

Health & Safety Update



Established 1996

**Maximising your health and safety at work
Together we can do something wonderful for you,
your employees and your business.**

Health and Safety/ Human Resource Trainers & Consultants

3 Waterville

Enniscrone

Co. Sligo

Tel: 096 37608

Mob: 086 2437677

Email: info@darlington.ie

Website: www.darlington.ie

We welcome your views, ideas and suggestions on this Newsletter at any time – please email your thoughts to: info@darlington.ie. You are receiving this Newsletter because you are on Darlington Consulting's database of clients, colleagues and friends. Feel free to share or forward it on to colleagues and friends.

The aim of this monthly Health and Safety Update is to keep you informed about Health, Safety and Welfare and HR News. **Darlington Consulting is here to get you out of trouble - not get you into it!**

Safety Leadership – what is it?

Peter F Drucker, the management guru describes management as “doing things right” while leadership is “doing the right thing”. Being a good manager is not the same thing as being a good leader. I have written a piece on Safety Leadership which is on my website and in it I cover: the key Senior Management behaviours, how to get to a Safety Leadership position, key elements of Safety Leadership and how to move your organisation into one that practices effective Safety Leadership. I am now offering one and two day courses in Safety Leadership for CEOs and Senior Management teams across all sectors. **For more click [here](#)**

Warning on tractors and quads after farm deaths

So far this year, there have been fourteen farm deaths, prompting a suggestion that mandatory safety training for farmers may be necessary. Of the fourteen deaths, nine involved tractors and within that grouping, three involved the use of quads. Pat Griffin, Inspector said “farmers are not trained to drive these machines and they are complex and do

not have roll bars. The time is coming when we are going to have to look at mandatory training.”

He said that “farmers who had been handling all kinds of machinery all their lives might not be aware of the danger posed by quad machines and it was difficult to get that message across. It may also be necessary to extend mandatory training to loading equipment which was responsible for the loss of the first two lives on farms this year. With the collapse of the construction industry, farmers have been able to purchase lifting equipment cheaply like loading shovels and teleports. If these are being driven in quarries or on building sites, the driver is required to have been trained, and it may be necessary to do the same on the farm.” **For more click [here](#)**

B&Q Ireland fined €250,000 after customer death

B&Q Ireland has been fined €250,000 after the death of a customer who was hit by a half-tonne fencing panel bundle that had fallen 4.3m from the top of a stack. The customer died from blunt force trauma to the chest in their Tallaght store in 2009. The HSA investigation revealed that the bundle of fencing panels had not been seated correctly on the storage racking and that this

event could easily have been prevented. **For more click [here](#)**

Fine of €150,000 after bucket fall death

Concast Precast Limited pleaded guilty at Dublin Circuit Criminal Court in July 2011 for failing to provide a safe work practice their premises back in 2008. An employee was working in an excavation pit when the bucket from an excavator, lifting steel bars, fell on him and killed him. The company also pleaded guilty to failing to provide a written assessment of risk on the same date and location. The company, which has operated for 35 years, had no previous convictions. They were fined €150,000. **For more click [here](#)**

Northern Ireland Company and Safety Consultant fined after death

Miskelly Brothers Ltd. has been fined £50,000 and their safety consultant, Steven Jones, £4,000 after both pleaded guilty to breaches of health and safety legislation. The case arose when an employee was fatally crushed when making adjustments to a block strapping machine in 2009. Steven Jones, trading as Hazron Safety Services, who was acting as a health and safety consultant for the company, had been engaged to carry out risk assessments on the equipment involved and HSE NI felt that the risk assessments were inadequate. This is the first time in Northern Ireland that a health and safety consultant has been convicted for a breach of health and safety legislation. **For more click [here](#)**

Marks & Spencer convicted over Asbestos Removal

Marks and Spencer and two of its contractors have been convicted for potentially exposing workers and members of the public to asbestos. The incidents occurred in two stores- in the Reading Store in 2006 and in the Bournemouth Store in 2007. In both cases Marks and Spencer had failed to allocate sufficient time and space for the asbestos removal and the contractors were found not to have planned the asbestos removal correctly. Sentencing will take place in September 2011. **For more click [here](#)**

Bikers killed – not wearing PPE

Motorcyclists wearing T-shirts and jeans are dying in road crashes because they are not wearing protective clothing. One in ten road deaths involves a motorcyclist according to Road Safety Authority

Figures and eleven riders and one pillion passenger have already died this year compared to nine last year. **For more click [here](#)**

New Director for European Safety Agency

Dr Christa Sedlatschek has been appointed as the next director of the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in Bilbao. She is currently working with German Federal Institute for Occupational Safety and Health. She has outlined her four priority areas: (1) on getting the message across and strengthening the marketing of occupational safety and health as a 'benefit for all', (2) to stimulate the establishment of a preventive OSH culture in Europe, (3) to network and cooperate with key stakeholders to develop and disseminate information that can be of use in their work at European and national level and (4) to mainstream OSH into other policy areas such as education and training. She takes up her new post on 16 September 2011 and succeeds Dr Jukka Takala who is retiring. **For more click [here](#)**

Headhunters in UK agree code to recruit more women

Nineteen of UK's leading headhunters have signed up to a code of conduct to help bring about more female boardroom appointments. The code sets out best practice, including a requirement that in most cases 30 per cent of candidates on any initial 'longlist' drawn up by the recruiter should be female. Search firms will be also expected to raise the issue of gender composition of the board at an early stage in any brief, to give the right support to candidates who are breaking through the glass ceiling and to work with company chairman and their committees to identify succession plans. The code is a response to Lord Davies' Review of Women on Boards, which was published in February this year. The code applies to search firms working with the FTSE 350, the biggest 350 private sector companies in the UK. **For more click [here](#)**

Darlington Consulting can provide advice and training on all of the issues raised in this Newsletter. We are here to advise, guide and train you in all aspects of employee health and safety and HR management. We want to solve problems and ultimately add value to your business. Please call Mary Darlington on 096 37608 or 086 2437677 and or visit our website: www.darlington.ie. If you do not wish to receive this Newsletter please send a blank email with "unsubscribe" in the subject line to: info@darlington.ie and we will remove your email.