



Occupational Safety & Health and the National Health and Safety Function

The aim of the establishment of the National Health & Safety Function is to combine existing expertise and best-practice around the country and provide a high-quality, centralised support resource that motivates, enables and empowers managers and employees to discharge their legal and moral duties with regard to Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) Management.

The National Health and Safety Function comes under the remit of Employee Relations Advisory Services (ERAS), within Corporate HR. The Head of the Function is supported by four specialist Health and Safety Teams.

Outline of Team Core Functions:



In this issue

- New Structures for Health and Safety for the HSE page 1.
- Website information page 1.
- European Safety Week – planned events page 2.

The Web

The new Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) web-site for HSE staff, launched on the 1st of July 2015 by the National Health and Safety Function, has been updated. We have updated these webpages with more safety information for you, to find out more please go to: www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing



What will I find on the web?

Here you will find information on a wide range of OSH topics including :

- Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ's)
- Safety Alerts
- Risk assessment forms and checklists
- Safety Advisory Guidance Notes (SAGN)
- Policies and guidance documents to name but a few



Changes to Health & Safety function cont'd

The Function brings about a number of important innovations and a change of emphasis in the way support is delivered nationally. This includes:

- The establishment of an OSH Helpdesk as a single point of contact for all support requests. This allows for the tracking of emerging issues and the identification of key risk areas
- The promotion of the concept of self-help for front-line duty-holders and the development of a tool-kit of reliable and consistent information, alerts, templates and guidance documents
- The development of a comprehensive website: www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing
- The introduction of best practice based OSH policy development and approval processes in addition to training
- An increased emphasis on assurance, benchmarking and quality improvement, through Key Performance Indicators and the introduction of a structured audit and inspection programme that aims to examine OSH management at all levels.

European Safety Campaign:

We wish to bring to your attention the European Safety Campaign for 2014-2015 and its topic "Healthy Workplaces Manage Stress". As part of this campaign a Health and Safety week will run from the 19th - 23rd October with lots of information, support, advice and assistance on this topic.

The 2014-15 Healthy Workplaces Campaign has three key objectives:

- (1) To raise awareness and improve our understanding of stress and psycho-social risks in the workplace
- (2) To provide guidance, support and practical tools for managing risks; and
- (3) To highlight the benefits of managing psychosocial risks for employees

The main message of the 2014-15 Healthy Workplaces Campaign is that psychosocial risks can be assessed and managed in the same systematic way as 'traditional' workplace health and safety risks.

This campaign sets out to bridge the gap between misunderstanding and reality by providing information and practical support.

Upcoming Events:

European Health and Safety Week (commencing 19th of October 2015). During this week information briefings will be provided by the National Health & Safety Function along with the expertise from other interested professionals such as Occupational Health, Employee Assistance, Human Resources, Health Promotion and others. This information will be posted on the website: www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing


However if you wish to run your own campaign then go to the following link where you will find additional information to assist.

www.healthy-workplaces.eu/en



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How do I contact the National Health & Safety Function?

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| Internet: | | Phone: | |
|  | Visiting our web pages: www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing |  | Phone the Helpdesk on: 046 9280630. |
| Email: | | Open during the hours of: 10.30 – 12.00 and 14.00 – 15.30 | |
|  | hs.helpdesk@hse.ie | Thank you, The National Health & Safety Function. | |