

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.**

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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. **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. Darlington Consulting is here to get you out of trouble - not get you into it!**



Christmas Safety Tips

Christmas is only a few weeks away and many of you will be attending parties and nights out with family and friends - here are a few tips to get you safely to Christmas Day and beyond:

- Ensure you have enough fuel in your car
- Never drink and drive – plan how to get home before you set out
- Be aware of how much you drink and your ability to drive the next day

- Walk back to your car with others – not alone - park in a well-lit area
 - Carry a torch and walk purposefully
 - Keep your car in a roadworthy state
- Above all enjoy your nights out.

Winter Ready website

HSA has launched a new winter ready website with all sorts of information and tips including:
Road Safety Tips
Motoring advice from Gardai

Advice for the farming community

Tips for business

Advice for schools

Click [here](#) for the website

Reporting Sharps Injuries

Are you aware that sharps injuries that cause employees to lose 3 days or more from work are now required to be reported to HSA on IR3 form? I was not aware of this until recently. The IR3 form is normally used to report Dangerous Occurrences. The reports will not name the injured individual but they will enable HSA to get a full picture of the problem. For more click [here](#)

Ryanair worker gets €45,000 after injury

Ryanair has been ordered to pay €45,000 to a former employee who injured his back while manoeuvring aircraft stairs at Dublin Airport. The injured man was alone on the date in question as other members of the team had gone to another aircraft. Mr. Justice Peter Charleton said that during training, the worker was told at least two people had to effect the manoeuvre of aircraft stairs but said he was satisfied that nothing in the Ryanair rostering records indicated there was an abundance of or even sufficient workers to effect the task. For more click [here](#)

Wicklow Fire deaths trial moved over jury concerns

On 7th December 2011 Wicklow County Council requested that the trial be relocated to Dublin Circuit Criminal Court, claiming it would be difficult to find jurors who had no prior knowledge of the case. The local authority, as a corporate body, is facing four charges in connection with the deaths of two firefighters in Bray, in September 2007. Mr. Justice Michael O'Shea agreed to the council's application to have the trial moved to Dublin. For more click [here](#)

“Reclaiming health and safety for all”: Report by Professor Ragnar E Löfstedt

In his foreword Professor Löfstedt states that:

“I have concluded that, in general, there is no case for radically altering current health and safety legislation. The regulations place responsibilities primarily on those who create the risks, recognising that they are best placed to decide how to control them and allowing them to do so in a proportionate manner. There is a view across the board that the existing regulatory requirements are broadly right,

and that regulation has a role to play in preventing injury and ill health in the workplace. Indeed, there is evidence to suggest that proportionate risk management can make good business sense. For more click [here](#)

Firms in court over Liverpool highways worker's fatal fall

Two construction companies have been fined a total of £60,000 following the death of a worker who fell from a cherry picker on a dual carriageway in Liverpool. The worker had been replacing the lights on the central reservation when the cherry picker's lifting arm collapsed. He fell nearly eight metres and landed on the back of the vehicle. He died from his injuries in hospital later that day. For more click [here](#)

Temporary Agency Work Directive

From 5 December 2011, temporary agency workers employed by employment agencies and assigned to work with a hirer, are entitled to equal treatment in basic working and employment conditions in the same way as if directly recruited by the hirer to the same job. This means equal treatment in respect of working time, rest periods, rest breaks, night work, annual leave, public holidays and pay. For more click [here](#)

Under-24s won't work for firms where social media is banned

Almost half of under-24s say they would not work for a company where social media was banned, a survey has claimed. The research by recruitment provider Hyphen, surveyed 1,000 people, found that 48% of people aged 16-24 reject the idea of a workplace where social networking tools were prohibited. Six out of ten (59%) of the same group believe that using social media increases their effectiveness as an employee. The findings show that employers are out of touch with ‘Generation Facebook’ who expect to be able to communicate using their chosen method, said the researchers. 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 are only a phone call away and want to solve your problems, add value to your business and protect you and your staff physically, psychologically and legally. Please call Mary Darlington on 096 37608 or 086 2437677 and or visit our website: www.darlington.ie. Happy and safe Christmas to you all.