

EDITOR'S COMMENT

In this issue of 'Health & Safety Times', Dr Majella Cosgrove, manager of the HSA's Chemicals Helpdesk, advises companies to be aware of their obligations and next year's deadlines set down within the EU REACH Regulations.

The Helpdesk is now offering advice on requirements to meet EU REACH Regulation deadlines by 31 May 2013. REACH (Registration, Evaluation, Authorisation and Restriction of Chemicals) is an EU Regulation that aims to improve the protection of human health and the environment from risks that can be posed by chemicals, while enhancing competitiveness of the EU chemicals industry.

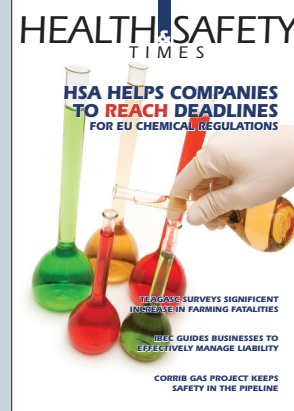
Missing such deadlines could have a major impact on the running of a business; companies may find themselves unable to market their products or source vital chemicals, she warns.

Meanwhile, across the broad spectrum of businesses in Ireland, IBEC recently issued a new guide that aims to help companies and organisations to manage their safety liability more effectively. IBEC's 'Essential Guide to Managing Liability' points out the key factors affecting liability and the precautions that should be taken to reduce exposure to claims.

The guide was produced in conjunction with occupational safety and health consultant Tony Briscoe. He was head of health and safety with IBEC for more than 22 years, where he was responsible for setting up and developing the service which provides expert support to IBEC members.

On a final note, with NISO's 2012 conference taking place in Sligo on 5 October, we check out high profile contractors, based in the north-west, where safety and health is top of the agenda.

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The Health and Safety Authority's Chemicals Helpdesk is offering advice on obligations and registration requirements to Irish companies producing, importing or using chemicals who may be affected by important deadlines imposed by EU Regulations next year.



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Farm injuries increased by 35 per cent during 2011, according to the latest in a series of surveys conducted at five-yearly intervals since 1991 by Teagasc.



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With the finishing line in sight on the Corrib Gas Project, health and safety manager Claudia van den Berg says now is the time to ensure the focus is on safety and on leaving a positive legacy that is stronger than ever.



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Sligo-based firm Kilcawley Construction continues to build its reputation within the industry and has won a number of contracts in recent months. Managing director Brendan Henry puts it down to staff members who are fully committed to the company's philosophy of excellence in construction.



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Making a bold but insightful move at the height of the property boom, Sean Keane of Artec Construction decided to shift both the location and focus of his company from east to west to work on the Corrib Gas Project.



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There is a tendency to accept that workplace incidents and injuries can never be stopped. However, SISK Group has adopted the zero culture to promote the thinking that arriving at work with the possibility of being injured is unacceptable and preventable.