

NEW HSA STRATEGY RENEWS SAFETY GOALS

The Strategy Statement for 2022-2024 sets out the Health and Safety Authority's continued goals to promote, regulate and influence the culture of workplace health and safety. These include emerging from the COVID-19 public health pandemic, dealing with the continued fallout from the UK's exit from the EU and addressing new ways of working.



focus on climate action and chemicals sustainability, bringing benefits to occupational safety and health.

“We will also remain committed to offering enterprises, employers and employees a range of tools and supports to enable them to meet their statutory obligations and ensuring they keep themselves and their workplaces safe.”

COLLABORATION AND CONSULTATION

The HSA's sixth strategy statement was developed in collaboration with key stakeholders and through public consultation. Tom Coughlan, HSA Chairperson, said it highlights the importance of partnership and collaboration as it continues to be at the forefront of promoting compliance.

“The tripartite board, with representatives from employee and employer stakeholders as members, serves to recognise the importance of constructive and co-operative engagement in meeting the goal of safe and healthy workplaces. “We encourage employers and employees to continue to engage and work with the Authority in achieving this.”



The Authority's varied mandate includes acting as the national body with responsibility for protecting workers nationwide from work-related incidents, injuries and ill health.

It also acts as the market surveillance authority for chemicals and industrial products and protects all citizens from the risks arising from the use of chemicals. The Authority provides the national accreditation service through the Irish National Accreditation Body (INAB).

Minister of State for Business, Employment and Retail, Damien English TD, said that the new strategy clearly sets out the HSA's priorities and goals whilst taking into account the ongoing challenges that workers and organisations, including the Authority, will face over the next three years.

“The strategy is also responding to the increasing use of technology and the challenges and opportunities it can present in keeping our workplaces safe,” the Minister noted.

To coincide with the Strategy Statement, the Authority's Programme of Work for this year will also continue

to focus on the high-risk sectors and hazards – falling from heights and the hazards of working with machinery.

In addition, it will emphasise the need to address occupational health hazards, and those associated with psychosocial and ergonomic risks, and exposure to chemical and biological agents.

There are also new challenges, including the impact of the pandemic in accelerating the move to remote/hybrid working and the continued growth of the 'gig economy' in Ireland. The strategy also highlights the needs of vulnerable workers and migrant groups.

ACHIEVING TANGIBLE OUTCOMES

Dr Sharon McGuinness, HSA Chief Executive, said: “Throughout the implementation of our new Strategy Statement and our annual Programmes of Work, the Authority will set out to achieve tangible outcomes in occupational safety and health (OSH), accreditation, chemicals, and market surveillance. The key to a successful and productive economy and workforce is a commitment to safer and healthier working lives for all.

“The Authority is also looking to the future where we see the introduction of new technology and the increased