

EDITOR'S COMMENT

As 2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the National Irish Safety Organisation, the voluntary organisation has been to the forefront of many developments in health and safety across all workplace sectors in Ireland over the last five decades.

The Factories Act 1955 was only one of a few pieces of safety legislation yet enforcement was not a priority for most businesses. It was more of a moral feeling than prescriptive legislation in place at the time.

NISO's establishment was 26 years ahead of the first piece of major legislation in this country – the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 – and laid the groundwork for safer conditions for Ireland's workforce. It continues that work today with the social partners such as the Health and Safety Authority, the Construction Industry Federation, Teagasc, and trade unions such as SIPTU and ICTU.

When the 1989 Act was passed by Bertie Ahern, who was Minister for Labour Affairs at the time, NISO's profile was given a great level of exposure.

To this day, the ethos of this voluntary organisation remains the same. Its membership is broad and varied, and ranges from employees on the shop floor to corporate members from the small, medium to large companies. With no vested interest, it continues to make representations and sends submissions to the Government on health and safety issues.

Ireland has come a long way over the last 50 years in improving workplace health and safety legislation, due in no small part to NISO. Here's to the next 50 years of impartial representation for Ireland's workforce.

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Dr Majella Cosgrave, manager of HSA's Chemicals Helpdesk, is advising Irish companies to act now or face possible disruption of supply from 2013, under the EU REACH Regulation.



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As NISO celebrates its 50th anniversary, the national not-for-profit organisation has been working tirelessly to promote best practice in workplace health and safety since it was set up in 1963.



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MSD Brinny was the Supreme Award winner at the 21st Annual NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards.



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Ray Walker, winner of the NISO/NISG Safety Representative of the Year Award 2012, outlines why safety is taken so seriously at Bristol-Myers Squibb.



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Nifast provides practical information for both employers and employees on how to handle adverse weather conditions for the coming months.



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This is the second year running that Jones Engineering Group won the Construction Building Services accolade at the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2012.



45 SISK GROUP

A 'People-Based Safety' concept is an innovative addition to a new programme by SISK Group, in a bid to change the mindset on workplace safety.



47 CHRIS MEE GROUP

Tom Beegan, former CEO of the HSA who recently joined the Board of the Chris Mee Group after his return from Canada, says invaluable lessons can be learned from Canada, where operational health and safety policy is fundamentally different.



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ComReg's Public Sector Category award at the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2012 highlights its dedication to ensuring a safe environment for its workforce.

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As it celebrates 20 years in business in 2013, Heartbeat Safety is now developing further programmes in emergency care and health and safety and is working with the new Quality & Qualifications Ireland (QQI), which replaces FETAC, HETAC, IUQB and the NQAI.



57 ALLSAFE IRELAND

Benefitting from the growth of wind farming in Ireland, AllSafe is now focussing around 40 per cent of its business in the renewable energy sector.



59 BAM CONTRACTORS

BAM Contractors, Ireland's largest public works construction company, was rewarded once again at the NISO/NISG All Ireland Occupational Safety Awards 2012.



60 NORTHERN IRELAND FARM SAFETY

More than 1,000 farm visits will take place up to the end of March 2013, as part of a major farm safety campaign by the Health Service Executive Northern Ireland.



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'Champions for Safety', a new joint initiative by the HSA and Teagasc, has seen agriculture students taking the lead when it comes to farm safety.



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