

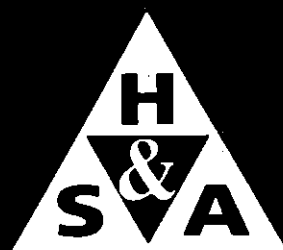
# Health and Safety Authority

a body to be known in the Irish language as *An tÚdarás Náisiúnta um Shábháilteacht agus Sláinte Ceirde* and in the English language as the National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health (which body is referred to in this Act as “the Authority”) to perform the functions assigned to it by this Act.

*The principal functions of the Authority shall be –*

- (a) to make adequate arrangements for the enforcement of the relevant statutory provisions;
- (b) to promote, encourage and foster the prevention of accidents and injury to health at work in accordance with the provisions of this Act;
- (c) to encourage and foster activities and measures which are directed towards the promotion of safety, health and welfare of persons at work;
- (d) to make such arrangements as it considers appropriate for providing information and advice on matters related to safety, health and welfare at work; and
- (e) to make such arrangements as it considers appropriate to undertake, to promote, to sponsor, to evaluate and to publish the results of research, surveys and studies relating to hazards and risks to the safety and health of persons at work or arising from work activities ...

*Annual Report 1995*



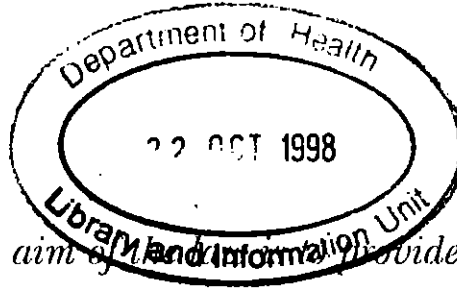
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HEALTH AND SAFETY  
AUTHORITY

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*The National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health  
An tÚdarás Náisiúnta um Shábháilteacht agus Sláinte Ceirde*

Price £5.00



*The aim of the Health and Safety Authority is to provide a framework to make work safe.*

*Health should not be affected by work immediately, nor in the long term, nor should a worker's offspring be affected.*

*At the end of a working day, a person should be able to enjoy a full, active, social and family life.*

## *Health and Safety Authority* **MISSION STATEMENT**

To obtain a working environment in which:

- the health of people is ensured, at the highest level possible, consistent with technical development, economic and social progress;
- a preventive approach is maintained, underpinned by occupational health and safety law;
- there is widespread consultation between those affecting and those affected by working conditions, especially between employers and employees.

**Note:** In this Report the words "safety, health or welfare" wherever used alone also include the other two elements, unless the particular context clearly requires otherwise.

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## *Chairperson's Submission to the Minister*



*Ms. Mary Buckley, Chairperson*

*28th June, 1996*

Ms Eithne Fitzgerald T.D.  
Minister for Labour Affairs

Dear Minister

I am pleased to submit to you the Annual Report of the Health and Safety Authority for 1995, in accordance with Section 26 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989.

For myself and the other new members of the Board, this is our first Annual Report, and we hope over the next three years to build on the very firm foundations left to us by the previous two Boards.

Welcome improvements in the economy in 1995 resulted in increased employment but unfortunately there was also an increase in the level of workplace accidents, particularly in the young age groups, contrasting with the steady improvements that had been seen in previous years. There is, however, continuing evidence that the level of workplace ill health is decreasing.

Whilst there has undoubtedly been an increased awareness in health and safety issues, this is not yet being adequately reflected in improved safety measures, particularly in times of rapid growth. Continued economic development depends on our highly skilled workers, and their skills cannot be lost by unnecessary accidents resulting from lack of adequate safety standards. In addition, as new workers are taken on there must be an appropriate level of training and supervision to ensure they rapidly acquire safety skills.

Safety and health must go hand in hand with productivity and there is now clear evidence from research here in Ireland (which confirms similar results from abroad) that lack of safety is costly. Based on preliminary data the total cost to this country from workplace injuries could be as high as £2,600m/year. In 1995, according to the Labour Force Survey, 742,400 work days in total were lost due to occupational accidents and ill-health, or almost six times as many as were lost due to strikes [130,556]. Yet strikes, and their resulting losses to the worker, company and country result in national soul-searching, Dáil questions and media attention. Workplace injuries on the other hand are almost

fatalistically accepted. One of the tasks before the Authority is to change this fatalism, to provide employers and Government with information on the real costs and losses from taking a laissez-faire attitude to safety and health at work.

The Authority has limited resources to tackle this problem. However, it is not one for the Authority alone; active interest and participation is needed from all those involved in work activities if we are to have safe Irish workplaces. Our aim is simply to reduce the high level of preventable injuries, thus protecting the workforce and enhancing business success and helping the economy to develop. This aim must be shared by all right thinking people.

The policy of the Authority is to target for attention all those sectors with a particularly poor safety record, whilst keeping a level of vigilance over the lower risk sectors. In 1995 the Authority undertook over 11,000 workplace visits as a result of which 1,653 Enforcement Notices were issued. Inspectors conducted several reviews of compliance with safety measures and, while many workplaces are responding to the challenge of ensuring adequate workplace safety, many still are not, as is shown by the accident figures.

The Authority is also concentrating on enabling key sectors and their representative organisations to become more active in ensuring their own safety and health. The Authority can provide technical information and advice; the sectors alone can ensure day-to-day safe working. The Board would like to acknowledge the support of many organisations, who in "taking ownership" of their own safety, are taking on the responsibility of maintaining safety standards and not just waiting for "the inspector to call". We look forward to their continued co-operation in pursuing our common aim of reducing workplace accidents and ill-health.

The Board will continue to impress on Government the need for adequate resources – both staffing and financial – to ensure this country has the workplace safety and health standards it needs and deserves. It is concerned that, based on the Authority's Exchequer Grant for 1995, the investment ratio in safety of £3 for every person at work, is insufficient to bring about the urgent improvements in workplace accidents and ill-health which are so vital for this country's welfare and success. This ratio contrasts also with an average cost per annum of approximately £30 per worker in occupational injury benefit payments.

I know Minister we can rely on your on-going support and look forward to continued harmonious relationships with yourself, the Minister for Enterprise and Employment and with the staff of the Department during the next year.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Mary Buckley". The script is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Mary" and the last name "Buckley" clearly distinguishable.

*Mary Buckley*  
*Chairperson*

**28 Meitheamh 1996**

Eithne Fitzgerald T.D.  
Aire Gnóthaí Saothair

A Aire, a chara,

Is cúis áthais dom Tuarascáil Bhliantúil an Údaráis um Shábháilteacht agus Sláinte Ceirde don bhliain 1995 a chur faoi do bhráid de réir Alt 26 den Acht um Shábháilteacht, Sláinte agus Leas ag an Obair, 1989.

I mo chás féin agus i gcás na gcomhaltaí nua eile den Bhord is í seo ár gcéad Tuarascáil Bhliantúil agus táimid ag súil le forbairt a dhéanamh sna trí bliana atá romhainn ar an dúshraith dhaingean a d'fhág an dá Bhord a bhí ann roimhe seo ina ndiaidh.

Mar gheall ar an bhfeabhas a tháinig ar an ngeilleagar le linn 1995 tháinig méadú ar an bhfostaíocht ach, ar an drochuair, tharla méadú freisin ar líon na dtionóiscí in ionaid oibre go háirithe i gcás daoine óga, rud atá bunoscionn leis an dul chun cinn a rinneadh sna blianta roimhe seo. Tá fianaise leanúnach ann, áfach, go bhfuil laghdú ag teacht ar an leibhéal easláine is inchurtha i leith an ionaid oibre.

Cé gur cinnte go bhfuil níos mó eolais ag daoine faoi nithe a bhaineann le sábháilteacht agus sláinte, níl an leibhéal sin eolais le brath go suntasach fós i mbearta sábháilteachta, go háirithe in aimsir mear-fhorfhás. Tá forbairt eacnamaíoch leanúnach ag brath ar ár n-oibrithe ard-oilte agus ní féidir a scileanna a chailliúint mar gheall ar thionóiscí gan ghá a tharlaíonn de bharr easpa caighdeán sábháilteachta dóthanach. Ina theannta sin, de réir mar a fhostaítear oibrithe nua ní mór leibhéal cuí traenála agus maoirseachta a bheith ann lena chinntiú go bhfaigheann na hoibrithe nua sin scileanna sábháilteachta go tapa.

Ní mór coibhneas cuí a bheith ann idir sábháilteacht agus sláinte, de pháirt, agus táirgiúlacht, den pháirt eile, agus tá fianaise shoiléir ann anois ó thaighde atá déanta anseo in Éirinn (ar taighde é a dhaingníonn torthaí comhchosúla thar lear) go ngabhann costas le heaspa sábháilteachta. De réir sonraí tosaigh, d'fhéadfadh an costas iomlán ar an tír seo, de bharr tionóiscí san ionad oibre, a bheith chomh hard le £2,600m sa bhliain. De réir na Suirbhéireachta ar an bhFórsa Saothair i 1995, cailleadh 742,400 lá oibre san iomlán de

thoradh tionóiscí agus easláinte ceirde nó beagnach sé oiread na laethanta a cailleadh de thoradh stailceanna (130,556). Ach bíonn an náisiún trína chéile, bíonn ceisteanna Dála ann agus tarraingítear aird na meán cumarsáide mar gheall ar stailceanna agus ar na cailliúintí dá mbarr don oibrí, don chuideachta agus don tír. Os a choinne sin d'fhéadfaí a rá go nglactar le díobhálacha san ionad oibre gan cheist. Áirítear san obair atá le déanamh ag an Údarás an cineál sin dearcaidh a athrú agus eolas a thabhairt d'fhostóirí agus don Rialtas faoi na fíorchostais a ghabhann le dearcadh *laissez-faire* maidir le sábháilteacht agus sláinte ag an obair.

Tá acmhainní teoranta ag an Údarás a mhéid a bhaineann le tabhairt faoin bhfadhb seo. Ach, ní fadhb don Údarás amháin í; tá gá le speis ghníomhach agus páirteachas i gcás gach uile dhuine a bhfuil baint acu le gníomhaíochtaí oibre le gur féidir linn ionaid oibre réasúnta sábháilte a bheith againn in Éirinn. Is é ár gcuspóir ná an t-ardleibhéal díobhálacha inchoiscithe a laghdú agus, ar an dóigh sin, an fórsa saothair a chosaint agus rath gnóthaí a fheabhsú agus cabhrú leis an ngeilleagar forbairt. Is cinnte go n-aontódh gach duine ciallmhar leis an gcuspóir sin.

Is é polasaí an Údaráis aghaidh a thabhairt ar na hearnálacha sin go léir nár chruthaigh go maith i dtaca le cúrsaí sábháilteachta agus, ag an am céanna, súil a choimeád i gcónaí ar na hearnálacha ina bhfuil baol beag tionóisce. I 1995 thug an tÚdarás cuairt ar níos mó na 11,000 ionad oibre agus de thoradh na gcuartheanna sin eisíodh 1,653 Fógra Forfheidhmithe. Rinne cigirí roinnt athbhreithnithe ar chomhlíonadh beart sábháilteachta agus, cé go bhfuil a lán ionad oibre ann ina ndéantar freastal ar an dúshlán a ghabhann le sábháilteacht dóthanach a áirithiú, tá a lán ionad eile ann nach ndéanann amhlaidh mar is léir ó na figiúirí i dtuobh tionóiscí.

Tá an tÚdarás ag díriú a aird freisin ar dheis a thabhairt do phríomh-earnálacha agus dá n-eagraíochtaí ionadaitheacha a bheith níos gníomhaí a mhéid a bhaineann le sábháilteacht agus sláinte a áirithiú dóibh féin. Tig leis an Údarás eolas agus comhairle theicniúil a chur ar fáil; is iad na hearnálacha féin atá in ann a chinntiú go bhfuil sábháilteacht ann i gcoitinne. Is mian leis an mBord aitheantas a thabhairt do thacaíocht a lán eagraíochtaí a ghlacann freagracht chucu féin as caighdeán sábháilteachta a choimeád ar bun seachas fanacht le cuairt an chigire. Táimid ag súil lena gcomhoibriú leanúnach maidir leis an gcomhaidhm atá againn tionóiscí agus easláinte cheirde a laghdú.



Leanfaidh an Bord de bheith ag cur in iúl don Rialtas gur gá acmhainní leordhóthanacha – acmhainní foirne agus airgeadais araon – lena chinntiú go bhfuil na caighdeáin sábháilteachta agus sláinte is dual don tír in ionaid oibre na tíre. Is ábhar inní don Údarás, ag féachaint do Dheontas Státhchiste an Údaráis do 1995, nach leor cóimheas infheistíochta £3 in aghaidh gach duine ag obair chun na feabhsuithe a bhfuil géarghá leo, i dtaca le tionóiscí agus easláinte cheirde, a thabhairt i gcrích; tá na feabhsuithe sin thar a bheith tábhachtach i gcomhthéacs leas agus rath na tíre seo. Tá an cóimheas sin íseal i gcomparáid leis an meánchostas bliantúil a ghabhann le híocaíochtaí sochair díobhála ceirde, is é sin tuairim is £30 an t-oibrí.

Tá a fhios agam, a Aire, go dtug linn brath ar thacaíocht leanúnach uait agus tá mé ag súil go mbeidh caidreamh comhchuí ann leat féin, leis an Aire Fiontar agus Fostaíochta agus le foireann na Roinne le linn na bliana seo chugainn.

Is mise le meas



*Mary Buckley*  
*Cathaoirleach*

# Health and Safety Authority **INTRODUCTION**

## **FUNCTIONS**

Ireland's laws on health and safety at work are administered and enforced by the Health and Safety Authority (HSA), known legally as the National Authority for Occupational Safety and Health. The Authority is a State-sponsored body, established under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, coming under the auspices of the Department of Enterprise and Employment.

Among the functions assigned to the Authority under the Act are:

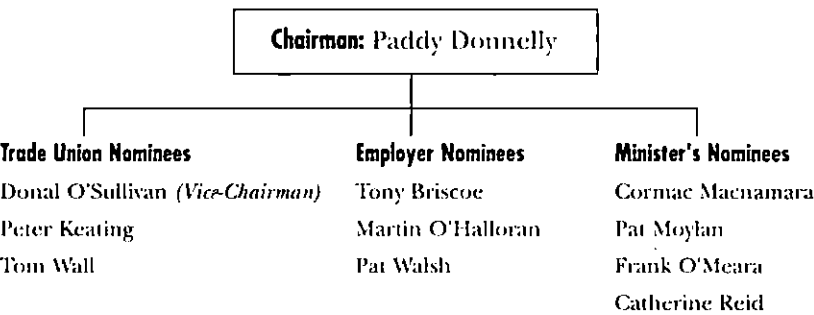
- to make adequate enforcement arrangements;
- to promote the prevention of accidents and ill-health at work;
- to promote the safety, health and welfare of persons at work;
- to provide information and advice; and
- to facilitate research on hazards and risks to health and safety.

## **THE BOARD**

Policies and activities are determined by an eleven-member, tripartite Board, representing the social partners and other interests concerned with health and safety in the workplace.

The Board met on nine occasions in 1995 and members also served on the Legislation and Guidance Sub-Committee, Finance and Programming Sub-Committee, on various ad hoc Working Groups and on Advisory Committees.

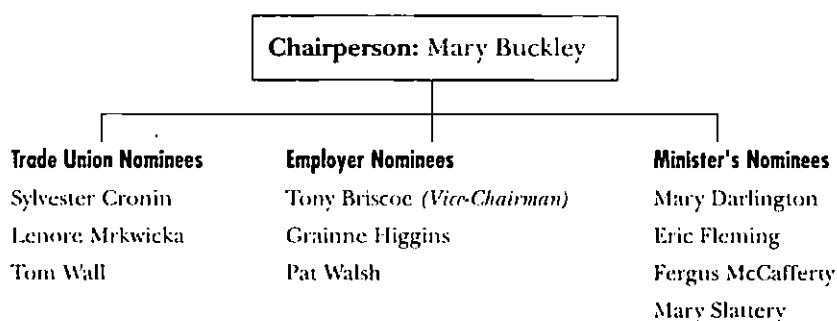
The Board of the Authority, which completed its second statutory three year term of office in December, 1995, comprised:





*Members of the HSA Board*

The new Board appointed from 11th December, 1995 comprises:-



## PROFILE OF BOARD MEMBERS

### *Mary Buckley, Chairperson*

Mary Buckley is a former senior civil servant who served in the Departments of Health, which she joined on leaving school in 1965, and Finance and Foreign Affairs. Originally from Boyle in Co Roscommon she now lives in Glenageary, Co Dublin. She has a degree in commerce. The past decade has seen Mary heavily involved in developing community affairs and education.

## EMPLOYERS' NOMINEES

### *Tony Briscoe, Vice-Chairman*

Tony Briscoe is head of the Occupational Health and Safety Services of the Irish Business and Employers' Confederation (IBEC). He has been responsible for the development of IBEC's health and safety service since its inception in 1987. He studied civil engineering in Dublin and then trained as an accountant with Bord Na Mona while

pursuing studies in management accounting at the College of Commerce, Rathmines, Dublin. In 1993 he received an honorary Diploma in Occupational Safety and Health presented by the European Commission in recognition of his contribution to the subject over a number of years. He has represented IBEC on the Board of the Authority since its establishment. He is also a member of the board of the EU Health and Safety Agency, and EU Advisory Committee on Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work. He is Chairman of the Authority's Advisory Committee on Safety Statements.

***Grainne Higgins***

Since November 1986 Grainne Higgins has worked at Mallinckrodt Veterinary Operations Ltd., Bray, Co Wicklow as Human Resources Manager. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree from University College Dublin and also a Diploma in Personnel Management. She is a member of the Institute of Personnel and Development and is currently studying for a Master of Science Degree (organisational behaviour) at Trinity College, Dublin.

***Pat Walsh***

Pat Walsh is a director of the construction company, G&T Crampton Limited. He has considerable expertise on structures and finishes in retail commercial facility developments. He has spent several years in site and contract management. As well as being a member of the Chartered Institute of Building he also holds a law degree. He represents the Construction Industry Federation on the Board having done so since its establishment. He chaired the Authority's Advisory Committees on Safety Statements and Safety Consultation and Construction Safety.

**TRADE UNION NOMINEES**

***Tom Wall***

Tom Wall is Industrial Officer with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU) with whom he has worked since 1973. Previously he was an Industrial Engineer in industry. He has represented ICTU on the Board of the Authority since 1990 and has served on several Board Sub-Committees and working groups. He is Chairman of the Authority's Advisory Committee on the Extractive Industries. He is also a member of the board of the EU Health and Safety Agency and EU Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

***Sylvester Cronin***

Sylvester Cronin is an Industrial Engineering Officer and Safety Officer with Services Industrial Professional Technical Union (SIPTU). His main duties as Safety Officer are to advise SIPTU members, staff and National Executive on safety, health and welfare at work policies

nationally. He holds a Diploma in Safety, Health and Welfare at Work from UCD. He is a corporate member of the Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH) and is a Registered Safety Practitioner. He is a member of the EU Advisory Committee for Safety, Hygiene and Health Protection at Work.

***Lenore Mrkwicka***

Lenore Mrkwicka is a Registered General Nurse and worked for many years as a staff nurse with the Eastern Health Board. She joined the Irish Nurses Organisation as Industrial Relations Officer in 1985 and became Assistant General Secretary in 1994. She holds a Masters Degree in Industrial Relations. She is a member of the Executive Council of ICTU and, in addition to her appointment to the Board of the Authority, is also a member of the Boards of the Employment Appeals Tribunal and the Employment Equality Agency.

**MINISTER'S NOMINEES**

***Mary Darlington***

Mary Darlington is Safety and Environment Manager in the Contact Lens Plant, Bausch & Lomb, Waterford. She is a native of Skerries, Co Dublin and has also worked in the UK and Australia. She holds Diplomas in Personnel Management, Safety Management and Environmental Impact Assessment Management. She is immediate past National President of Network – the organisation for women in business – and is a member of its National Executive for 1995/96. She is also a member of two IBEC consultative committees – one on the Employment of Persons with Disabilities and one on Health and Safety Policy – and is a director of Waterford Youth Industries, a community training workshop. She chairs the Authority's Legislation and Guidance Sub-Committee.

***Eric Fleming***

Eric Fleming has worked at SIPTU for 23 years as a full-time member of the staff. He is Secretary of the Dublin Construction and Allied Trades' Branch. Most of his work is involved with this sector. He is a member of the Construction Industry Committee of ICTU and a trustee of the Dublin Council of Trade Unions and also building secretary of the Dublin Trade Unions. He is a Director of the Dublin City Enterprise Board and he represents SIPTU at the European Federation of Building and Wood Workers as a member of its Audit Board and its Executive Committee. He chairs the Authority's Finance and Programming Sub-Committee.

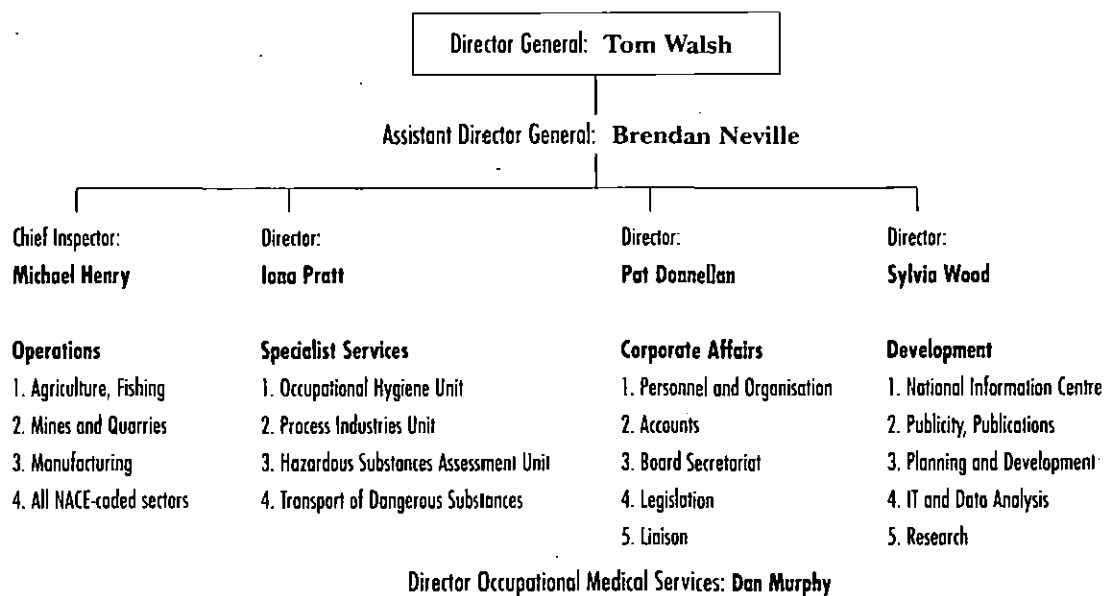
### **Fergus McCafferty**

Fergus McCafferty is a Principal Officer in the Department of Enterprise and Employment. He joined the Department from school and after studying psychology at UCD was appointed as Department Psychologist. He has worked in the Careers Information Division and has also worked on programmes for disabled people and has extensive experience in the free movement of European workers. For the past two years Fergus has worked in the Employment Appeals Division.

### **Mary Slattery**

Mary Slattery is a former member of the Irish Farmers' Association (IFA) Farm Families' Committee. She farms in Tipperary. She joined the IFA Farm Families' Committee in 1976 and represented South Tipperary on the National Committee of the IFA for six years. For two of those years she served as Vice-Chairperson. In the early 1980s she joined the Industrial and Environmental Committee of the IFA. She has a long-standing interest in farm safety and her farm safety video 'Farming a Way of Life' won the EU Award for best video during the European Year of Safety, 1992. In 1993 she received an Honorary Diploma from the EU Commission for dedication and outstanding contribution to the European Year of Safety 1992. She chairs the Authority's Farm Safety Task Force.

## **THE EXECUTIVE**



## THE STAFF

- inspect all types of workplaces;
- enforce good standards of health and safety at work;
- investigate accidents and causes of ill-health at work;
- carry out and sponsor research;
- publish guidance notes and advice;
- provide an information service;
- develop new laws and standards;
- maintain organisational, personnel and financial services.

## ORGANISATION

There are eight offices nationwide: the Dublin headquarters and regional offices in Athlone, Cork, Drogheda, Galway, Limerick, Sligo and Waterford.

## 1995 – A SUMMARY

Since its inception, the Health and Safety Authority has adopted a consistent policy of identifying key issues and developing initiatives to address areas of concern. It has a highly-skilled professional staff and is active over every area of workplace health and safety. The Authority places great emphasis on, and allocates resources to, delivering an appropriate expert response to all occupational safety and health enquiries.

The Authority promotes good safety management in all workplaces through a rolling programme of information, assistance and enforcement. Emphasis is placed on risk assessment based control measures, with the aim of ensuring that the safeguards put in place are commensurate with the seriousness of the hazard. The Safety Statement is the key part of a workplace's safety management programme.

The Authority has a three year strategic plan, implemented each year by an Annual Programme of Work. Particular attention is paid to the planning and monitoring of its activities and the Annual Report is an evaluation of the preceding year's Programme of Work. Strategic management initiative procedures and extensive consultation involving staff and other interested groups allows the Authority to identify and prioritise key areas for attention. The Authority believes that this approach ensures the most efficient and effective use of the resources provided.

## PRIORITIES DURING 1995

In the work programme specific areas were targeted for action in 1995:

- the Construction sector;
- the Agricultural and Forestry Sector;
- the Public Authorities Sector;
- the Health Care Sector;
- Machinery Safety;
- Noise;
- Health and Safety Management;
- Manual Handling;
- Accident and Disease under-reporting;
- Continuation of the review of safety in the Chemical Industry;
- Continuation of activities to assist Small to Medium Size Enterprises (SMEs);
- Encouragement of the development of preventive services;
- Preparation of regulations based on EU Directives.

Some important practical activities during 1995 were:

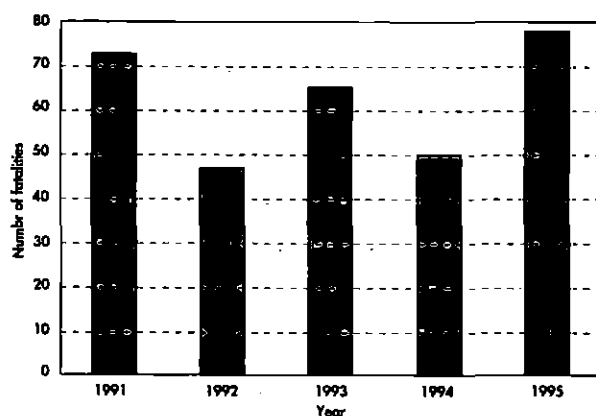
- "Safety Seven Day" – the Authority's staff participated in the National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO) safety week in May by organising a "Safety Seven Day". Over 20 companies invited their neighbours, contractors and suppliers to participate in a health and safety "walkabout" and discuss/review at least seven hazards in the organisation.
- "Construction Safety Seminars – over 1,000 people participated in a series of nationwide seminars run in collaboration with the Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU), the Construction Industry Federation (CIF) to promote understanding of the 1995 Construction Regulations.
- "Handle with Care Week" – the manual handling requirements of the 1993 General Application Regulations were discussed at a series of seminars throughout the country.



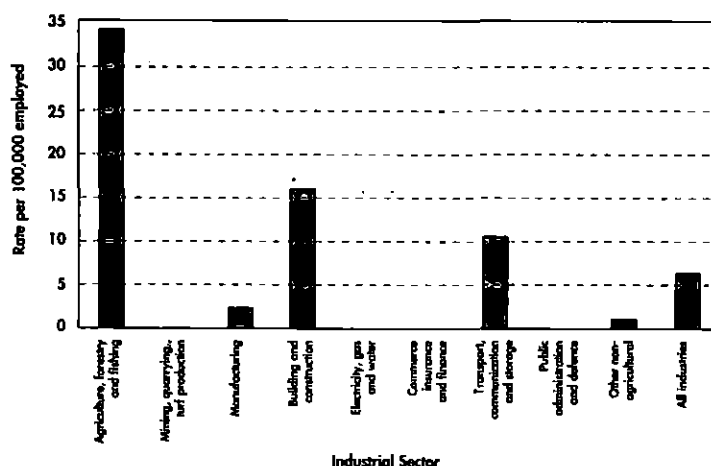
*At the Construction Safety Seminar at D.C.U.*



### *Fatalities Reported to the Authority 1991–1995*



### *Fatality Rate per Sector 1995*



1995 saw a dramatic rise in fatal accidents from previous years. This was mainly due to the unprecedented rise of fatal fishing accidents (from 1 in 1994 to 19 in 1995) and fatal agriculture accidents (22 in 1994 to 28 in 1995).

### *Reported Accidents and Dangerous Occurrences*

Under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993, all employers are obliged to report to the Authority accidents at work which result in employees being absent for more than three days. Specified dangerous occurrences are also reportable to the Authority. While there is still considerable under-reporting of accidents, there is evidence that the Regulations are having a gradual impact with reported accidents at 4,988 for 1995 compared to 4,020 for 1993. Data on occupational accidents is essential to the Authority in planning its Programme of Work and setting priorities.

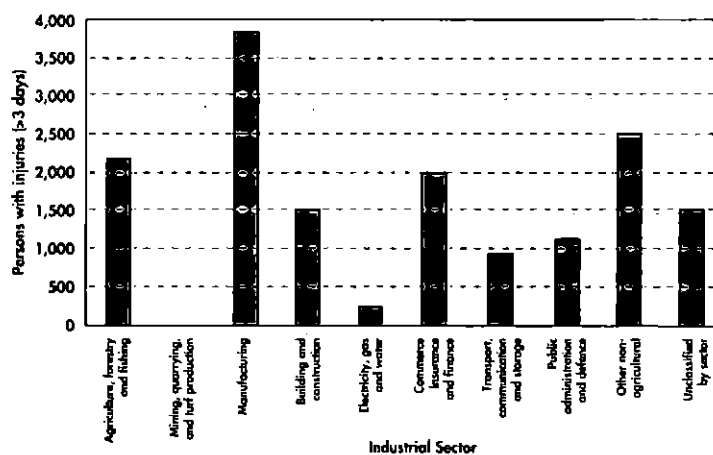
STATISTICS		1994	1995
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	4552	4988
	Reported Dangerous Occurrences*	1126	1120

\* The dangerous occurrences mainly related to fallen electrical lines, fires, chemical spillages/releases in the chemical industry and lifting machine collapses ( mainly on construction sites).

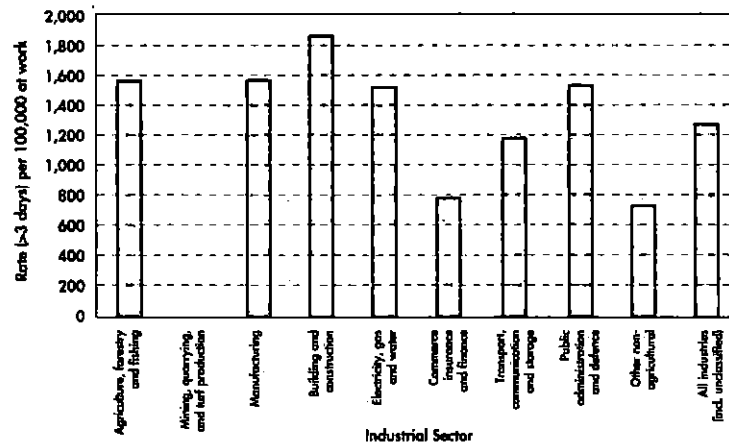
### Labour Force Survey

The Authority is indebted to the Central Statistics Office for information on accidents and ill health at work based on questions included in the Annual Labour Force Survey (LFS). (The number of persons experiencing occupational accidents indicated for each sector in the LFS, which is a sample survey, are rounded to the nearest 100. The relatively small number of employees in the sector [5,400 per the LFS] and the sample nature of the LFS are likely to account for the zero accident return for the Mining and Quarrying sector in the 1995 LFS, compared to the total of 119 accidents reported to the Authority during the year. These factors are reflected in the following graphs.)

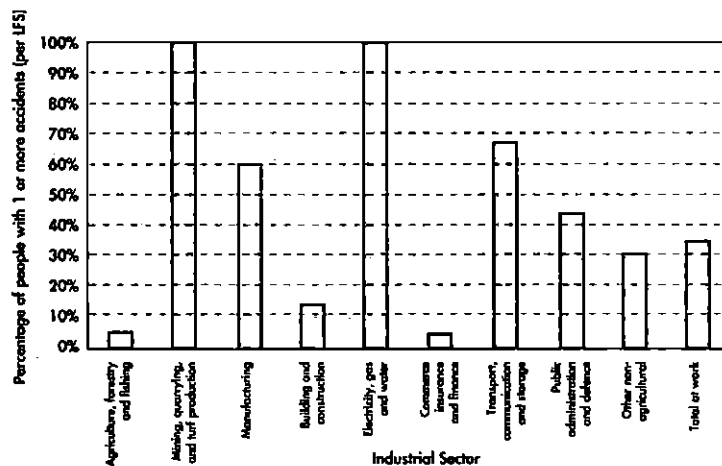
*LFS – Occupational Accidents per Sector 1995 (Total 15,900 incl. 1,500 unclassified)*



*LFS – Occupational Accident Rate per 100,000 Employed per Sector 1995*



*Occupational Accident Reporting Rate to the Authority compared to the LFS 1995*



As can be seen from the figures of accidents reported to the Authority compared with the Labour Force Survey returns, the level of under-reporting to the Authority could be as high as 65 to 70%, with significant under-reporting in some sectors such as agriculture, fishing and construction.

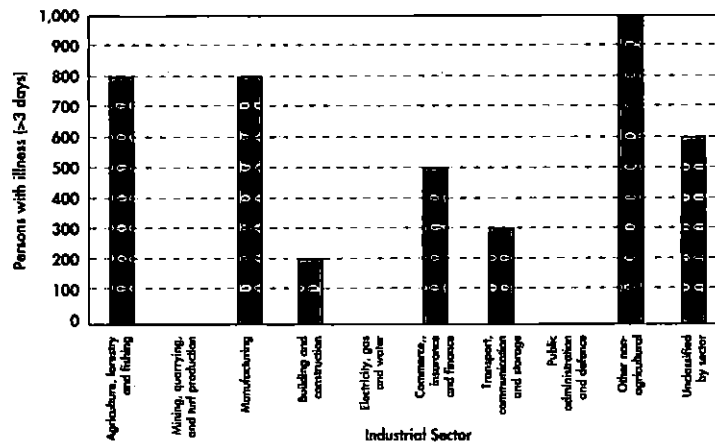
The 1995 Labour Force Survey indicated that 15,900 persons had occupational accidents, which resulted in more than three day absences each, and these accounted for 538,800 work days lost and, in all, 557,400 work days were lost due to occupational accidents during the year.

Further details of the reported accidents and Labour Force Survey returns are given in Appendix 1.

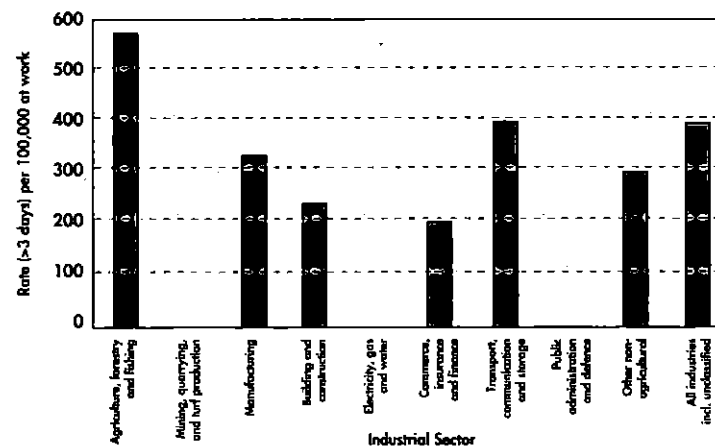
### Occupational Diseases

Measures continue to be taken to enable a comparative recording of occupational diseases, using data from a wide variety of sources including the Department of Social Welfare, the Labour Force Survey and the National Cancer Registry etc.

*LFS – Occupational Ill-health per Sector 1995 (Total 4,600, incl. 600 unclassified)*



*LFS – Occupational Ill-health Rate per 100,000 Employed per Sector 1995*



The 1995 Labour Force Survey indicated that 4,600 persons experienced occupational ill-health, which resulted in more than three days absence each and these accounted for a total of 178,800 work days lost. In all 185,000 work days were lost due to occupational ill-health during the year.

Further details on occupational disease data from the various sources is given in Appendix 1.

### *Workplace Visits*

The number of workplace inspections increased by approximately 900 on the 1994 level. This was achieved because seven new inspectors, recruited in 1994, moved into field inspections. The emphasis in inspections is not however solely numeric, considerable emphasis is placed on quality. Comparative figures for 1994 and 1995 are:-

<b>TABLE A</b>	<b>Workplace Visits</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Formal Inspections	9856	10759
	Advisory/Other Visits	326	326
	Workplace Visits (total)	1,182	11085

<b>TABLE B</b>	<b>A breakdown of the inspection figures by occupational sector (NACE)</b>	
	Sector by NACE* code	Inspections
	<b>A</b> Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	1270
	<b>B</b> Fishing (Including Diving)	106
	<b>C</b> Mining and Quarrying	246
	<b>D</b> Manufacturing	3187
	<b>E</b> Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	94
	<b>F</b> Construction	3084
	<b>G</b> Wholesale and Retail Trade	901
	<b>H</b> Hotels and Restaurants	113
	<b>I</b> Transport, Storage and Communications	686
	<b>J</b> Financial Intermediation	72
	<b>K</b> Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	112
	<b>L</b> Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	256
	<b>M</b> Education	159
	<b>N</b> Health and Social Work	235
	<b>O</b> Other Community, Social and Personal Services Activities	238
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10759</b>

\* NACE is an EU classification of employments by sector

Of these visits 55 were by the Occupational Medical Service, mainly in response to complaints from employees, requests from managers or in support of other inspectors requiring medical expertise.

<b>TABLE C</b>	<b>Enforcement Actions</b>		
	<b>Enforcement Actions</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Improvement Directions and Plans	32	29
	Improvement Notices	892	1476
	Prohibition Notices	91	148
	Prosecutions Initiated	31	39
	<b>Total</b>	<b>1046</b>	<b>1692</b>

The number of Improvement Plans and Notices issued are generally comparable with 1994. (The increase in Improvement Notices is due to a change in the computerised recording system, not an increase in notices). The rise in Prohibition Notices is an indication of a more determined approach to improving safety in the construction industry.

Prosecutions initiated by the Authority in 1995 were comparable to 1994 and 24 cases were heard. Convictions or guilty pleas were obtained in 23 cases with the Probation of Offenders Act applied in the remaining case. The average fine in 1995 fell to £584 per case compared to £1070 per case in 1994.

Summary details of the enforcement actions taken in 1995 are given in Appendix 2.

#### *Enforcement Reviews*

A number of important surveys were undertaken in 1995 as follows:

- Health and Safety Management Review;
- Manual Handling Review;
- Noise Review;
- Machinery Safety Review;
- Chemical Industry Inspection Survey(CIIS).

Further details, including a summary report of the CIIS, are given in Chapter 4.

### Joint International Conference

In Dublin on 9th and 10th March, 1995 the Authority and the Health and Safety Agency, Northern Ireland held a joint International Conference on safety and health in small and medium sized enterprises. The theme was "Profit from Workplace Health and Safety". Over 350 participants including small businesses, safety consultants, policy makers and financial and similar organisations dealing with small businesses attended. Almost one third of the participants came from outside Ireland, including Austria, France, Finland, Germany, Holland, Italy, Portugal and United Kingdom.



Ministers Eithne Fitzgerald and Niamh Bhreathnach at the launch of the Report of the Advisory Committee on the Education Sector.

### Legislation

Five sets of Regulations were made during the year by the Minister for Labour Affairs based on proposals submitted by the Authority. They cover:

- Safety Signs at Work;
- Construction Safety;
- Classification, Packaging and Labelling of Dangerous Preparations;
- Repeals and Revocations [Order];
- Miscellaneous Welfare Provisions.

Further details are given in Appendix 3.

A comprehensive guide to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993 was published by the Authority. It is aimed at safety and health practitioners, employers, managers, safety representatives and employees.

### Advisory Committees

Three Advisory Committees operated during the year. The Reports of the Advisory Committees on Construction Safety and Safety in the First and Second Levels in the Education Sector were finalised and published during the year. The Dangerous Substances Advisory Committee continued its work during the year and reported regularly to the Board. Further details are given in Appendix 4.

### *Education and Training in Occupational Safety and Health*

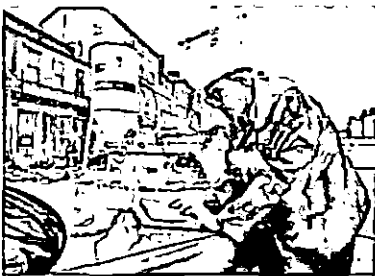
The Authority continues to promote and actively assist the Multidisciplinary National Diploma and Certificate Courses in safety and health. Diploma courses are provided at University College Dublin, Waterford RTC, University of Limerick, University College Cork and University College Galway. In 1995/96 the Certificate course is being run, via satellite, in University College Dublin, Cork RTC, FAS Athlone, Sligo RTC, Tallaght RTC and Waterford RTC. There are now 560 diploma holders, many at post graduate level, and 700 certificate holders, with the numbers increasing significantly each year.

Many bodies including professional organisations, NISO, private organisations, employers' organisations and trade unions are now providing a wide range of information and training on occupational safety and health.

### *National Information Centre*

The Information Centre in the Authority was designated the National Information Centre for Occupational Safety and Health and is in liaison with the EU Health and Safety Agency in Bilbao and the International Labour Organisation (ILO) Information Service. It has started developing a National Information Network to ensure information is readily available and easily accessible. It aims to provide a "one – stop shop" for all workplace health and safety information, and to that end it put information on the Internet in October 1995 – becoming the first Government Agency to provide such a service.

A 'homepage' for the Authority was established on the Internet. This provides a growing range of information on health and safety and related events. It also facilitates the ordering of publications and contact with the Authority's Offices. The address is <http://www.hsa.ie/osh>.



*A construction inspector "on-site".*

### *Information Technology (IT) Development*

At the beginning of 1995 work commenced on a major upgrade of the Inspectorate's computerised enforcement system. This work will be completed in 1996.

A computerised Accounts System and an Electronic Mail System were commissioned during the year.

### *Research*

Details of research activities undertaken on behalf of the Authority during the year are given in Appendix 5. These cover a pilot study into the cost of accidents at work, an extension of the European Home and Leisure Accident Statistical Survey (EHLASS) to include occupational



accidents and the Authority is leading a consortium in a European Union Telematics Project to transfer health and safety information electronically (HSPRO).

#### *Corporate Affairs – Staffing and Resources*

The Government recruitment restrictions resulted in four posts being lost and pressure has been maintained to have the vital posts restored. This is in the context of increasing demands on enforcement, advisory and promotional activities across all sectors and the continued high involvement in the development and implementation of additional EU measures etc. on safety and health.

The Authority had 104 sanctioned posts including three vacant posts (one Inspector and two Clerical Assistants) at the end of the year. Competitions were held to fill vacancies at Inspector Grade III, Higher Executive Officer, Executive Officer and Clerical Assistant levels. The Grade III competition gave rise to almost 400 applications. In addition to external recruitment, there were promotions at Inspector Grade II, Executive Officer and Clerical Officer levels.

Progress was made on the development of the Staff Superannuation Scheme, a Staff/Management Participative Forum, and a Staff Appraisal System.

The Authority's grant for 1995 was £3,815,000 (£3,573,000 in 1994), broken down as Pay – £2,509,000 and Non-Pay – £1,306,000.

#### *Safety Statement and Safety Consultation in the Authority*

The safety and health of staff of the Authority is of major importance having regard to the Authority's legal responsibility as an employer and its statutory role in setting and monitoring occupational health and safety standards generally.

The Authority's Safety Statement is kept under regular review by management and by the Safety Committee in order that practical preventive and control measures are applied to identified hazards and their associated risks.

The Authority's Safety Committee, involving the staff Safety Representatives, the Authority's Safety Officer and other staff and management representatives, meets regularly to review safety issues.

#### ***Relations with other Organisations***

The Authority maintained contact with a wide range of organisations in promoting occupational safety and health, many of which are represented on its Advisory Committees.

#### ***National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO)***

Close co-operation and support was maintained between the Authority and NISO. The NISO Secretariat is based in the Authority's HQ building.

#### ***Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)***

The Ireland branch of IOSH held its 50th Anniversary Conference in Dublin in April, 1995, taking as its theme "Competency in the Health and Safety Profession".

# Chapter One **SECTORAL REPORTS**



Minister Eithne Fitzgerald  
and Mr. John Donnelly,  
President, Irish Farmers  
Association.

The Authority has an established policy of targeting the highest risk employment areas while maintaining appropriate vigilance in all other sectors.

## AGRICULTURE, HUNTING AND FORESTRY

This sector includes agricultural activities, like animal husbandry, dairying, crop production, hunting and forestry operations.

Inspection numbers for 1995 were up on the 1994 figures and concentrated on farm machinery suppliers as well as farms.

TABLE 1.1	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	1012	1270*
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	59	83
	Fatalities	22	28
	Prosecutions	2	0

\* Includes farms (1025), farm machinery suppliers (173), hunting (22) and forestry (50)

The fatal accident levels were higher than in 1994. This increase was mainly due to the increase in child deaths (7 in 1995 compared to 3 in 1994). Areas of concern during inspections were: • Child Safety; • Unfenced slurry pits; • Unguarded farm machines particularly Power Take Off Shafts (P.T.O.s); • Livestock handling; • Unsafe Work practices; • Organophosphate sheep dips; • Lung diseases (e.g. farmers lung); • Tractor operations.

A Survey, undertaken in Manual Handling in 346 Agricultural Premises, showed

TABLE 1.2	Subject	No. of Premises	%
	Mechanical Aids Provided	295	85%
	Mechanical Aids Used	295	85%
	Workplace Design Adequate	131	38%
	Workplace Station Adequate	112	32%
	Risk Assessment Adequate	65	19%
	Control Measures Adequate	136	16%
	Training Provided	54	16%
	Health Surveillance	27	8%

While the level of provision and use of mechanical aids was good there was considerable room for improvement in workplace design and the provision of training.

Eight Improvement Notices and one Prohibition Notice were served in the agriculture sector as a result of the survey findings.

Information awareness activities included co-operation with relevant Government Agencies (e.g. Teagasc, Coillte, ESB) and the farming representative organisations (e.g. IFA, ICMSA, ICOS, NPA, Macra na Feirme, ICA). The Authority participated with the ICA on its "Farm Safety is for Everyone" launch and with Macra na Feirme on its "Farm Safety Walkabout Week".

The safe use of organophosphate sheep dips was reviewed in co-operation with the Irish Medicines Board. The Authority, in conjunction with IMB, ICOS and the Plant Health Association, prepared a training course operated by Teagasc for organophosphate sheep dip retailers. A leaflet was also issued.

The Authority had very successful exhibitions at the National Ploughing Championships, the Farm Machinery Show and a number of local agriculture shows and open days throughout the country. The Farm Safety Hand-book (which the Authority produced with Department of Agriculture, Northern Ireland, Teagasc, ESSO and the Farmers' Journal) was relaunched at the National Ploughing Championships in October.

A half day seminar promoting farm machinery safety was held in collaboration with the Farm Tractor and Machinery Traders Association (FTMTA).

At the end of 1995 an Agricultural Task Force was set up to identify and put into place a National Programme to improve farm safety.

## FISHING

This sector includes traditional fishing, fish farms, the operation of fish hatcheries and service activities incidental to fishing e.g. diving.



*Don Conroy with pupils from the Ploughing Championship Competition.*

<b>TABLE 1.3</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	119	106
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	20	28
	Fatalities	1	19
	Prosecutions	0	1



Minister Sean Barrett and Mr. Conn Harrington, Senior Inspector at the launch of the "Wear a Life Jacket" video.

This sector saw a dramatic increase in fatal accidents to fishermen at sea (1 in 1994 and 19 in 1995). Areas of concern highlighted by the accident investigations included:

- Not wearing life jackets when fishing;
- Inadequate communications equipment;
- Working in inclement weather in inadequate boats.

Health and safety awareness was promoted through lectures at the BIM Training Centre, Greencastle, Co Donegal and at meetings of various Fishermens' Wives Associations. The preparation of a model Safety Statement for fishing vessels is underway with the Department of the Marine and a video was prepared in Howth Harbour titled "Wear a Lifejacket".

At the end of 1995 a Task Force was set up by the Authority, comprising representatives of interested Government Agencies and the industry. Its aim is to look at the safety of fishermen and ways to reduce the high fatality levels. The Authority also participated on the Department of Marine's Committee on Fishing Vessel Safety.

Progress was made on transposing two EU Directives on fishing safety into national law – on Fishing Vessels (CD 93/103/EEC) and Medical Assistance on Board Fishing Vessels (92/29/EC)

## MINING & QUARRYING

This sector includes the mining and processing of ores, coal, peat and lignite, the extraction of natural gas and oil.

TABLE 1.4	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	323	246
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	120	119
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	7	13
	Fatalities	1	0
	Prosecutions	2	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

**Mines and Quarries:** Internal transport; Mechanical handling;

Dust control; Effective process machines; Noise; Manual handling

**Peat Extraction:** Dust control Safety Statement preparation

**Off-shore Installations:** Gas-sealing of critical safety valves;

Use of permit-to work systems particularly ensuring they are reviewed at shift-change.

## MANUFACTURING

This sector includes all traditional manufacturing, printing, production of recorded media, and recycling of waste and scrap.

TABLE 1.5	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	2891	3187*
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	2235	2300
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	122	102
	Fatalities	4	4
	Prosecutions	10	12

*\*Comprising Manufacturing 2800, Major Accident Hazard Premises 268, and Monitoring of Hazardous Substances 119*

Inspections in manufacturing industry are maintained at these levels as this sector covers a range of potentially high risk areas.

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Operations in goods warehouses including internal transport and manual handling;
- Machine guarding particularly in the engineering and food industries;
- Noise control;
- Non-routine maintenance and repairs;
- Manual handling;
- Safety Statement preparation;
- Vibration White Finger in aerospace and foundry workers using fettling tools;
- Paint Spraying;
- Use of Lead in small scale industries

**Manual Handling was Reviewed in 883 Premises and the findings were:**

TABLE 1.6	Subject	No. of Premises	%
	Provision of Mechanical Aids	723	82%
	Use of Mechanical Aids	707	80%
	Workplace Design Adequate	506	57%
	Work Station Design Adequate	484	55%
	Risk Assessment Adequate	266	30%
	Control Measures Adequate	273	31%
	Training Provided	257	29%
	Health Surveillance	71	8%

Again in this sector, while the level of provision and use of mechanical aids was good, there is a need for a greater level of training.

Two Improvement Directions and 22 Improvement Notices were served in the Manufacturing sector as a result of the survey findings.

Noise was Reviewed in 229 Premises and the findings were:

TABLE 1.7	Subject	No. of Premises	%
	85 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	204	89%
	90 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	138	60%
	Noise Assessment performed*	104	51%
	Workers informed of hazards*	142	70%
	Audiometry made available to workers*	48	24%
	Audiometry Available of by workers*	39	81%
	Noise Warning Signs Posted**	97	70%
	Noise Improvement Programme**	82	59%
	Noisy Areas delineated**	57	41%
	Hearing Protection Provided*	201	99%
	Hearing Protection Used**	96	70%

\*Required when 85 dBA exceeded

\*\*Required when 90 dBA exceeded

% figures calculated accordingly.

The Authority is concerned at the high number of premises at which the 90 dBA levels were exceeded and this is reflected in the 51 Enforcement Notices issued as a result of the survey findings. While the level of provision of hearing protection was good, the level of use was unsatisfactory.

#### ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY

This sector includes the generation, transmission and distribution of electricity, the production and distribution of gas, the storage, purification and distribution of water.

TABLE 1.8	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	109	94
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	191	201
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	973	1055
	Fatalities	1	0
	Prosecutions	0	1

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Inadequate Safety Statements; • Electrical isolation procedures;
- Chemical handling especially chlorine; • Confined space entry;
- Falling electricity lines; • Contact with underground cables.

## CONSTRUCTION

This sector includes construction work, demolition, and the repair/maintenance of buildings and the installation, commissioning and decommissioning of certain fixed plant and equipment.

TABLE 1.9	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	2084	3084
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	226	266
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	7	14
	Fatalities	10	13
	Prosecutions	8	18

Inspections increased by a thousand over the 1994 figure reflecting concern about the high risk nature of the industry and the level of serious accidents.

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Falls from heights; • Steel erection; • Fragile roof work;
- Inadequate scaffolding; • Wall/structural collapse during excavation;
- Site traffic control; • Trench collapse; • Noise, dust and fumes on-site; • Manual handling

## Review of Manual Handling on 1076 Construction Sites

TABLE 1.10	Subject	No. of Sites	%
	Mechanical Aids Provided	830	77%
	Mechanical Aids Used	813	76%
	Workplace Design Adequate	410	38%
	Work Station Design Adequate	372	35%
	Risk Assessment Adequate	368	34%
	Control Measures Adequate	411	38%
	Training Provided	253	24%
	Health Surveillance	111	10%



Again, while the levels of provision and use of mechanical aids was reasonably good, the lack of training gave rise to concern.

Eight Improvement Notices and four Prohibition Notices were served in the construction sector as a result of the survey findings.

#### Overview of Noise at 28 Construction Sites

TABLE 1.11	Subject	No. of Sites	%
	85 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	27	96%
	90 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	24	86%
	Noise Assessment performed*	3	11%
	Workers informed of hazards*	12	44%
	Audiometry made available to workers*	0	0%
	Noise Warning Signs Posted**	5	21%
	Noise Improvement Programme**	7	29%
	Noisy Areas delineated**	4	17%
	Hearing Protection Provided*	20	74%
	Hearing Protection Used**	5	21%

\*Required when 85 dBA exceeded

\*\*Required when 90 dBA exceeded

% figures calculated accordingly.

A very high proportion of sites had exposure to noise levels over 90 dBA but very few noise assessments had been carried out and Noise Improvement Programmes were in place in less than a third of the sites where required. Audiometry was not made available for workers at any site. While the level of hearing protection provided was reasonable the level of use was very unsatisfactory.

Ten Enforcement Notices were served as a result of the survey findings.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 1995 came into force on 6th June 1995, with some of the key requirements on construction site management control coming into effect on 1st March 1996. A series of seminars on the Regulations organised throughout the country by the Authority attracted over 1,000 people.

The Authority availed of the Mobile Training Unit from the Construction Industry Training Board in Northern Ireland to visit a number of large construction sites and provided information on the Construction Regulations 1995, and health and safety in general.



Minister Fitzgerald launches the Report of the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety.

The Advisory Committee on Construction Safety reported to the Authority in May and made recommendations on:

- the development of the Construction Regulations, 1995;
- Accident and fatality reduction measures;
- Education and training in the sector;
- Dissemination of health and safety information;
- Safety statement preparation;
- Safety consultation and safety representative selection;
- Increased enforcement activity;
- Accident costs.

#### WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE

This sector includes wholesale and retail outlets (e.g. shops, supermarkets) and the repair of motor vehicles, motor cycles, household and personal goods.

<b>TABLE 1.12</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	1569	901
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	172	155
	Fatalities	2	2
	Prosecutions	1	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- No safety statements;
- Electrical installations;
- Spray painting in vehicle repair shops (use of two-pack paints);
- Goods handling;
- Manual handling

#### Review of Manual Handling at 493 Premises

<b>TABLE 1.13</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>No. of Premises</b>	<b>%</b>
	Mechanical Aids Provided	420	85%
	Mechanical Aids Used	418	85%
	Workplace Design Adequate	254	52%
	Work Station Design Adequate	223	45%
	Risk Assessment Adequate	105	21%
	Control Measures Adequate	130	26%
	Training Provided	92	19%
	Health Surveillance	9	2%

As in other sectors, the level of provision and use of mechanical aids was good but there was a major lack of training.

Seven Improvement Notices were served as a result of the survey findings.

#### **HOTELS & RESTAURANTS**

This sector also covers camping sites, caravan sites, short stay accommodation and youth hostels.

<b>TABLE 1.14</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	179	113
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	45	57
	Fatalities	0	0
	Prosecutions	0	0

Areas of concern during inspections were: • Machine cleaning;  
• Machine guarding; • Safety statement preparation; • Manual handling

#### **TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATIONS**

This sector includes all forms of goods transported by road, rail or pipeline and storage and various communications activities (e.g. post, telephone etc.)

<b>TABLE 1.15</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	666	686*
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	589	603
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	6	2
	Fatalities	6	9
	Prosecutions	6	7

*\* including dangerous substance road checks – 147, petroleum stores 33 and oil jetties 43.*

The level of fatalities is still very high and effective safety management systems are required to reduce deaths. Areas of concern during inspections were:

• Road transport; • Fork lift truck overturning; • Truck maintenance on the road; • Berthing operations; • Goods handling.

#### **FINANCIAL INTERMEDIATION**

This sector includes banking activities, financial leasing, insurance and pension funding, financial markets.

<b>TABLE 1.16</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	90	72
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	29	39
	Fatalities	0	0
	Prosecutions	0	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Violence to staff; • Inadequate provision for use of VDUs;
- Lack of Welfare facilities for security staff.

#### **REAL ESTATE, RENTING AND BUSINESS ACTIVITIES**

This sector includes real estate activities, renting of machinery and equipment, computer engineering and architectural consultancy, legal and accounting practices, research and development, advertisement, and a range of professional business activities.

<b>TABLE 1.17</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	119	112
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	34	67
	Fatalities	0	0
	Prosecutions	0	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Violence to staff; • Inadequate provision for use of VDUs;
- Printing activities.

#### **PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION AND DEFENCE; COMPULSORY SOCIAL SECURITY**

This sector includes a range of general public service activities, public security, law and order and fire service activities.

<b>TABLE 1.18</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	210	256
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	370	494
	Dangerous Occurrences Reported to the Authority	5	9
	Fatalities	1	0
	Prosecutions	1	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

**Public Administration:**

- Safety management systems; • Working in confined spaces;
- Working in hostile environments

**Defence Forces/Gardai:**

- Physical Violence; • Poor accommodation; • Personal protective equipment; • Noise; • Accident reporting

To increase awareness of health and safety legislation in the local authorities the Authority participated in the activities of the Association of Local Authority Safety Engineers and Safety Managers and the County Managers Association. The Authority was also involved with the Department of the Environment on the launch of a safety training programme for road workers.

**EDUCATION**

This sector includes primary, secondary and higher level education, adult education and driving school activities.

<b>TABLE 1.19</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	133	159
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	80	112
	Fatalities	0	1
	Prosecutions	0	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Stress and violence to teachers; • Working alone on field trips;
- Laboratory safety; • Chemical/biological agents handling; • P.P.E.

The Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health for the Primary and Secondary Education levels presented its Report to the Minister for Labour Affairs, Ms Eithne Fitzgerald and the Minister for Education, Ms Niamh Bhreathnach in December. Its findings and recommendations covered all aspects of health and safety management in these sectors and included:

- Raising awareness of health and safety legislation in these education sectors
- Safety Statement preparation ( A format for preparing a safety statement for schools was developed by the Committee);
- The provision of health and safety training and information for teachers;
- Safety Consultation and Safety Representative selection;
- The integration of health and safety into the educational syllabus.



Commissioner Flynn at the launch of the Transition Year Syllabus.

In June the EU Social Affairs Commissioner Padraig Flynn launched a health and safety syllabus for use during the transition year in second level schools and colleges. This syllabus, drawn up by the National Parents' Council with assistance from the Authority, was piloted in a number of schools in September.

#### HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK

This sector includes hospitals, medical and dental activities, veterinary and social work activities.

TABLE 1.20	Statistics	1994	1995
	Inspections	161	235
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	302	373
	Fatalities	0	1
	Prosecutions	0	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Manual handling; • Violence to staff; • Hepatitis infection;
- Clinical waste disposal procedures; • Use of chemical disinfectants e.g. (glutaraldehyde and formaldehyde).

#### REVIEW OF MANUAL HANDLING AT 52 PREMISES

TABLE 1.21	Subject	No. of Premises	%
	Mechanical Aids Provided	45	87%
	Mechanical Aids Used	45	87%
	Workplace Design Adequate	37	71%
	Work Station Design Adequate	36	69%
	Risk Assessment Adequate	31	60%
	Control Measures Adequate	35	67%
	Training Provided	38	73%
	Health Surveillance	21	40%

Three Improvement Notices were served as a result of the survey findings.

#### OTHER ACTIVITIES

In November the Authority organised a series of seminars around the country for health care workers on manual handling during "Handle with Care" week.

The threat and effects of violence to staff was discussed with hospital management in several cases particularly the psychiatric hospitals and casualty departments of general hospitals. The Authority guidance on this topic was distributed.

A number of hospitals, GPs and Dentists surgeries were visited with particular interest in control of biological hazards (infectious diseases, infectious waste, hepatitis B vaccination) and human factor hazards including assaults on staff. Enforcement action was taken after one such visit.

#### **OTHER COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND PERSONAL SERVICES ACTIVITIES**

This sector includes sewage, refuse disposal, sanitation and related activities; the activities of business, employers, trade unions and professional organisations; recreational, cultural and sporting activities; funeral and hairdressing activities.

<b>TABLE 1.9</b>	<b>Statistics</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Inspections	191	238
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	80	91
	Fatalities	2	1
	Prosecutions	2	0

Areas of concern during inspections were:

- Occupational dermatitis in handling hair dyes;
- Entry into sewers;
- Safety Statement preparation.

## Chapter Two **CHEMICAL SAFETY AND HAZARD ASSESSMENT**

### **THE PROCESS INDUSTRIES SECTOR**

The Authority, through its Process Industry Unit (PIU), enforces health and safety legislation – in particular, that related to prevention and limitation of major accidents -in the chemical and allied industries. Key areas of concern arising during 1995 were:

- safe treatment and storage of potentially exothermic reactants taken from reactors;
- planned maintenance to ensure that plant is not kept in use beyond its estimated safe life span;
- the non-recognition of the explosibility of powders;
- basic EU chemical classification information not readily available;
- the safe design of central abatement systems for the treatment of plant emissions and the incorporation of accident prevention and protective measures.

### **INSPECTIONS AND ENFORCEMENT**

Comparative figures for workplace inspections and visits carried out during the last two years are as follows:

TABLE 2.1	Inspections & Enforcement	1994	1995
	Inspections/Visits	372	395
	Accidents Reported to the Authority	245	222
	Improvement Directions	0	1
	Improvement Notices	5	30
	Prohibition Notices	4	8
	Prosecutions	6	1

Completion of the chemical industry inspection survey took place during 1995 together with routine inspections of those sites with significant chemical usage which were not included in the survey programme. The summary report of the chemical industry inspection survey is included at Chapter 4. The detailed analysis of safety issues in the chemical industry was carried out in co-operation with the companies concerned, who provided much of the information. The findings show some areas of concern which should not be considered in isolation from the many good aspects of health and safety arrangements in place in the industry.



The year saw continuing evaluation of notification up-dates [18] and new notification requirements [2] of top-tier major accident hazard sites.

One fatality during a lifting operation associated with a major accident hazard establishment has resulted in a review of safety considerations to the operation of barge mounted cranes. Three accidents gave rise to particular concern in respect of hazard identification, risk assessment and control. These involved:

- a tank explosion due to a permit to work system allowed to become defunct;
- a reaction mixture becoming exothermic when contaminated with water causing a drum to explode when discharged into same for interim storage;
- a deflagration occurring in the ducting of a central abatement system for controlling plant emissions by way of thermal oxidisation.

#### MONITORING AND ASSESSMENT OF CHEMICALS IN THE WORKPLACE

Enforcement activity carried out during the year under the Safety, Health and Welfare (Chemical Agents) Regulations, 1994 and other statutory provisions was as follows:

<b>TABLE 2.2</b>	<b>Enforcement Activities</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Premises Visited	344
	Premises where Samples were Taken	201
	Samples Taken	2485
	Number in Excess of OEL	380
	Number of Complaints Investigated	54
	Number of Improvement Notices Issued	61

In 15% of the samples taken the permitted Occupational Exposure Limit (OEL) was exceeded.

Of particular concern were N-Vinyl Pyrrolidine, a recognised carcinogen, where 100% of the samples were in excess of the OEL, Lead, where 30% of the samples were over the OEL, and Dimethyl Formamide, a solvent with reproductive system hazards, where over 50% of the samples exceeded the OEL.

The possibility of exposure to asbestos is of considerable concern to workers, and to a greater extent, the general public, although the monitoring carried out by the Authority did not reveal any instances of levels in excess of the OEL.

A list of the substances for which monitoring was carried out is shown in Appendix 2.

## TRANSPORT OF DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

Road checks were carried out at various locations in cooperation with the Gardai. Compliance with the Regulations was, in general, reasonable, although some vehicles were deficient in, the provision of fire extinguishers, portable amber warning lights, vehicle plates and wheel chocks. Four prosecutions were initiated.

An articulated tanker carrying 12 tonnes propane rolled over whilst negotiating a right hand bend. The driver was thrown clear off the cab and died as a result of his injuries. One of two safety valves fitted to tank leaked and failed to re seat. The gas ignited and the resultant fire destroyed a nearby house. The Major Emergency Plan was activated which led to the evacuation of a Nursing Home and houses within a radius of 500 metres.

The accident led to a major investigation by the HSA. A series of tests carried out on the valve indicated that it was unsuitable for use on a road tanker even though the manufacturer had recommended its use.

As this type of valve is in widespread use in the Industry an alert was issued to all Member States and the Commission via the Rapid Exchange of Information Programme.

TABLE 2.3	ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES	1994	1995
	Road Checks	48	52
	Dangerous Goods Vehicles Inspected during Checks	234	147
	Oil jetties	26	43
	Petroleum Stores	—	33
	Accidents Investigated	3	3
	Improvement Notices	1	1
	Improvement Directions	3	5
	Prosecutions	4	4

The Authority continued to support the Department of Transport, Energy and Communications in the examination of drivers involved in dangerous substances transport under the European Communities(Vocational Training for Drivers of Dangerous Goods) Regulations, 1992. The table below shows the level of activity in the area for 1995. The Authority is also the competent body for approval of courses.

<b>TABLE 2.4</b>	<b>VOCATIONAL TRAINING EXAMINATIONS</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
	Examinations Conducted	63	55
	Drivers Examined	930	980
	Vocational Certificates Issued	838	889

### **CONTROL OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES**

The Authority, through the Hazardous Substances Assessment Unit, is responsible for the enforcement of legislation on the classification, packaging, labelling and notification of dangerous substances marketed in Ireland and also substances manufactured by Irish companies which are marketed elsewhere in the European Union.

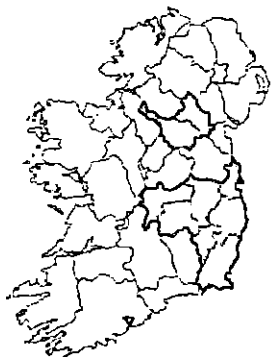
This is an important area of work as new substances which are eventually placed on the European market, in workplaces etc., must follow specific rules as regards how they are tested, classified, packaged and labelled. Information must be made available on them so that workers, the public or the environment are not at risk from those substances. This work is also an important support mechanism for Irish manufacturers of new substances which they aim to market.

In 1995 the Hazardous Substances Assessment Unit received a total of 17 full, repeat or reduced notifications of new substances, compared with 5 in 1994. It additionally considered 19 applications for process-oriented research and development exemptions from the notification requirements of the legislation.

## Chapter Three **REPORTS FROM HEADQUARTERS & REGIONAL OFFICES**

### **OVERVIEW**

The headquarters of the Health and Safety Authority is in Dublin. The Regional Offices are in Athlone, Cork, Drogheda, Galway, Limerick, Sligo and Waterford.



### **HEADQUARTERS OFFICE, DUBLIN AND DUBLIN REGIONAL OFFICE**

#### **COVERING EIGHT EASTERN COUNTIES**

*Total staff: 77 including: eight Inspectors Grade I; eleven Inspectors Grade II; nineteen Inspectors Grade III; two Occupational Medical Advisers; headquarters management and administrative staff.*

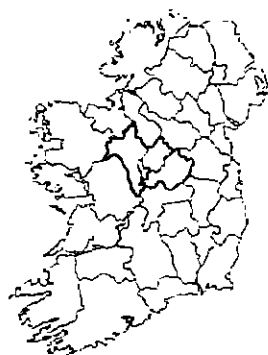
The headquarters building at Hogan Place, Dublin 2, accommodates the Authority's national administration, together with specialist units such as the National Health and Safety Information Centre, the Occupational Medical Unit, the Occupational Hygiene Service and the Hazardous Substance Assessment Unit.

Hogan Place is also the Dublin Regional Office – the base for operational staff covering all employment sectors and workplaces in eight eastern counties.

Approximately half of the reported accidents in the region occurred in the manufacturing sector. This was followed by transport, storage and communications, health and social work and public administration and defence, with significant under-reporting in construction and agriculture.

Inspectors based in Dublin were involved in a range of awareness activities, including the Authority's national conference in Dublin Castle, the National Ploughing Championships and the Farm Machinery Exhibition.

<b>TABLE 3.1</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Carlow	1	0
	Cavan	2	1
	Dublin	5	8
	Kildare	1	1
	Laois	2	2
	Monaghan	0	1
	Offaly	2	0
	Wicklow	1	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>



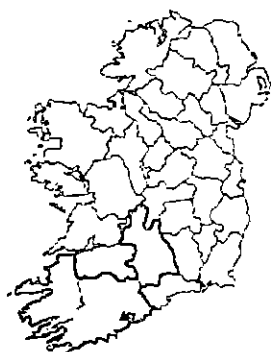
#### **ATHLONE REGIONAL OFFICE**

**COUNTIES LONGFORD, ROSCOMMON AND WESTMEATH**

*Staff: Two Inspectors Grade II*

Inspections carried out by the Athlone Regional Office concentrated on manufacturing, construction and quarrying activities. The general awareness of health and safety legislation improved in the Midlands, with safety representatives taking a more pro-active role in the workplace. This resulted in an increased demand for assistance from the office in the form of Authority information and lectures.

<b>TABLE 3.2</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Longford	0	1
	Roscommon	1	1
	Westmeath	2	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>3</b>



### **CORK REGIONAL OFFICE**

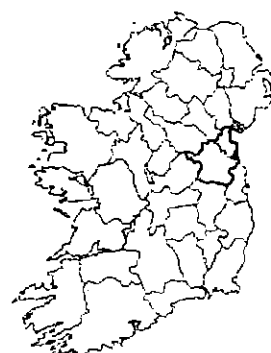
#### **COUNTIES CORK, KERRY AND TIPPERARY**

*Staff:* One Inspector Grade I; three Inspectors Grade II; three Inspectors Grade III; one Clerical Officer

Inspections carried out by the Cork Regional Office concentrated on the manufacturing, construction and farming sectors. With the enactment of the 1995 Construction Regulations considerable attention was paid to construction sites in the area. A number of prosecutions for construction related offences were taken and are detailed in Appendix 2. The Chemical Industry Inspection Survey, managed from the Cork Regional Office, was completed during the year. The inspection of offshore installations was also managed from this office. The manual handling of loads was given special attention by inspectors.

Manufacturing accounted for approximately 52% of the accidents reported to the Cork office, followed by public administration and construction, transport, warehousing and electrical at 6% each. Fatal accident levels were double the 1994 figures. This was due to increased farming and fishing fatalities.

<b>TABLE 3.3</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Cork	7	6
	Kerry	1	5
	Tipperary	2	9
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>20</b>



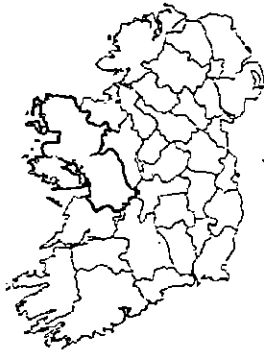
### **DROGHEDA REGIONAL OFFICE**

#### **COUNTIES LOUTH AND MEATH**

*Staff:* One Inspector Grade II

Inspections concentrated on manufacturing, mining and the construction industries. In June the Mobile Training Unit from the Construction Industry Training Board in Northern Ireland visited Dundalk, Drogheda and Navan where Inspectors gave lectures and information on construction, woodworking and chemical safety.

<b>TABLE 3.4</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Louth	1	4
	Meath	3	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>5</b>



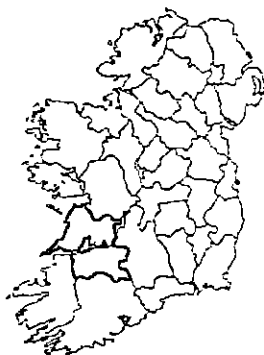
### **GALWAY REGIONAL OFFICE**

#### **COUNTIES GALWAY AND MAYO**

*Staff:* One Inspector Grade II; one Inspector Grade III; one Clerical Assistant

Inspections concentrated on agriculture, construction and coastal activities, including fishing and fish-farming. A very successful Authority seminar was held in Galway in June on the 1995 Construction Regulations. Other awareness activities included a series of lectures to health and safety courses and to farming and employers organisations and trade unions. Fatal accident levels were up due to accidents in the farming sector.

<b>TABLE 3.5</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Galway	1	5
	Mayo	2	0
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>5</b>



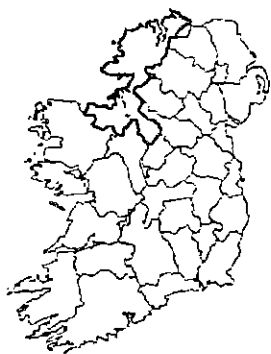
### **LIMERICK REGIONAL OFFICE**

#### **COUNTIES CLARE AND LIMERICK**

*Staff:* One Inspector Grade II; two Inspectors Grade III; One Clerical Assistant

Inspections concentrated on the manufacturing, agriculture and construction sectors. Manufacturing accounted for 60% of the accidents reported to the Limerick office, followed by construction at 10%. The fatal accident levels showed a welcome decrease. Awareness activities included a well attended Authority seminar in Limerick on the 1995 Construction Regulations. The increased level of interest in occupational health and safety resulted in many public enquiries to the office.

<b>TABLE 3.6</b>	<b>County</b>	<b>1994 Fatalities</b>	<b>1995 Fatalities</b>
	Clare	2	0
	Limerick	6	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>1</b>



### SLIGO REGIONAL OFFICE

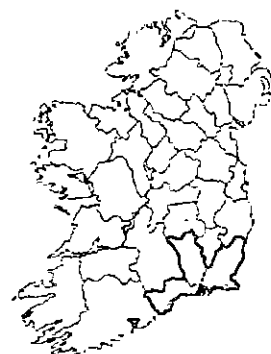
COUNTIES DONEGAL, LEITRIM AND SLIGO

*Staff:* one Inspector Grade II; one Inspector Grade III; one Clerical Assistant

Inspections carried out from the Sligo Regional Office concentrated on manufacturing, construction, fishing and associated activities such as diving, together with road checks under the Dangerous Substances Acts. Fatal accident levels rose dramatically in the region. This was mainly due to the high level of fishing fatalities (13 in 1995).

Awareness activities included lectures at seminars run by both public and private institutions on fishing, diving and occupational hygiene. The Authority held two well attended seminars, on the Construction Regulations and Manual Handling.

TABLE 3.7	County	1994 Fatalities	1995 Fatalities
	Donegal	2	19
	Leitrim	0	0
	Sligo	2	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>20</b>



### WATERFORD REGIONAL OFFICE

COUNTIES KILKENNY, WEXFORD AND WATERFORD

*Staff:* Two Inspectors Grade III; one Clerical Assistant

This regional office became fully operational during the year after a period of being unstaffed. Inspections concentrated on the manufacturing, construction, farming and fishing sectors. Awareness activities included lectures to local companies and by providing literature and information to the public on an ongoing basis.

TABLE 3.8	County	1994 Fatalities	1995 Fatalities
	Kilkenny	2	2
	Wexford	0	4
	Waterford	2	2
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>8</b>



Chapter Four **ENFORCEMENT REVIEWS**

**1. HEALTH AND SAFETY MANAGEMENT REVIEW**

Effective health and safety management is the key to improving working conditions. This means having an effective safety programme in place by:

- preparing and implementing a Safety Statement; and
- having effective safety consultation.

The Safety Statement should be clear and concise so that it can be read and understood by those who may be at risk. It must be based on a systematic identification of hazards and an assessment of risks at the workplace. The necessary control measures identified must be implemented. The Safety Statement should be regularly updated. The Safety Representative and other consultation mechanisms such as Safety Committees etc. should play an important role in the safety consultation process. The health and safety management survey monitored compliance with Sections 12 and 13 of the 1989 Act on Safety Statement preparation, Safety Consultation and Safety Representatives. The results were:

(a) Safety Statement Compliance

TABLE 4.1			
	Workplaces Checked		7809
	Workplace with Safety Statement		4002 (51%)
	Number Adequate		2341 (58%)

The key areas in determining adequacy of a Safety Statement are:

- the statement must be a specific targeted workplace programme and not just an aspirational policy;
- it must be brought to the attention of all employees;
- people with responsibilities and duties should be clearly identified;
- it should be a demonstration of management's programme to ensure safety, not a list of do's and don'ts for employees;
- it must be regularly updated.

(b) Safety Consultation Compliance

TABLE 4.2		
	Workplaces Checked	7173
	Number with Consultation Arrangements	4752 (66%)

Key aspects of health and safety consultation include:

- employers must consult their employees in establishing arrangements for securing co-operation in the workplace on safety, health and welfare;
- employees have a right to consult their employers and to make representations on safety, health and welfare in the place of work;
- employers must consult in advance and in good time on anything carried out in the workplace which can have a substantial effect on safety and health;
- where appropriate, consultation arrangements should include balanced participation on the part of both employees and employers;
- no particular form of consultation is specified in the legislation and the most appropriate method is best determined at workplace level.

Effective consultation is dependent on the goodwill and co-operation of both employers and workers and every effort should be made to foster a co-operative spirit in relation to safety and health issues at the workplace.

(c) Safety Representatives

2012 workplaces had Safety Representatives appointed.

**2. MANUAL HANDLING REVIEW**

Analysis of the reported accidents has shown that approximately 25% of all accidents were due to faulty manual handling. While the commonest injury following faulty manual handling was back injury, hand, arm, shoulder and leg injuries were also common. The purpose was to review compliance with Part VI of the General Application Regulations, 1993, on the manual handling of loads. A total of 3,419 reviews were carried out.

The overall results were as follows:

<b>TABLE 4.3</b>	<b>Total No. of Premises Surveyed</b>	<b>3419</b>	<b>%</b>
	Mechanical Aids provided	2766	81%
	Mechanical Aids used	2725	80%
	Workplace Design adequate	1686	49%
	Work Station Design adequate	1543	45%
	Risk Assessments carried out	1092	32%
	Control Measures in place	1283	38%
	Manual Handling Training provided	945	28%
	Health Surveillance made available	360	11%

While the level of provision and use of mechanical aids was good across sectors, risk assessments had been carried out in less than a third of the premises surveyed and even fewer had provided training in manual handling.

Enforcement action, including verbal and written advice, five Improvement Directions, 60 Improvement Notices and seven Prohibition Notices, was taken in 1872 cases as a result of the survey findings.

As a follow up to the Manual Handling Survey a "Handle with Care" week was conducted at the end of November 1995 which concentrated on the Health Care and Local Authority sectors.

### **3. NOISE REVIEW**

The purpose of this review was to monitor compliance with the European Communities (Protection of Workers) (Exposure to Noise) Regulations, 1990. 303 premises were reviewed for their noise problems and level of compliance. The review concentrated on the manufacturing and construction sectors where Inspectors took noise measurements at certain workplaces known to have noise risks. The overall results from the 303 premises surveyed were:

<b>TABLE 4.4</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>No. of premises</b>	<b>%</b>
	85 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	267	88%
	90 dBA noise exposure level exceeded	191	63%
	Noise Assessment performed*	129	48%
	Workers informed of hazards*	180	67%
	Audiometry made available to workers*	63	24%
	Audiometry availed of by workers*	48	76%
	Noise Warning Signs posted**	121	63%
	Noise Improvement Programme**	107	56%
	Noisy Areas delineated**	79	41%
	Hearing Protection provided**	259	97%
	Hearing Protection used*	119	62%

\*Required where 85 dBA exceeded. \*\*Required where 90 dBA exceeded. % figures calculated accordingly.

While a large proportion of the premises surveyed had noise levels exceeding the 90 dBA level only 56% of relevant premises had a Noise Improvement Programme in place. Less than half the relevant premises had carried out noise assessments and the level of provision of audiometry was extremely poor. Audiometry was availed of in 76% of the premises where provided. Hearing protection was provided in the vast majority of the premises where required, but greater consideration needs to be given to the elimination or control of noise problems through engineering methods, work reorganisation etc., based on Noise Improvement Programmes. The level of use of hearing protection provided also needs improvement.

Enforcement action was taken at 73 workplaces, mainly in the manufacturing sector, as a result of the survey findings.

Because excessive noise levels can cause significant deafness, the problems identified in the survey are being followed up at subsequent inspections.

#### **4. MACHINERY SAFETY REVIEW**

Machines in use in factories are required to be guarded in compliance with the Factories Act, 1955, the Safety in Industry Act, 1980 and the General Application Regulations 1993. In addition, under the 1989 Act, manufacturers, importers and suppliers of articles for use at work ( including machines) must ensure that they are

designed, constructed, tested and examined so as to be safe and without risk when used at work.

In 1995 the Authority took five prosecutions (compared to 12 in 1994) against companies for breaches of the legislation involving machinery, some of which resulted in heavy fines.

Inspectors carried out a series of inspections of machinery suppliers to monitor compliance with the legislation with particular emphasis on farm machinery, guillotine and press brake suppliers. In general, knowledge of health and safety requirements was weak among suppliers. Problematic machines were press brakes and second hand farm machines (e.g. balers, potato harvesters, inadequate P.T.O. guarding). For machines in use in factories routine guard maintenance and operator training was a concern.

## **5. CHEMICAL INDUSTRY INSPECTION SURVEY, 1994-1995 SUMMARY REPORT**

### **Introduction**

In August, 1993, as a consequence of several accidents in the Irish chemical industry over a short period of time, Mrs Mary O'Rourke, Minister for Labour Affairs at the Department of Enterprise and Employment requested the Health and Safety Authority to undertake a survey of safety in the industry, with particular regard to major accident hazards such as fires, explosions and loss of containment of dangerous substances.

The range of industries covered included pharmaceutical production, speciality chemical and fertilizer manufacture, oil refining, chemical warehousing, L.P.G. and bulk chemical storage. The total number of establishments surveyed was 114, employing approximately 14,100 people.

The size and scope of the survey dictated that a sampling methodology be adopted, involving assessment of one or more aspects of an establishment's operation as indicative of the overall approach to safety management. For each establishment there was a review of HSA file material followed by site visits, inspection of company documentation and interviews with members of the workforce.

Whilst cases of imminent danger were dealt with as they arose, in general without the need for formal notices, the survey concentrated on the collection and analysis of data in order to provide an overall picture of safety standards in the industry. Inadequacies were brought to the attention of management and in general good progress has

been made. Currently follow up inspections are taking place and where necessary enforcement notices are being issued.

### **Legal Background**

The survey was undertaken by the Authority against the legal background of the Major Accident Hazards Regulations of 1986, as amended, which require, *inter alia*, a manufacturer to identify major accident hazards and to take all the necessary measures to prevent such accidents, to limit their consequences, to adopt appropriate safety measures and to provide persons working on site with information, training and equipment to ensure their safety.

### **Principal Findings**

#### **1. Information on Materials**

- material safety data sheets for raw materials were readily available in most establishments and their contents generally accurate;
- the availability of information on "intermediate" products was variable particularly in respect of thermal stability and dust explosion potential;
- the hazard assessment of residues in synthesis plants was not given sufficient priority;
- much work remains to be done on setting occupational exposure limits for pharmacologically active ingredients.

#### **2. Chemical Storage**

- the arrangements for the bulk storage of flammable liquids were generally adequate but extra attention is required in some instances to corrosion control and the design/maintenance of bunds;
- the integrity of bulk storage vessels for toxic liquids was adequate but more attention needs to be given to assessing the potential effects from any fires in adjoining bulk flammable storage areas;
- the arrangements for drum storage were generally acceptable but in respect of flammables there is scope for improving the provision of containment cills/drains in a number of establishments.

#### **3. Chemical Reaction Hazards – Evaluation and Control**

- although most establishments were conscious of evaluating chemical reaction hazards a formal protocol for same was in place in only approximately half of the relevant establishments;

- a formal "scale up" policy for new processes was present in two-thirds of the applicable sites;
- data on the reaction hazards of existing processes was comprehensive in approximately half of the establishments (where relevant);
- the possibility of two phase flow requires consideration in the design of emergency venting systems and whilst this is increasingly being considered in new designs, the assumptions in respect of existing systems need to be rechecked;
- the hazard assessments for vent manifold systems needed to give greater attention to fire/explosion considerations and the potential for untoward chemical reactions.

#### 4. *Dust Explosion Hazards*

- more attention to the assessment and control of dust explosion hazards was required in a significant number of establishments.

#### 5. *Electrostatic Hazards from Flammable Liquids*

- these hazards, with one or two exceptions have not presented major problems.

#### 6. *Electrical Area Classification Policy*

- this was found to be commonplace for flammable vapours but not so for combustible dusts. Where a policy did exist it was supported by suitable drawings/documentation in approximately half the installations.

#### 7. *Control of Modifications*

- although most establishments recognised the need to control modifications a formal procedure to assess the safety implications of changes to plant, processes or procedures was present in approximately half the establishments.

#### 8. *Control of Maintenance*

- the content of maintenance programmes was judged to be generally satisfactory in over two-thirds of the establishments;
- work permit systems were employed in approximately two-thirds of the establishments.

#### 9. *Process Glassware*

- adequate training was provided in respect of installation but improvement required in the provision of protection against impact in some instances.

#### **10. Emergency Preparedness**

- most establishments had an emergency plan;
- whilst most plans provided for evacuation, a significant number did not address issues, such as loss of power, contractors/visitors and liaison with the public authorities;
- nearly two-thirds of the establishments had information on the nature and location of hazardous materials readily available for use by the emergency services;
- nearly half of the establishments had layout drawings of the site fire fighting system readily available;
- many sites had conducted internal rehearsals of their plans but there have been few with external services. However compatibility of plant equipment with fire brigade equipment has been established in most instances;
- in four-fifths of the establishment arrangements had been made with the fire authority for a site visit;
- the adequacy of the public mains supply for fire fighting purposes had been confirmed in less than one-third of the relevant establishments;
- specific fire water retention facilities were available in less than one-fifth of the relevant establishments. Environmental Protection Agency guidance on this matter should be consulted.

#### **11. Employee Consultation – Representation and Training**

- most establishments had consultation mechanisms in place, commonly consisting of a safety committee;
- a safety representative was appointed in three-quarters of the establishments and had received formal training in approximately two-thirds of these;
- most establishments had an appropriate Safety Statement but only half of them used organised information sessions to communicate the statements content;
- improvement is required in employee training in approximately one-sixth of the establishments.

#### **12. Safety Management**

- most establishments have assigned specific individuals to take clear responsibility for the control of issues related to major hazards. In small companies these responsibilities are often discharged by one person;
- the extent of formal consequence and risk assessment is quite limited;
- approximately two-thirds of the establishments were subject to formal safety audits;



- occupational hygiene monitoring schemes exist in less than half of the establishments;
- the failure to report notifiable dangerous occurrences was confirmed in two establishments.

## **CONCLUSIONS**

The survey has found overall that the industry has a positive attitude to safety. In general its management of routine day-to-day safety issues is satisfactory. Safety Statements exist in the majority of the premises surveyed and there is a commitment to safety consultation and to training. There has been an increasing amount of attention and allocation of resources to major accident hazard and environmental protection issues in the industry, particularly in the pharmaceutical and fine chemical batch production sector, in part stimulated by a series of incidents in the Chemical Sector in 1993.

Areas of concern arising as a consequence of the survey include the following matters (in decreasing order of priority):

- chemical reaction hazard evaluation;
- control of modifications;
- powder hazards;
- consequence modelling and associated risk assessment;
- emergency preparedness.

The performance of the continuous process plants and the batch/semi batch synthesis operations is in general significantly better in respect of those matters common to most sites.

These findings signal to the HSA that its immediate inspection programme should continue to address the above issues, with enforcement action as appropriate.

## **IMPACT OF SURVEY**

This survey itself provided an added impetus in the companies where improvements had already begun and has initiated developments in the firms where attention to major hazards was deficient.

It has provided the Authority with a sound basis to determine future inspection priorities and with a baseline against which future progress can be checked.

## Chapter Five **EXTERNAL RELATIONS**



*EU Trade Union representatives attending the International Conference in Dublin, March 1995*

Since its establishment, the Health and Safety Authority continues to develop good working links with many similar organisations in other countries. This has facilitated the sharing of expertise and advice.

### **CO-OPERATION WITH NORTHERN IRELAND**

Close working relationships were maintained during the year between the Authority and the Health and Safety Agency, Northern Ireland. A very successful joint Conference on safety and health in SMEs was held in Dublin in March. As a result joint Annual Conferences will be organised alternately in Dublin and Belfast.

### **HEALTH AND SAFETY FORUM**

The first formal meeting of the Health and Safety Forum (the Consultative Group on Safety and Health) comprising the Authority, the Agency and the Health and Safety Executive (Great Britain) took place in London in August.



*The Small Firms Association and the Federation of Small Businesses meet with a "small firm".*

### **EU AND INTERNATIONAL ACTIVITIES**

#### *1. General*

As part of its legal obligations to the EU the Authority continued to represent the country on a broad range of Community bodies and topics:

- the tripartite Advisory Committee on Safety and Health at Work;
- the Safety and Health Commission for the Mining and Other Extractive Industries (SHCMOEI);
- Social Questions Working Group;
- Senior Labour Inspectors Committee;
- EU Competent Authorities (Seveso and Dangerous Substances and Preparations);
- EU Health and Safety Agency;
- EUROSH\*NET;
- European Week Committee;
- Janus Magazine.

Among the principal developments during the year was the publication of the Fourth EU Action Programme on Safety and Health at Work which concentrates on non-legislative measures to improve safety and health at work, including the Safety Actions for Europe

[SAFE] Programme aimed particularly at SMEs, the first European Week of Safety and Health at Work, October, 1996, and information provision.

Mining inspectors were involved in the work of the EU Safety and Health Commission for the Mining Industry [SHCMOEI], the ILO Convention and Recommendation on Mine Safety, the Temporary Abutment Pillar (TAP) Experts Committee, the preparation of national legislation to transpose two EU Directives into national law (92/92/EEC on drilling industry and 92/104/EEC on underground mineral extractive industries).

As part of the EU programme on Risk Assessment of Existing Chemicals, the Authority was involved in 1995 in carrying out a risk assessment of acrylonitrile. The preliminary draft of the Irish Risk Assessment was completed late in the year, and will be discussed and agreed at EU and OECD level in 1996 prior to publication in the EU Official Journal.

In 1995 the Authority was also involved in a European Union-wide enforcement action project on notification and labelling of dyestuffs. This project involved in-depth inspection of five Irish companies involved in textile manufacture and processing, in order to establish the source of the dyestuffs in use and compliance with the Regulations. The results of this inspection project are currently being analysed. However, the inspection phase of the project revealed a lack of awareness of the legislation on notification of new substances and of the classification and labelling requirements. In particular it was found that the Material Safety Data Sheets for some of the substances being used by this sector were of poor quality.

During the year the Director General was appointed the first Chairman of the Administrative Board of the EU Health and Safety Agency.

## ***2 EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee***

The EU Senior Labour Inspectors Committee [SLIC] was set up by the Commission in 1983 on an informal basis as a forum for exchanging experiences. Its purpose is to improve the competence of labour inspection throughout all the Member States as well as working towards convergence and consistency of enforcement across the EU. To this end it organises on an ongoing basis exchanges of inspectors between Member States so that they can study national inspection practices of special interest. In 1995 inspectors from Germany and Greece visited the HSA to examine its approach to systemic inspection,

agriculture inspection and computerisation. Since joining SLIC, Inspectors from the Authority have been invited to attend HSE specialist courses and participation in them has helped greatly to improve their technical competence. SLIC has produced a handbook on the organisation of labour inspection in each of the Member States.

SLIC has undertaken studies of how best to inspect in construction and agriculture and reports on them will be available shortly. The agricultural study resulted from a HSA proposal.

The next two studies will cover the motor industries (and subcontractors) and the production of fabrics and clothing.

### ***3 Projects and Co-operation Activities with Central and Eastern European Countries (under the auspices of the EU PHARE Programme and the ILO)***

The Authority fully participated in or assisted with the following EU organised activities:

#### **Poland**

Technical assistance programme for strengthening Polish Labour Inspectorate in co-operation with United Kingdom – [Completed. PHARE Project];

Study visit to Ireland by Polish Inspectors to examine use of information technology for enforcement uses ([May, 1995] [PHARE Project];)

#### **Hungary**

Study visit by senior officials to examine operation of working environment system in Ireland ([June, 1995] [PHARE/ILO];)

#### **Czech Republic and Others**

Short study visit of delegation from Bulgaria, Czech Republic, Hungary, Poland, Romania, Slovenia and Slovak Republic to examine system of occupational safety and health in Ireland, in particular information services and promotion activities. ([September, 1995] [ILO];)

#### **Estonia and Others**

Study tour by senior officials from Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania and Azerbaijan to examine working environment framework in Ireland ([November, 1995] [ILO];)

#### **Bulgaria**

Participation with the Danish Working Environment Service and others in technical assistance programme for restructuring the system of health and safety in Bulgaria [PHARE Project].

# APPENDIX I Accidents, Deaths and Diseases

## I. ACCIDENTS REPORTED TO THE AUTHORITY 1994 AND 1995

NACE <sup>1</sup>	WORK SECTORS	1994 <sup>2</sup>		1995 <sup>3</sup>	
		Injured <sup>4</sup>	Fatal	Injured	Fatal
A	Agriculture, Hunting and Forestry	59	22	83	28
B	Fishing (Diving)	20	1	28	19
C	Mining and Quarrying	120	1	119	0
D	Manufacturing	2235	4	2300	4
E	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	191	1	201	0
F	Construction	226	10	266	13
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade; Repair of Motor Vehicles, Motorcycles; Personal and Household Goods	172	2	155	2
H	Hotels and Restaurants	45	0	57	0
I	Transport, Storage and Communications	589	6	603	9
J	Financial Intermediation	29	0	39	0
K	Real Estate; Renting and Business Activities	34	0	67	0
L	Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	370	1	494	0
M	Education	80	0	112	1
N	Health and Social Work	302	0	373	1
O	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	80	2	91	1
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>4552</b>	<b>50</b>	<b>4988</b>	<b>78</b>

- Notes to the above:
1. NACE code is the general economic activity classification used within the EU
  2. Final 1994 figures are lower than those given in the 1994 Annual Report. This is due to separating out the reported Dangerous Occurrences from the previously published figures.
  3. Total 1995 figures include all 1995 accidents reported up to 14th June, 1996.
  4. Injured also includes the fatal accidents.

## 2. OTHER DATA ON ACCIDENTS AT WORK

### [A] LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

<b>Work Accidents, 1994 and 1995 [No. of persons &gt; than 3 days absence]</b>			
	<b>Work Sector</b>	<b>1994</b>	<b>1995</b>
1	Agriculture, forestry and fishing	2100	2200
2	Mining, quarrying and turf production	200	—
3	Manufacturing	3400	3800
4	Building and construction	1300	1500
5	Electricity, gas and water	200	200
6	Commerce, insurance and finance	1900	2000
7	Transport, communications and storage	1200	900
8	Public administration and defence	1000	1100
9	Other non-agricultural	2300	2500
	<b>SUB TOTAL ALL SECTORS*</b>	<b>13400</b>	<b>14500</b>
10	Unclassified by Sector*	1100	1500
	<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>14500</b>	<b>15900</b>

Notes:

Total due to rounding of figures or non-statement of specific category in some cases.

Unclassified includes persons who retired from work during the year, and persons who were unemployed when the survey was conducted.

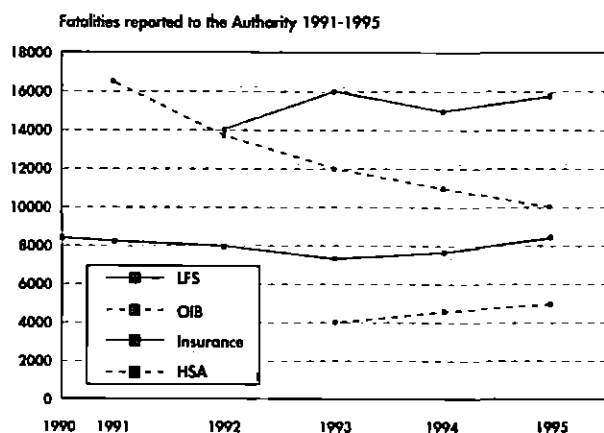
### [B] DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE – OCCUPATIONAL INJURY BENEFIT CLAIMS ALLOWED

1991	16384
1992	13095
1993	11700
1994	10344
1995	9981

**[C] IRISH INSURANCE FEDERATION – EMPLOYERS' LIABILITY INSURANCE CLAIMS ALLOWED**

1991	8800
1992	8200
1993	7400
1994	7500
1995	8300

**[D] COMPARISON OF ANNUAL ACCIDENT TOTALS FROM VARIOUS SOURCES**



**3. FATALITIES 1995 (1994 FIGURES GIVEN IN BRACKETS)**

**AGRICULTURE AND FORESTRY – TOTAL 28 (21)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Tractor – loss of control	5
Tractor – fall from, run over	4 (children)
Tractor – crushed by	5
Other farm machinery struck or crushed by	3
Entanglement PTO shaft, bailer	2
Animals (cows & horses)	4 (incl. 1 child)
Fall from height	2
Slurry fume	2 (children)
Gun	1

**FISHING – TOTAL 19 (1)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Boat capsized	8
Shipwreck	7
Man overboard	2
Struck by broken tackle	2

**MINING AND QUARRYING – TOTAL 0 (1)**

**MANUFACTURING – TOTAL 4 (4)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Crushed by vehicle	1
Delivering goods	1
Testing tank	1
Fall from height	1

**ELECTRICITY, GAS AND WATER SUPPLY – TOTAL 0 (1)**

**CONSTRUCTION – TOTAL 13 (11)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Fall from height	7
Crushed by masonry	2
Crushed by overturning crane	1
Struck by pipe	1
Electrocution	1
Immersed in caustic soda	1



**WHOLESALE AND RETAIL TRADE; REPAIR OF MOTOR VEHICLES, MOTORCYCLES; AND  
PERSONAL AND HOUSEHOLD GOODS -TOTAL 2 (2)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Tyre exploded	1
Crushed by reversing trailer	1

**TRANSPORT, STORAGE AND COMMUNICATION – TOTAL 9 (6)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Crushed under vehicle	3
Tug boat capsized	2
Vehicle out of control	1
Hit by train	1
Road traffic accident	1
Fall from height	1

**EDUCATION – TOTAL 1 (0)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Swept out to sea	1

**HEALTH AND SOCIAL WORK – TOTAL 1 (0)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Scalded by hot bath water	1

**OTHER COMMUNITY, SOCIAL AND RECREATIONAL ACTIVITIES – TOTAL 1 (2)**

Description	No. of Deaths
Electrocution	1

#### 4. OCCUPATIONAL DISEASES

During 1995 the basis of data collection was broadened to include sources other than the Department of Social Welfare, such as hospital pathologists, dermatologists, chest physicians, pesticide adverse reactions reports, National Poisons Centre, National Cancer Registry and the Department of Health. Under reporting of occupational diseases is still a problem. For example, the additional data available from the Surveillance of Work Related and Occupational Respiratory Disease (SWORD) system recorded 63 cases of occupational asthma compared to only nine reports from traditional sources. Data on occupational ill-health from the Labour Force Survey indicates a continuing improvement in health in Irish employments, from 6700 instances of persons absent from work for more than three days in 1993 to 5400 in 1994 and 4600 in 1995. However, even at these levels the extent of occupational ill-health remains considerable. The LFS returns indicate that the 4600 persons absent from work for more than three days due to occupational ill-health in 1995 accounted for 178800 work days lost and, in all, 185000 work days were lost due to occupational ill-health during the year.

##### I DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL WELFARE

The following is the data on occupational disease returns for 1994 and 1995 obtained mainly from the Department of Social Welfare here:

Disease	Cases Reported 1994	Cases Reported 1995
Occupational Dermatitis	44	63
Musculoskeletal	18	29
Occupational Asthma	9	9
Asbestos-related	6	7
Occupational Deafness	6	1
Pesticide	4	2
Coal- or Silica-related	4	3
Tuberculosis	3	1
Brucellosis	2	3
Other Lung Disease	2	0
Other	7	5
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>105</b>	<b>123</b>

## II SURVEILLANCE OF WORK RELATED AND OCCUPATIONAL RESPIRATORY DISEASE (SWORD)

This is a voluntary reporting system operating in Britain and which 17 chest physicians in Ireland joined in 1995.

The following cases of occupational lung disease were reported by the Irish participants in 1995:

Disease	Number
Asthma	63
Inhalation Accidents	8
Allergic Alveolitis	6
Infectious Disease	1
Non-Malignant Pleural Disease	14
Mesothelioma	4
Pneumoconiosis	2
Other	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>99</b>

Occupational asthma accounted for 64% of all respiratory diseases reported under the SWORD system. They included the following causative agents:

Colophony and Isocyanates (10 each); Grain / Flour (5); Chlorine/ Bleach (4); Cutting Oils, Paints, Welding and Wood Dust (3 each); Glutaraldehyde, Pig Bristles, Sulphuric Acid and Textile Dust (2 each).

### III LABOUR FORCE SURVEY

Occupational Ill-Health, 1994 and 1995 [No. of persons > than 3 days absence]

Work Sector	1994	1995
1 Agriculture, forestry and fishing	1000	800
2 Mining, quarrying and turf production	—	—
3 Manufacturing	900	800
4 Building and construction	200	200
5 Electricity, gas and water	—	—
6 Commerce, insurance and finance	500	500
7 Transport, communications and storage	300	300
8 Public administration and defence	300	—
9 Other non-agricultural	1200	1000
SUB TOTAL ALL SECTORS*	4700	4000
10 Unclassified by Sector	700	600
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>5400</b>	<b>4600</b>

Notes:

Total due to rounding of figures or non-statement of specific category in some cases.

Unclassified includes persons who retired from work during the year, and persons who were unemployed when the survey was conducted.

# APPENDIX 2 Inspections and Enforcements 1991–1995

SUMMARY (• data not available)

Activity	1991	1992	1993	1994	1995
Total Workplace visits	11054	10944	12379	10182	11085
Formal Inspections	7931	8837	9868	9856	10759
Advisory and other visits	3123	2107	2511	326	326
Complaint Investigations	427	355	522	750	756
Accident Investigations	•	314	349	322	358
Fatality Investigations	73	46	82	103	131

FORMAL INSPECTIONS 1993 – 1995

Nace	Activity	1993	1994	1995
A	Agriculture, Hunting & Forestry	1121	1012	1270
B	Fishing (Diving)	69	119	106
C	Mining & Quarrying	251	323	246
D	Manufacturing	3829	2413	2800
	<i>Major accident hazard premises</i>	242	372	268
	<i>Monitoring of hazardous substances</i>	152	106	101
E	Electricity, Gas and Water Supply	95	109	94
F	Construction	2004	2084	3084
G	Wholesale and Retail Trade	270	1569	901
H	Hotels and Restaurants	44	179	113
I	Transport, Storage and Communications			
	<i>Dangerous substance transport</i>	49	399	463
	<i>Petroleum stores and oil jetties</i>	151	234	147
		61	33	76
J	Financial Intermediation	•	90	72
K	Real Estate, Renting and Business Activities	•	119	112
L	Public Administration and Defence; Compulsory Social Security	•	210	256
M	Education	104	133	159
N	Health and Social Work	62	161	235
O	Other Community, Social and Personal Service Activities	•	191	238

### Monitoring of Chemical and Biological Agents

Activity/Chemical	No. of Premises	No. of Samples	Above OEL
Acetic Acid	1	4	
Acetone	6	81	
Arsenic (c)	3	5	
Asbestos (c)	8	30	
Butanol	1	8	
2-Butoxyacetate	1	2	
n-Butyl Acetate	3	60	3
Carbon Dioxide	1	22	
Carbon Monoxide	3	166	
Chlorine	2	8	
Cyclohexanone	3	16	
Dibutylethoxyethanolamine	1	4	
Diethylene Glycol	1	4	
Dimethyl Formamide	1	86	49
Ethanol	3	82	
2-Ethoxyethanol	1	8	
Ethyl Acetate	2	15	
Formaldehyde	15	59	5
Glutaraldehyde	4	20	
n-Hexane	1	5	
Hydrogen Sulphide	1	2	
Hydroquinone	1	4	
Isobutyl Methyl Ketone	2	7	
Isocyanates	1	6	
Isopropyl Acetate	1	9	
Isopropyl Alcohol	2	75	
Lead	16	65	21
Mercury	26	192	2
Methane	1	21	

\*O.E.L. = Occupational Exposure Limit

### Monitoring of Chemical and Biological Agents contd.

Methanol	2	8	
Methylene Chloride	2	14	4
Methyl Ethyl Ketone	5	36	
Methyl Methacrylate	1	7	
Nitrous Oxide	4	376	266
Perchloroethylene	1	1	
Ozone	2	7	
Platinum	1	4	
n-Propanol	1	98	
Respirable Dust	10	45	
Rubber Fume	5	23	6
Silica	7	4	5
Styrene	7	199	
Sulphuric Acid	1	5	
Trichloroethylene	1	5	
1,1,1-Trichloroethane	1	102	
Toluene	7	44	
Total Dust	23	118	
N-Vinyl Pyrrolidone	1	19	19
Xylene	7	304	
Total	201	2485	380

(c) = carcinogen

### ENFORCEMENT NOTICES SERVED IN 1995

#### Improvement Directions (Section 35, Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989)

Legislation to which Directions Relate	No. Served
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993	12
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989	8
European Communities (Protection of Workers)(Exposure to Noise) Regulations, 1990	6
Safety in Industry Acts, 1955 and 1980	2
Construction (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1975	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>29</b>

**IMPROVEMENT NOTICES (SECTION 36, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK ACT, 1989)**

<b>Legislation to which Notices Relate</b>	<b>No. Served</b>
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989	664
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993	447
Safety in Industry Acts, 1955 and 1980	205
European Communities (Protection of Workers) (Exposure to Noise) Regulations, 1990	45
Construction (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1975	35
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Biological Agents) Regulations, 1994	33
Factories (Wood Working Machinery) Regulations, 1972	31
Dangerous Substances (Storage of Liquefied Petroleum Gas) Regulations, 1990	11
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 1995	2
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations, 1994	2
European Communities (Major Accident Hazards of Certain Industrial Activities) Regulations, 1986 to 1992	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>1476</b>

**PROHIBITION NOTICES (SECTION 37, SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK ACT, 1989)**

<b>Legislation to which Notices Relate</b>	<b>No. Served</b>
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989	41
Construction (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1975	37
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993	35
Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations, 1995	17
Safety in Industry Acts, 1955 and 1980	12
Factories (Wood Working Machinery) Regulations, 1972	4
European Communities (Protection of Workers) (Exposure to Noise) Regulations, 1990	1
European Communities (Major Accident Hazards of Certain Industrial Activities) Regulations, 1986 to 1992	1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>148</b>



## PROSECUTIONS HEARD IN 1995

Year	Total Heard	Convictions	Dismissals	Probation of Offenders Act	Total Fines	Average Fine per case	Costs etc. Against Defendants	Costs etc. Against HSA
1993	30	26	2	2	£11,925	£459	£645	-
1994	37	29	5	3	£31,035	£1,070	£3,617	£500
1995	24	23	0	1	£13,440	£584	£4,440	.

Of the 24 cases heard in 1995 convictions or guilty pleas were obtained in 23 cases with the Probation of Offenders Act applied in the remaining case. While the average fine per case increased from £459 in 1993 to £1,070 in 1994, the average fine per case in 1995 again fell to £584. In 1995 fines of £1,000 or more were imposed in six cases compared to 14 cases in 1994. In a further case in 1995 an original fine of £1,000 was mitigated to £250.

Only one case in 1995 resulted in fines of £3,000 compared to six cases in 1994 in which fines of £2,000 or more were imposed.

In one case in which a conviction was obtained no fines were imposed on account of the remedial measures underway but leave to re-enter the case was granted.

The level of costs and witnesses' expenses awarded against defendants increased considerably in 1995 with a total of £4,440 awarded in 23 cases compared to £3,617 in 37 cases in 1994.

The Authority is concerned that the levels of fines which are generally imposed are often well below the maximum levels provided for in the legislation and as such can have little deterrent value in themselves. The Authority will continue to examine proposals for updating the levels of penalties under the legislation and will seek to encourage a greater application of the maximum penalties where possible.

The following is an outline of the 24 cases heard in 1995:

**1. Bowen Construction Limited**, Lee Road, Cork was fined a total of £350 on three counts under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and the Construction Regulations, 1975, with £50 costs imposed, at Bandon District Court on 19th May, 1995. The case followed the partial collapse of an unsupported excavation in which workers were trapped.

2. **Bowen Construction Limited**, was fined £500 with £150 costs and expenses imposed at Cork District Court on 25th September, 1995. The case, taken under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, and the General Application Regulations, 1993, resulted from an accident in which a worker was electrocuted through contact with overhead power lines.

3. **Daret Manufacturing BV**, Finisklin, Sligo was fined £100 on a plea of guilty at Sligo District Court on 19th May, 1995. The case followed an accident to an employee who caught his left hand and arm between the moulds of a 23 ton Battenfeld injection moulding machine and received severe bruising.

4. **P Henshaw Limited**, Dock Road, Limerick was fined £500 with £250 costs imposed at Limerick District Court on 26th April, 1995 in a case taken following an accident in which a worker had part of his thumb amputated while working at a meat bandsaw.

5. **D Higginbotham Limited**, Coolock, Dublin was convicted on all counts at Dublin District Court on 3rd and 9th February, 1995 in a case relating to breaches of the Woodworking Machinery Regulations and poor welfare facilities. No fines were imposed because of the amount of progress which had been made in rectifying the deficiencies at the factory. However, leave was given to the Authority to re-enter the summonses with one weeks notice to the Court and to the Company.

6. **Hilton Products Limited**, Lucan, Co Dublin was fined a total of £300 with £167 expenses and £484 costs imposed at Trim District Court on 3rd February, 1995 for breaches of the Dangerous Substances legislation. The case related to an insecure load, non display of kemler plates, absence of amber lights and a wheel scotch which were detected at a road check in 1994.

7. **Iarnrod Eireann** was fined a total of £400 at Dublin District Court on 23rd June, 1995. The case arose following an accident to an employee who sustained multiple fractures of arms, hand and ribs following a fall from a height of approximately 21 feet during roof repair work.

8. **Kearney Fabrication and Contracts Limited**, was fined £500 with £400 expenses at Thomastown District Court on 6th November, 1995 having pleaded guilty to charges under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989. The case resulted from an accident in 1994 in which a worker was killed when he fell from a height of about six metres while erecting a washing plant at a sandpit.

**9. Kellys Concrete Limited**, Fantane, Borrisoleigh, Co Tipperary, was fined £200 with £635 costs and expenses imposed on a plea of guilty at Thurles District Court on 21st July, 1995 to breach of Section 7 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989. The case resulted from a fatal accident in which a civil engineer was run over by a reversing truck.

**10. Mallen Brothers Limited**, Williamstown, Carbury, Co Kildare was fined £1,000 mitigated to £250 with £484 costs and £155.42 expenses imposed at Trim District Court on 23rd June, 1995 for breaches of the Conveyance of Dangerous Substances by Road Regulations.

**11. Patrick McHale**, Agricultural Contractor, Ballina, Co Mayo, was fined £500 on a guilty plea (with three months to pay and in default of payment 15 days imprisonment) at Ballycasle District Court on 26th July, 1995 for breach of Section 6 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989. The case resulted from a fatal accident in which an employee came in contact with machinery and was thrown into a slurry pit.

**12. Nacanco Netherlands BV**, IDA Industrial Estate, Waterford, was fined a total of £400 at Waterford District Court on 10th March, 1995. The case followed a fire and explosion at a gas installation on the premises in which a worker who was filling a gas cylinder on a truck suffered burns to his hand. The company pleaded guilty to the absence of a safe system of work and the lack of information, instruction or training.

**13. North Connaught Farmers Co-Operative Society Limited**, was fined a total £400 with £50 witnesses expenses imposed at Ballinrobe District Court on 2nd May, 1995. The charges related to not conducting the undertaking so as to ensure that non-employees were not affected thereby, failing to ensure that a slurry pumping chamber was maintained in a safe manner, lack of safe means of access to and egress from the premises, unsafe place of work and an inadequate Safety Statement which did not identify the specific hazards which were the cause of an accident.

**14. J J Rathigan & Company Limited**, was fined £500 at Limerick District Court on 15th October, 1995 under the Construction Regulations, 1975. The case resulted from an accident in 1994 when a worker who was helping to build a wall died following a fall from a height of about 12 metres.

15. **Richmond Transport Limited**, Raystown, Co Meath was fined a total of £250 at Dunshaughlin District Court on 17th January, 1995 for deficiencies in the Safety Statement. The case arose following an accident on the premises in 1994 in which an office worker was killed by an articulated truck while crossing the yard.

16. **John Ronan & Sons** was fined £1,000 with £240 costs and expenses imposed at Killenale District Court on 9th November, 1995 under the Safety Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989. The case resulted from a serious accident in 1994 in which a worker lost his two hands when they were caught in a fleshing machine.

17. **Roscrea Bacon Company Limited**, Roscrea, Co Tipperary was fined £1,000 at Roscrea District Court on 23rd March, 1995 as a result of an accident in which a worker had a hand amputated at a conveyor.

18. **John F Supple Limited**, Bishopstown, Cork, was fined a total of £120 with £900 costs imposed at Cork District Court on 27th March, 1995 having pleaded guilty to six charges. The case arose following site inspections where Prohibition Notices had been issued concerning unguarded floor edges and an unsafe working platform.

19. The Probation of Offenders Act was applied to **Syntex Ireland Limited**, at Ennis District Court on 11th September, 1995 in respect of a case taken under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, which resulted from an accident in which an employee suffered chemical burns. £266 expenses were awarded against the Company.

20. **Tara Mines Limited** was fined £1,000 at Navan District Court on 5th May, 1995 for breaches of Section 6 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989. The case arose as a result of an accident in which an underground roof collapsed trapping some workers, one of whom suffered a broken neck. The injured person was saved due to the skill of a trained first-aider who was at the spot.

21. **Tiernan Gill**, Ballina, Co. Mayo, was fined £120 with £150 costs and £58.53 expenses imposed at Ballina District Court on 23rd May, 1995 for breaches of the Conveyance of Dangerous Substances by Road Regulations.

22. **Matthew Wallace Limited**, was fined a total of £1,800 at Dublin District Court on 19th June, 1995 for breaches of Sections 6 and 8 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 and Regulation 138 of the Construction Regulations, 1975. The case resulted from the collapse of a wall on a building site in which workers were seriously injured.

**23. Zoe Developments Limited**, Mount Merrion, Co Dublin, was fined £2000 at Dublin District Court on 11th September, 1995 under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, and the Construction Regulations, 1975. The case resulted from an accident in which a worker was seriously injured when a foundation collapsed.

**24. Zoe Developments Limited** was fined a total of £1,250 at Dublin District Court on 17th February, 1995 having pleaded guilty to five charges including failure to provide a guard rail, failure to adequately secure a load of blocks while being transported to a height and failure to bring the terms of the Safety Statement to the attention of the injured worker. The case followed an accident to an employee who in 1994 suffered serious injury in falling over the unprotected edge of the third floor of a building under construction.

## APPENDIX 3 New Legislation and Legislation Pending

### NEW REGULATIONS MADE DURING 1995

#### (I) SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK (SIGNS) REGULATIONS, 1995 (S.I. NO. 132 OF 1995)

*CAME INTO EFFECT: 1ST JUNE, 1995*

These Regulations implement Council Directive 92/58/EEC on the minimum requirements for the provision of safety and/or health signs at work.

In contrast with the European Communities (Safety Signs at Places of Work) Regulations, 1980 (which are now revoked and which only required that if and when safety signs were used at work they should conform to specified standards) these Regulations require employers to use a safety sign wherever there is a risk that cannot be adequately controlled by other means.

The provisions of the Regulations extend to all places and they relate to signs referring to a specific object, activity or situation which provide information or instructions about safety and/or health at work by means of a signboard, a colour, an illuminated sign, an acoustic signal, a verbal communication or a hand signal.

#### (II) SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK (CONSTRUCTION) REGULATIONS, 1995 (S.I. NO. 138 OF 1995)

*CAME INTO EFFECT: 6TH JUNE, 1995*

These Regulations implement Council Directive 92/57/EEC on the minimum safety and health requirements at temporary or mobile construction sites.

They revoke the Construction (Safety, Health and Welfare) Regulations, 1975 but update and re-enact many of the specific requirements of those Regulations.

The Regulations apply to all construction projects as well as to the maintenance of buildings. They place obligations on clients and designers to ensure that health and safety is taken into account before any construction work begins. Contractors must ensure that the work on site is properly co-ordinated and carried out in a safe manner.

The Regulations prescribe the main requirements for the protection of the safety, health and welfare of persons working on construction sites.

(III) EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES (CLASSIFICATION, PACKAGING AND LABELLING OF DANGEROUS PREPARATIONS) REGULATIONS, 1995 (S.I. NO. 272 OF 1995)

*CAME INTO EFFECT: 16TH OCTOBER, 1995*

These Regulations implement Council Directive 88/379/EEC on the classification, packaging and labelling of dangerous preparations placed on the market of the E.U. They apply to all dangerous preparations with exceptions for certain categories of preparations such as pesticides, cosmetics etc. which are covered by other Council Directives. Certain preparations which would not be classified as dangerous by the Directive and these Regulations are nevertheless subject to specific labelling requirements if the particular preparations are listed in Annex II of the Directive. These Regulations also implement Commission Directives which adapt to technical progress the Annexes to, or which expand some of the provisions of, Directive 88/379/EEC as follows:

- Commission Directive 89/178/EEC, 90/492/EEC and 93/18/EEC which adapt to technical progress Annexes I and II;
- Commission Directives 90/35/EEC and 91/442/EEC which define the categories of preparations requiring child-resistant fastenings and tactile warnings of danger; and
- Commission Directives 91/155/EEC and 93/112/EEC which contain the format for safety data sheets.

They also give effect to those parts of Council Directive 92/32/EEC and Commission Directive 93/21/EEC which are relevant for dangerous preparations.

(IV) SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK ACT, 1989 (REPEALS AND REVOCATIONS) ORDER, 1995 (S.I. NO. 357 OF 1995)

*CAME INTO EFFECT: 21ST DECEMBER, 1995*

The purpose of this Order is to activate the repeal or revocation of certain provisions of the existing enactments, as provided for in sections 1(2) and 4(3) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989 (No. 7 of 1989), so as to avoid overlapping or duplication between those provisions and provisions of the Act or of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 44 of 1993) and to repeal or revoke other provisions of the existing enactments which are obsolete.

The Order repealed:

- the Office Premises Act, 1958, in full;
- 46 sections in full and seven sections partially of the Factories Act, 1955;
- 13 sections in full and two sections partially of the Safety in Industry Act, 1980;
- eight sections in full and four sections partially of the Mines and Quarries Act, 1965;
- one section of the Dangerous Substances Act, 1972;
- one section of the Safety, Health and Welfare (Offshore Installations) Act, 1987.

The Order also revoked 55 sets of Regulations in full and partially revoked 12 sets of Regulations. 46 of the Regulations concerned were made under the Factories Act, 1955; seven were made under the Office Premises Act, 1958; and, in all, 40 sets of the Regulations involved predated 1975.

The Authority has published an Index of the Relevant Statutory Provisions (as at 31st December 1995) relating to occupational safety and health which shows:

- Part A: Acts;
- Part B: Extent to which the Acts are in force (section by section guide including references to relevant amendments);
- Part C: Orders and Regulations in force under the Acts;
- Part D: Codes of Practice;
- Part E: Certificates of Exemption/Exception/Suspension;
- Part F: Statutory Forms, Posters, Registers, Records, Approvals;
- Part G: Associated Statutory Provisions.

The Index is available free of charge from the Authority.

(V) SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK (MISCELLANEOUS WELFARE PROVISIONS) REGULATIONS, 1995 (S.I. No. 358 OF 1995)  
*CAME INTO EFFECT: 21ST DECEMBER, 1995*

The purpose of the Regulations is to provide for certain welfare provisions at places of work to complement the welfare provisions set out in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations, 1993 (S.I. No. 44 of 1993) and to replace requirements under Sections 10, 52 and 55 of the Factories Act, 1955 (No. 10 of 1955), Sections 8, 19 and 21 of the Office Premises Act, 1958 (No. 9 of 1980) which have been repealed.



The Regulations set out the duties of employers in relation to cleanliness of workplaces, supply of drinking water and facilities for taking meals. The Regulations also require that employers provide suitable seating facilities for employees and ensure that employees have reasonable opportunities for sitting where this is without detriment to the work or where a substantial proportion of the work can properly be done sitting.

For the purposes of these Regulations "place of work" means a place of work intended to house workstations but does not include:

- (a) means of transport used outside the undertaking or a place of work inside a means of transport;
- (b) construction sites;
- (c) extractive industries;
- (d) fishing boats;
- (e) fields, woods and land forming part of an agricultural or forestry undertaking but situated away from the undertaking's buildings.

#### PROPOSALS FOR REGULATIONS DEVELOPED DURING 1995

Work was advanced during the year on the development of proposals for Regulations on:

- the import and export of certain dangerous chemicals (to complement similar Regulations on pesticides made by the Minister for Agriculture);
- updating and replacing the Dangerous Substances Act, 1972 (Part IV Declaration Order), 1986.

#### LEGISLATION PENDING

Directives due for implementation at the end of the year and for which proposals for Regulations were being developed:

- Council Directive 92/29/EEC, on minimum safety and health requirements for improved medical treatment on board vessels (*implementation date: 31st December 1994 – transposition in conjunction with the Department of the Marine*);
- Council Directive 92/91/EEC, on minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in the mineral extracting industries through drilling. (*implementation date: 3rd November 1994*);
- Council Directive 92/104/EEC, on the minimum requirements for improving the safety and health protection of workers in surface and underground mineral extracting industries (*implementation date: 3rd December 1994*).

# APPENDIX 4 Advisory Committees

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON CONSTRUCTION SAFETY

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To identify and prioritise the principal safety and health problems in the sector;
- To advise on the measures and initiatives best designed to secure a reduction in the level of occupational accidents and ill-health in the sector;
- To advise on the measures necessary to secure a greater awareness of health and safety legislation and standards in the sector;
- To advise on management activities in relation to safety and health on site;
- To advise on the practices for safety consultation/safety representatives and on the practical application of the Safety Statement requirements of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, in the sector;
- To advise on the implications of the EU Directive on temporary and mobile worksites;
- To report to the Board of the Health and Safety Authority.

### MEMBERSHIP

Mr Pat Walsh (Chairman)	<i>HSA Board Member</i>
Mr Tom O'Keeffe	<i>Irishenco (CIF)</i>
Mr Enda Ryder	<i>CJ Ryder Lawlor Ltd (CIF)</i>
Mr Peter McCabe	<i>CIF</i>
Mr Noel O'Neill	<i>UCATT (ICTU)</i>
Mr Michael Brennan	<i>EETPU (ICTU)</i>
Mr Eric Fleming	<i>SIPTU (ICTU)</i>
Mr Tom Gorman	<i>Wicklow County Council (IEI)</i>
Mr Patrick Kavanagh	<i>VMRA (ACEI)</i>
Mr Michael Collins	<i>RIAI</i>
Mr A P Smith	<i>SCSRI</i>
Mr Tom Sheridan	<i>Department of the Environment</i>
Mr William Wall	<i>Offaly County Council (CCEA)</i>
Mr Joseph Bernie	<i>College of Technology, Bolton Street</i>
Mr Tony Doherty	<i>ETC</i>
Mr Paul Dwyer	<i>Insurance Corporation of Ireland (IIF)</i>
Mr Robert G Byrne	<i>FAS</i>
Mr Dan Healy	<i>HSA Inspector</i>
Mr Sean Hyde	<i>HSA Inspector</i>
Secretary – Mr John Moran	<i>HSA</i>

The Advisory Committee completed its work on the examination of the Authority's proposals for draft Regulations to implement the EU Directive on temporary or mobile construction sites (92/57/EEC) and its Report to the Board of the Authority was published on 6th June, 1995.

- The Committee was reconstituted during the year as
- (i) a Construction Safety Task Force to develop a programme to improve accident prevention in the sector; and
  - (ii) as a Working Group to assist on the development of Guidelines on the Construction Safety Regulations, 1995.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON DANGEROUS SUBSTANCES

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To advise the Health and Safety Authority on the development of legislative proposals on draft EU instruments relating to dangerous substances, which may be referred to it by the Authority for advice;
- To advise the Health and Safety Authority on any other matters relating to dangerous substances upon which the Authority may ask it for an opinion;
- To advise on the potential for co-operation between the Health and Safety Authority, government departments, State agencies and representative sectoral bodies, in raising awareness regarding the safe handling and use of dangerous substances;
- To report to the Board of the Health and Safety Authority from time to time.

### MEMBERSHIP

Mr Frank O'Meara (Chairman)	<i>Director of European Projects, Merck Sharp and Dohme (and HSA Board Member to December, 1995)</i>
Mr Michael O'Hart	<i>HSA Inspector</i>
Dr Brian Dunleavy	<i>Dundalk RTC (NISO)</i>
Mr Brian Leech	<i>Department of the Environment</i>
Mr Robin Mulligan	<i>Irish Road Haulage Association</i>
Ms Ingrid Hook	<i>Consumers Association of Ireland</i>
Mr Frank Cunneen	<i>Zeneca Ireland Ltd. (IBEC)</i>
Mr Douglas Burns	<i>EOLAS (NSAI)</i>
Dr Clive Cathcart	<i>IPCMF</i>
Dr Patrick Flanagan	<i>EPA</i>
Mr Jack O'Sullivan	<i>An Taisce</i>
Mr Philip Chambers	<i>TCD (RIA)</i>
Mr Frank Barry	<i>EOLAS (ICTU)</i>
Mr Kieran Reid	<i>Calor Gas (ILPGA)</i>
Mr Patrick Lynch	<i>IPIA</i>
Mr Michael O'Brien	<i>Department of Transport, Energy and Communications</i>
Mr Pdraig O'Conaill	<i>Department of Enterprise and Employment</i>
One vacancy	<i>(ICTU)</i>
Ms Blaithin Tarpey – Secretary	<i>HSA Inspector</i>

The Advisory Committee reported regularly to the Authority during the year on the development of proposals for new Regulations and on other matters relating to the handling, use etc of dangerous substances and preparations.

## ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON SAFETY AND HEALTH AT FIRST AND SECOND LEVELS IN THE EDUCATION SECTOR

### TERMS OF REFERENCE

- To prioritise and advise on the principal occupational safety and health problems, particularly as regards persons employed in the sector, while also taking account of the implications as regards non-employees in the sector who may be affected by work activities;
- To assess and advise on a balanced approach to promoting occupational safety and health in the sector, having regard to information, training, advisory and enforcement possibilities;
- To advise on the development of appropriate guidance material on occupational safety and health in the sector and in relation to particular identified problems ;
- To advise on how safety and health promotion and awareness creation can be advanced through the education system;
- To advise on the potential for co-operation and support between the Health and Safety Authority, government departments, State agencies, representative sectoral bodies and other interests in raising health and safety awareness within the sector;
- To report to the Board of the Health and Safety Authority.

### MEMBERSHIP

Ms Catherine Reid ( <i>Chairperson</i> )	Moyne Community School (and HSA Board Member to December, 1995)
Sr Eileen Randles	CPSMA (IBEC)
Mr Kevin Browne	IMPACT (ICTU)
Mr Peter McManamin*	TUI (ICTU)
Ms Sally Sheils	INTO (ICTU)
Mr Pat King	ASTI (ICTU)
Bríd Bean Uí Riordáin	Department of Education
Mr John Keating	Department of Education
Mr Owen Metcalfe	Department of Health
Fr Nicholas Flavin*	Joint Managerial Body
Rev Norman E Gamble	Church of Ireland Board of Education
Sr Mary Collins	Catholic Primary School Managers' Association
Mr Desmond Broderick	St Patrick's College, Drumcondra (Teacher Training Colleges)
Ms Breda Naughton	National Council for Curriculum and Assessment

Mr Oliver Duggan	National Council for Vocational Awards
Ms Sarah Gormley*	National Parents' Council
Mr Patrick Gilmore	Dunmore Community School (Association of Community and Comprehensive Schools)
Mr Gerry Kinsella	National Rehabilitation Board
Mr Dick Smith*	Church and General Insurance Co Ltd (Irish Insurance Federation)
Mr Alan Connolly	Irish Public Bodies Mutual Insurances Ltd (Irish Insurance Federation)
Mr Seamus Reynolds	Irish Vocational Education Association
Mr Malachi Lawless	Educate Together
Dr P J Claffey	Deputy Chief Inspector HSA
Mr Conn Harrington	HSA Inspector
Secretary – Ms Eileen Tully	HSA Inspector

\*Ms Gormley replaced Ms Olwyn Puirseil and Fr Flavin replaced Sr Carmel O'Shea during the Committees existence. Ms Rose Malone alternated with Mr McMenamin for a number of Sub-Committee meetings. Mr Brian Coen (Church and General Insurance) alternated with Mr Smith for a number of meetings.

The Advisory Committee's Report to the Authority was published on 6th December, 1995 at Newpark Comprehensive School, Blackrock, Co Dublin in the presence of Ms Eithne Fitzgerald, TD, Minister for Labour Affairs and Ms Niamh Bhreathnach, TD, Minister for Education.

## APPENDIX 5 Research

### (I) PILOT STUDY INTO COSTS OF ACCIDENTS

The Authority commissioned Dublin City University to carry out a pilot study into the actual costs of accidents in the workplace, i.e. to identify the main quantifiable costs of an accident. It identified:

#### (A) DIRECT COSTS

including hospital and medical fees, remedial work etc., as costs which would invariably be counted by companies and part of which would be refundable from insurance; and

#### (B) HIDDEN COSTS

including time lost by management and employees dealing with the accident, replacement costs etc. These costs are rarely counted and very rarely refundable from insurance.

The Authority intends to follow up the pilot study with a major survey on actual costs of accidents and to publish sectoral guidance on factors to consider when measuring costs.

### (II) OCCUPATIONAL ACCIDENT DATA AND THE EHLASS SURVEY

The European Home and Leisure Accident Statistical Survey (EHLASS) is based on the collection of data by hospital casualty departments at certain hospitals throughout the European Union. Data is collected in relation to accidents in the home and accidents sustained in the course of recreational activities. Two major areas are not covered, road traffic accidents and occupational accidents. In mid 1994 a survey was initiated at Mayo General Hospital, Castlebar, one of the two Irish hospitals then participating in EHLASS, to establish whether the gathering of occupational accident data by hospital casualty departments was a viable way of supplementing data gathered by direct reporting. The survey continued throughout 1995 and concluded at the end of that year.

A serious level of under reporting of accidents legally notifiable to the Authority was identified, with a reporting rate of at best 25% being indicated. This confirms indications from the Labour Force Survey that at most only about 35% of notifiable accidents were being reported. The problem is particularly acute in sectors such as Agriculture, Construction and the Retail Trade.

The data collected by the survey proved interesting and indicated that hospital casualty departments are a useful source of statistics on occupational accidents although some changes in methodology would be required for any future survey.

### (III) EUROPEAN TELEMATICS PROJECT

In 1995 a consortium, led by the Authority, with partners in Ireland, Greece, Spain and the Netherlands, won a European Union contract to develop a system to provide occupational health and safety information by electronic means. The system will use the Internet to provide an easily accessible "one stop shop" for health and safety information.

The project will continue until mid 1998 with increasing amounts of information becoming available from the beginning of 1997.

## APPENDIX 6 Health and Safety Authority Staff (31st December, 1995)

<i>Director General</i>	T Walsh
<i>Assistant Director General</i>	B Neville
<i>Director, Operations (Chief Inspector)</i>	M Henry
<i>Director, Specialist Services</i>	I Pratt
<i>Director, Legislative and Corporate Affairs</i>	P Donnellan
<i>Director, Development</i>	S Wood
<i>Director, Occupational Medical Services</i>	D Murphy
<i>Occupational Medical Adviser</i>	T Donnelly
<i>Deputy Chief Inspector</i>	P J Claffey
<i>Inspectors Grade I</i>	J D'Art
	P Furey
	J P Goulding
	C Harrington
	J Heffernan
	D Mulryan
	V McGauran
	R Phelan
	V Wall
<i>Inspectors Grade II</i>	P Begley
	J Colreavy
	D Dineen
	N Flavin
	M Flynn
	P Griffin
	M Harkin
	D Healy
	G Holmes
	J Hyde
	F Kellaghan
	F Mahon
	P J Murphy
	A McTiernan
	S Lynch
	R O'Brien
	P O'Connell
	S. O'Duibhir
	P O'Halloran
	M O'Hart
	P F O'Mahony
	P O'Shea
<i>Assistant Principal Officers</i>	C Body (Secretary to the Board)
	R Walsh



*Inspectors Grade III*

T Browne  
F DeBarra  
M Bryan  
E Egan  
J Fanning  
S Fleming  
P Foran  
J. Harrington  
J. Holmes  
M Lowe  
M Kelly  
J Kennedy  
G Mattimoe  
F Mitchell  
W Murphy  
M McCarthy  
R McEneany  
M O'Dea  
T O'Donnell  
T O'Sullivan  
R Roe  
M Rowlands  
K Sludds  
B Tarpey  
E Tully  
M Walsh  
One Vacancy

*Higher Executive Officers*

A Allen  
J Moran  
B Rutledge  
A Smith

*Librarian*

V Robinson

*Executive Officers*

A M Connellan  
C Fitzgerald  
J Hannigan  
M Manning  
E O' Reilly (Job Sharing)  
M Ralph (Job Sharing)  
C Barry (Job Sharing)  
N Kavanagh  
H Maguire  
M O'Reilly  
A Ryan (Job Sharing)  
J Ryan  
P Truscott  
E Walsh

*Clerical Officers*

*Clerical Assistants*

O Cahalan  
A Carson  
H Forde  
B Guihen  
M Kavanagh  
J Kelly  
C Kenny  
S Lyons  
D McDonnell  
C O'Reilly  
C O'Shea  
E Robinson  
Two Vacancies  
P O'Leary  
J Douglas  
G Griffin  
R Walsh

*Paperkeeper*

*Services Officers*

*Services Attendant*

## APPENDIX 7 Publication Checklist

REFERENCE	TITLE	PRICE
<i>(* Where no price is given the publication is available free of charge)</i>		
G (1)	Guidelines on Safety Statements	
G (2)	Guidelines on Safety Consultation & Safety Representatives	
G (3)	Guidelines to the Noise Regulations	
G (4)	Guidelines on Safe Use of Guards for Mechanical Power Presses	
G (5)	Guide to Conveyance of Dangerous Substances by Road	
G (6)	Short Guide to Health and Safety Law	£1.00
G (7)	Safe to Work	£1.50
G (8)	Guide to the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act, 1989, and (General Application) Regulations 1993	£10.00
G (9)	Preventing Workplace Cancers (Carcinogens Regulations Guidelines)	£2.00
G (11)	Handle with Care – Safe Manual Handling	
G (12)	Guidance on Training in the Manual Handling of Loads	
G (13)	Medical Guidance Notes on Occupational Asthma	
G (15)	Guidelines on Health and Safety of Office Workers	£2.00
G (16)	Working in Confined Spaces	
G (17)	List of Occupational Safety and Health Legislation (Index to the Relevant Statutory Provisions)	
A (1)	Stay Safe on Site	£1.00
A (2)	Guidance Notes on Prevention of Dermatitis	
A (3)	Obligatory Safety Signs	£1.00
A (4)	Don't Just Talk About It	
A (5)	At Work, At Home You Use Chemicals	
A (6)	Violence At Work In The Health Services Sector	
A (7)	Violence at Work	
A (12)	Occupational Asthma – An Employer's Guide	
F (1)	Is Your Work Making You Deaf	
F (2)	Mouldy Feed is Dangerous	
F (3)	Workplace Stress	
F (4)	Safe Installation of Propane Gas Cylinders	
F (5)	Farm Safety	
F (6)	Preventing Accidents to Children on Farms	
F (7)	The HSA and Your Workplace	
F (8)	Who Cares for the Carers	
F (9)	Storage of Liquified Petroleum Gas	
F (10)	Preventing Workplace Cancers (Carcinogens)	
F (11)	Use Chemicals Safely	
F (12)	Health and Safety at Work when Pregnant	

REFERENCE	TITLE	PRICE
<b>F (13)</b>	Occupational Asthma – an Employee's Guide	
<b>F (16)</b>	Build in Safety – A short guide to good practice and legislation	
<b>R (1)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety & Health Training	£2.00
<b>R (2)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on Agriculture & Forestry Sectors	£2.00
<b>R (3)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on the Health Services Sector	£2.00
<b>R (4)</b>	Annual Report (1994)	£5.00
<b>R (5)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety	£2.50
<b>R (6)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on the Defence Forces	£2.00
<b>R (8)</b>	Report of the Advisory Committee on the Education Sector	£2.00
<b>I.H.</b>	Guidelines on Hearing Checks & Audiometry	
<b>I.H.</b>	A Short Guide to the Act	
<b>I.H.</b>	Farm Safety Statement (Teagasc)	
<b>I. H.</b>	Agricultural Health and Safety Sheets (1-5)	
<b>M (1)</b>	Newsletter	
<b>M (2)</b>	Accident Report Form IR1	
<b>M (3)</b>	Dangerous Occurrences Report Form IR3	
<b>M (4)</b>	Farm Information Pack – contains:- Preventing Accidents to Children on Farms Mouldy Feed is Dangerous Farm Safety Farm Safety Statement Agriculture Health & Safety Sheets 1-5 Farm Safety for Kids (poster) Farm Safety Handbook	
<b>M (5)</b>	Safe to Work Pack – contains:- Safe to Work A Short Guide to Health & Safety Law HSA and your Workplace	
<b>M (6)</b>	Health Services Pack – contains:- Violence at Work in the Health Services Sector Workplace Stress Who Cares for the Carers	
<b>M (7)</b>	Safety Management Book Mark	
<b>P (1)</b>	Farm Safety for Kids Poster	
<b>P (2)</b>	Violence at Work Poster	
<b>P (3)</b>	Parrot Poster	
<b>P (4)</b>	Build in Safety Poster	
<b>P (8)</b>	Safety Management Poster The Safety Statement – Video Pack Safety Consultation & Safety Representative – Video	£95.00
	Manual Handling in the Construction Industry – Training Pack	£50.00



