



Northern Ireland
Safety Group

SAFE & SOUND

Newsletter Vol 12 Issue 1



Safety Group Patron:
arco
experts in safety

**For agreeing to
act as Safety
Group Patrons
for 2012**

NISG WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS



Castlereagh
Borough Council



Training & Testing NI

2012 Annual
Occupational Safety Awards

www.safetyawards.ie



National Irish Safety Organisation Northern Ireland Safety Group

For full details on the Awards plus all the information you'll ever need to enter click [here](#) or surf to nisg.org.uk and click on Safety Awards 2012 in the useful information section.

CHALLENGES TO REGULATORY ADVICE



The panel's role is advisory. The regulators will respect the **independence of the panel and its advice** and where appropriate take it onboard.

Article from HSE website.

HSENI's position

Dermot Breen, Deputy Chief Executive of HSENI said they are keeping a close eye on this and other developments in Great Britain arising out of the Lofstedt review. However, HSENI believes that the shared experience of both the regulators and the regulated in Northern Ireland has been that there are adequate mechanisms already in place within the health and safety regime here to deal with potential challenges to regulatory advice and therefore there are **no plans to replicate the establishment of an independent regulatory challenge panel** in Northern Ireland.

HSE has just announced the establishment of an independent panel to consider challenges to health and safety regulatory advice.

The Independent Regulatory Challenge Panel will look into complaints regarding advice given by HSE or LA inspectors about health and safety which you think is incorrect or goes beyond what is required to control the risk adequately.

The panel will consist of independent members who will have the competence and experience to assess advice that has been

given on regulatory matters.

Before you raise an issue with the panel, you should have first tried to resolve the matter with the relevant HSE or LA inspector and their manager.

What to expect - Your issue will be put before the panel members who will review it thoroughly and inform you of its findings.

The panel will only consider cases from 30 June 2011 onwards and the outcome will be made available on the HSE website.

The 2012 Spring Conference

Wednesday 25 April

at the

Tullyglass Hotel,
Ballymena

Brochure available shortly.



Date - Fri 23rd March

Venue - Wellington Park Hotel, Belfast

For details of the new rules contact

Ernie Spence

028 9336 8928 or email info@nisg.org.uk

HSENI UPDATE/HSENI UPDATE/HSENI UPDATE/HSENI UPDATE

Prosecution of Andrew Best Construction Ltd. and Mr Andrew Maze

Andrew Best Construction Limited and Mr Andrew Maze (sole trader) were sentenced at Downpatrick Crown Court for breaches of health and safety legislation after pleading guilty at an earlier hearing. The case was taken by the Health and Safety Executive for Northern Ireland.

The case arose out of an incident on 12 October 2010 at a disused farmyard at Ardmillan Road Killinchy. A 22 year old male employee of Mr

Andrew Maze was removing tin roofing sheets on a cattle shed when he fell at least 4 metres through the roof onto a concrete floor below. He suffered multiple severe head and body injuries which require long term medical rehabilitation.

Andrew Best Construction Limited, the Principal Contractor of the site, was fined £10,000 after pleading guilty to a breach of Article 5(1) of the Health and Safety at Work

(Northern Ireland) Order 1978 and a breach of Regulation 13(2) of the Construction (Design and Management) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2007.

Mr Andrew Maze was fined £7,500 after pleading guilty to Article 4(1) of the Health and Safety at Work (Northern Ireland) Order 1978.

After the hearing Anne Cassidy, an Inspector with HSENI's Major Investigation Team said, "This incident highlights

the well recognised dangers of working at height. This work was not properly planned, managed, or supervised. We would remind everyone who either works at height or who organises this type of work, that they must be meticulous in preventing people from falling. The steps needed to prevent this incident were very basic indeed".

Article from HSENI



Help to stop the carnage on our farms

Each month last year a farmer was killed while working on the farm. Indeed already another death has occurred in January. The four main causes of these fatalities are unguarded machinery, handling livestock, falls when carrying out work at heights and incidents involving slurry tanks. This unprecedented rise in deaths calls for action.

Full article on HSENI website

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Six-figure settlement for stressed teacher

A member of teaching union, the Educational Institute of Scotland (EIS) has received a record six-figure settlement in an occupational stress case.

The settlement, which was agreed out of court, was awarded following the employer's failure to act upon repeated reports of excessive workload which led to the member suffering from stress-related psychiatric injury. EIS General Secretary Ronnie Smith said: "Occupational stress is a major problem facing teachers and lecturers. The growth in the number of cases involving psychiatric injury and stress-related illness must be a warning to employers that they need to take account of their employees' mental, as well as physical, wellbeing."

"The fact that this record compensation award arose from a workload-related case, which was compounded by a lack of management support, is no coincidence. This clearly illustrates just how serious such injuries can be, and the heavy price that employers will have to pay if they fail in their obligations to protect their staff."

"Employers should be using the Health and Safety Executive's stress management standards and trying to reduce and control the levels of stress caused by work activities. Stress-related illnesses are extremely serious and can take a huge toll on the individual concerned. "The long-term effects can be significant, and



recovery can take a long period of time. While the EIS supports members in stress-related claims, our preference would always be for such cases to be avoided completely. Employers must tackle the causes of stress, for example by controlling workload, and they must also provide appropriate support for teaching staff who are experiencing stress." For more information visit:

www.eis.org.uk/public.asp?id=1817&dbase=2

Article supplied by RoSPA



John Evans receives Construction Award from Bryan Monson, Deputy CEO of HSENI. Tom Stephenson, Chair NISG also in the photograph

Northstone Delighted with Award

employees in ensuring accident prevention remains one of our key objectives and we're not shy in saying so. The Award has already become part of our evidence of contribution to workforce health

and safety when tendering."

PLEASING for the Safety Group was John's comment that the Award will act as an encouragement to further improve Northstone's performance for 2012.

"Northstone Materials Division in common with all Northstone Divisions is committed to ongoing and sustained improvement in health and safety performance" said John Evans, winner of the President's Award: Construction at the 2011 NISG/NISO All

Ireland Safety Awards. Northstone had beaten off tough competition to come top in this heavily contested section of the Awards. John went on to say "The award is an acknowledgement of the hard work and dedication of all our



SAFE Maintenance Seminars

with raising awareness of Safe Maintenance which they're keen to support HSENI on.

talking to the powers that be, (no not the folks on the hill) HSENI about producing a practical safe maintenance guide full of hints, tips and good practice featuring of all people you guys.

that you'd like to show off then get in contact with Ernie Spence the Group Secretary either on the blower 9336 8928 or email info@nisg.org.uk.

See ya next issue when I'll give you more info.

Mick

So if you've a good example of Safe Maintenance

Hi guys,

I'm Mick the maintenance man. You'll see a lot of me over the next five to six months. The Safety Group Committee have asked me to assist

So keep an eye out for two seminars the Safety Group is going to run in the Spring.

More importantly however the Safety Group have been



Kick the habit - the RYOBI way - save £62k+

Want to be healthier?



"It's only when I gave up that I realised how much harm cigarettes were doing"

"Since stopping smoking my lungs feel clear and I don't wheeze any more"

Ryobi Aluminium Casting (UK) Ltd. based in Carrickfergus are a subsidiary of Ryobi Ltd., a Japanese company who are the world's largest independent die casting company with plants in Japan, USA, Mexico, China and Northern Ireland.

In September 2010 RYOBI started working with Gillian McAtackney of the Workplace Smoking Cessation Service to launch a 'Stop Smoking'

campaign to encourage employees to kick the habit. Twenty-two employees expressed an interest in quitting smoking; they collectively smoked 3,430 cigarettes per week, spending an amazing **£62,400** per year on tobacco products!

A workplace clinic commenced late September with seventeen participants, the timing of the clinic meant that many of participants were focused on quitting and saving money for Christmas. The collective savings for those commencing the September clinic over the 12 week period of the clinic was £12,200, an average saving of £717 per person by Christmas.

RYOBI employees were released during working

hours to attend a work-based clinic delivered by the Workplace Smoking Cessation Specialist. **79% of the clinic participants had quit by Christmas**, this level of success was much higher than the Northern Ireland average quit rate which operates at 50%.

The clinic participants responded favourable to having the opportunity to quit smoking through a workplace intervention. Peer support was an important factor in encouraging participants to continue, even when they felt like abandoning their quit attempt.

The majority of the clinic participants said that they had thought about quitting smoking, but did not think that they would have taken action.

Having a workplace clinic was a catalyst for employees to actually make a quit attempt.

Chris McCullough, Ryobi's Training Manager has become a champion in tackling workplace smoking. Chris provides information on quit smoking and has sign-posted over a dozen employees to local quit smoking services.

Chris said, "Ryobi welcomed the opportunity to support the Stop Smoking Campaign. Stopping smoking has not only given an underlying improvement to our employees' health, finances and well being but also gives a benefit to the company in knowing that its employees will be fit and healthy going into the future."

To find out how working with Gillian from Northern Group Systems can save your staff a fortune as well as improving health contact her on

028 2587 2866

www.want2stop.info/workplace



YOUR FOOD TO BITS

Dinner Suggestions

Safety Group's Healthy Options menu - brought to you by Patricia Smith from Just Nutrition.

- Spaghetti Bolognese & wholemeal pasta
- Chicken curry & brown rice
- Grilled salmon fillet & sweet potatoes
- Beef stir-fry with rice noodles
- Home-made soup & baby potatoes
- Chicken casserole
- Tuna salad & wholemeal fusilli
- Home-made stew & wheaten bread

Congratulations

to

All winners

