



**Northern Ireland
Safety Group**

SAFE & SOUND

The Newsletter of the NISG www.nisg.org.uk

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YOUR WORKPLACE AND THE DDA

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What are the requirements for employers under the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA)? What changes are necessary and when should these be made?

NISG have organised a seminar, **Meeting Disability Action and Disability/Fire Regulations in Your Workplace** which will address some of the issues for employers raised by the Disability Discrimination Act.

We are delighted to have speakers from NI Fire Brigade and Disability Action to look at some of these questions in more detail.

Bill Majury, who will speak on **'Means of Escape for the Disabled'** is an Assistant Divisional Officer with the NI Fire Brigade and has twenty one years service.

Bill has been a member of the national working group reporting to the

the form of a half day seminar.

It will be held on Monday 18th April 2005 in the King's Hall Conference Centre, Balmoral.

The cost per delegate will be £25 including lunch, which will be served at 1 p.m., with the seminar beginning at 2 p.m.

For more information or to book a place please contact Linda Spence on 028 9336 8928 or email linda@nisg.org.uk.

Brochures will be available shortly, and as interest is expected to be high, members are advised to book early.

Congratulations to NACCO and Armagh & Dungannon HSST who were the winners of the NISG Safety Quiz on 11th March 2005. We will have a full report and pictures in the next issue.

This event will be of great interest to employers from all sectors and will take

HAVE THEY INFO 4U? - HSENI LAUNCHES INNOVATIVE HEALTH AND SAFETY INFORMATION PRODUCT

Having difficulty in finding the health and safety information you need for your work place?

Or do you simply want the information in a condensed format that you can reuse again and again?

On 15 March 05 HSENI launched an exciting new information product that aims to address those very needs – the **Info 4U disk**.

This CD-rom, which is distributed free of charge, offers HSENI's customers

an extensive range of health and safety materials in a convenient and compact form. It contains key health and safety information in a variety of formats, including advisory booklets and video clips alongside Statutory Forms for ease of use.

Details on accessing HSENI's One 2 One Advisory Service for advice on all aspects of workplace health and safety are also included.

Although HSENI is

keen to promote the use of the new CD-Rom, hard copies of leaflets are still



available for those who would prefer to or need to access their information in this way.

Customers can obtain their copy of the Info 4U disk, or any of HSENI's current range of leaflets,

- by contacting the **Information and Advice Helpline on 0800 0320 121**,
- by emailing HSENI hseini@detini.gov.uk
- by calling into the **Information Advice Centre at HSENI, 83 Ladas Drive, Belfast BT6 9FR**.
- By visiting HSENI's website www.hseni.gov.uk

GET THE BALANCE RIGHT BETWEEN HEALTH AND SAFETY

Risk assessments are an essential component of corporate affairs. They now form the basis of most Health and Safety policies to protect employees. *What about the protection of their health?*

The Working for Health strategy for Northern Ireland (launched April 2003), has a vision to create a work culture that protects, promotes and supports health and well being.

Organisations ought to be sharing this vision by developing their own

long term health and well-being strategies to minimise costs in relation to ill health.



Short term illness is a problem for business. In Northern Ireland, it was reported by the CBI (2001) that more people take sick leave here than almost every other part of

the United Kingdom. Sick leave due to high blood pressure, stress, high cholesterol, smoking and being overweight can be prevented.

More and more Northern Ireland businesses are now recognising the importance of taking a pro-active role in protecting employee health. An *at risk* workforce is a business liability and investing in employee health in the long term will ultimately reduce costs, enhance the well being of your workforce and abide by

the Working for Health Strategy for Northern Ireland. It is only a matter of time before the health and well-being of your employees will become a legislative issue.

Article by

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Heartwise Limited, a private company based at Newforge Lane, Belfast, specialises in heart disease prevention and improving the health of employees.

NEW POLICE CHECKS ON AT-WORK DRIVERS IN ACCIDENTS

New police checks are being made on drivers who have road accidents while at work.



The Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA) said the decision to keep official records of the number of work-related road accidents was a major boost for the campaign to manage occupational road risk.

It is now widely accepted that the most dangerous thing most people do while at work is to drive, but precise casualty figures have been unavailable until now.

Charles Davis, RoSPA Head of Driver and Fleet Solutions, said:

“We have been delighted to learn that police officers attending road accidents are for the

first time recording if the journey was for work purposes.

“This will give us accurate information about the number of work-related road accidents, and will also be yet another warning to employers and fleet managers about the responsibility they have to keep their drivers safe.”

RoSPA has led the campaign for employers to manage occupational road risk (MORR). The Society has estimated that between 800 and 1,000 deaths on Britain’s road each year involve someone who is at work.

This is an estimate that has been confirmed by the Government’s Work-Related Road Safety Task Group.

A section on the Stats19 forms which police fill in after accidents now asks if it was a journey **“as part of work”**. The figures are expected to be published for the first time next year.

“We think this will prove once and for all that this is the biggest work-related safety issue facing the country,” Charles Davis said.

“If that is the case, serious consideration will have to be given to a Health and Safety at Work Act Approved Code of Practice on driving for work so that companies will understand they will



face legal action if they don’t meet their responsibilities.

More and more organisations are now getting to grips with managing occupational road risk, but far too many still pay no heed to what their drivers are doing out on the road.

Employers have a moral responsibility to keep their employees safe by introducing safe driving policies, but also to safeguard the lives of people on roads around them.

“There is also a strong business case for managing occupational road risk which no company can afford to ignore.”

The HSE and the Department for Transport have issued guidance to employers about work-related road safety, stressing the need for employers to carry out risk assessments and introduce control measures such as driver training.

For further information log onto the RoSPA website at

<http://www.rospace.com/drivertraining/>.

HSENI UPDATES

CONSULTATIVE DOCUMENTS

On 04 Mar 2005 HSENI published three consultative documents (CD) on the HSENI website

The first is entitled "Proposals for Chemicals (Hazard Information and Packaging for Supply) (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005".

The closing date for comments is Friday 13th May 2005.

The second and third consultative documents (CDs) are on the HSENI "proposals for Control of Vibration at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005"

The draft Regulations have been developed to enable Northern Ireland to comply with European Union Directive 2002/44/EC, which aims to protect workers from risks to their health arising from exposure to hand-arm vibration and whole-body vibration.

The closing date for comments is 11 May 2005.

The CDs can be accessed on the website or from Iris Turnbull, at 028 90 546819.

THE DIVING AT WORK REGULATIONS (NORTHERN IRELAND) 2005

HSENI made The Diving at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2005 (S.R. 2005 No.45) on 22 February 2005.

The purpose of the Regulations is to impose a duty on every person

- who is responsible for,
- has control over,
- is engaged in a diving project or
- whose acts or omissions could adversely affect the health and safety of persons engaged in a diving project

to take reasonable measures to ensure compliance with the Regulations.

The Regulations will come into operation on 4th April 2005.

For more information visit the website at www.hseni.gov.uk

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Event: NISG Monthly Meeting
Date: 21st March 2005
Time: 2.15 for 2.30
Venue: King's Hall
Conference Centre
Speaker: SESS
Topic: Safer Storage Systems

Event: NISG Seminar
Date: 18th April 2005
Time: Lunch 1 p.m. for 2 p.m. start
Venue: King's Hall
Conference Centre
Topic: Meeting Disability/Fire Regs in your workplace
Cost: £25 (inc. lunch)

NISG Officers and Committee

President	Wilson Lambe
Chairman	Liam Kelly
Vice Chairman	Jim Leitch
Publicity	Nicky McClintock
Past Chairman	David Cooke
Committee	Bill McAllister
	Heather McKinstry
	Brian Walker
	Nicola Ward
	John Gordon
	Mike Keating
	Priscilla Woods
	Colin McDowell
	Tom Stephenson
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RPSafety