Code of Practice).
 - (3) Draft Regulations relating to tests for intoxicants under section 13(1)(c) of the 2005 Act.
 - (4) Draft Regulations relating to medical fitness to work under section 23 of the 2005 Act. [(3) and (4) - Priorities and timeframes to be settled and agreed].
 - (5) Draft Regulations relating to “Payments in Lieu of Prosecution” fines under section 79 of the 2005 Act.
- [(5) Proposals and timeframes to be determined and agreed].

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK ACT 2005**CODES OF PRACTICE**

- Finalise and publish revised Code of Practice on the Prevention of Workplace Bullying.
- Draft Code(s) of Practice relating to Safety Statements for certain employments with 3 or less employees in accordance with section 20(8) of the 2005 Act for (i) Construction and (ii) Fishing.
- Draft Code of Practice on Safe Use of Precast Concrete.
- Draft Code of Practice on Construction Anchors.
- Revise, consult on, seek Ministerial approval for and publish new “Code of Practice for Access and Working Scaffolds”, having regard to the 2005 Act, the Construction Regulations 2006 and the new General Application Regulations.



- Consult on, seek Ministerial approval for and publish approval for “I.S. 360: 2004 Code of Practice: Safe Use of Cranes in the Construction Industry – Part 1: General”, having regard to the 2005 Act, the Construction Regulations 2006 and the new General Application Regulations.
- Consult on, seek Ministerial approval for and publish approval for -
 - (i) “I.S. 820: 2000 for Non-Domestic Gas Installations”, as amended by “Amendment No. 1: 2003 of Standard Specification”, and
 - (ii) “Amendment No. 3: 2001 of I.S. 3216: 1988 – Standard Specification (Code of Practice for the Bulk Storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Declaration”.
- Commence review of, and development of proposals for replacement of the following existing Codes of Practice.
 - Code of Practice for Working in Confined Spaces.
 - Code of Practice on Preventing Accidents to Children and Young Persons in Agriculture.
 - Code of Practice – Rider-operated lift trucks: operator training.
 - Code of Practice for Managing Safety and Health in Forestry Operations.
 - Code of Practice for Avoiding Danger from Underground Services.
 - Code of Practice for Safety in Roofwork

OTHER GUIDELINES

Draft “Guidance for Directors and Senior Managers on their responsibilities for workplace safety and health”.

REGULATORY IMPACT ANALYSIS (RIA)

An RIA process will be carried out in relation to legislative proposals in consultation with the L&GSC, Board and the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

LIAISON WITH DEPARTMENT OF ENTERPRISE, TRADE AND EMPLOYMENT

Provide ongoing efficient liaison function in relation to Legislation Programme, co-ordination of response material for PQs, Representations to Minister, Department etc.





HEALTH AND SAFETY
AUTHORITY
