

SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE AT WORK (GENERAL APPLICATION) REGULATIONS 2007

Background

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 came into operation on 1 November 2007.

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations were originally introduced in 1993. The new updated regulations maintain the general thrust of the earlier provisions while introducing a number of refinements to make them more coherent, easier to use and relevant to the changed work environment. The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 provide the basis for making these regulations.

The new regulations compliment the Act by including all of the specific safety and health laws in one text. The text is user friendly and is designed to assist anyone making reference to safety and health regulations.

The regulations place obligations as regards safety and health on employers, employees and others. They apply to all workplaces. They lay down a basis for managing safety and health and ensure that employers consult with employees on safety and health matters.

Areas covered under the Regulations

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007 contains 8 Parts and 10 Schedules, as follows:

Part 1 – Interpretation and General

Part 2 – Workplace and Use of Work Equipment

Chapter 1 – Workplace

Chapter 2 – Use of Work Equipment

Chapter 3 – Personal Protective Equipment

Chapter 4 – Manual Handling of Loads

Chapter 5 – Display Screen Equipment

Part 3 – Electricity

Part 4 – Work at Height

Part 5 – Physical Agents

Chapter 1 – Control of Noise at Work

Chapter 2 – Control of Vibration at Work

Part 6 – Sensitive Risk Groups

Chapter 1 – Protection of Children and Young Persons

Chapter 2 – Protection of Pregnant, Post Natal and Breastfeeding Employees

Chapter 3 – Night Work and Shift work

Part 7 – Safety Signs and First-Aid

Chapter 1 – Safety Signs at Places of Work

Chapter 2 – First-Aid

Part 8 – Explosive Atmospheres at Places of Work

List of Schedules

Schedule 1 – Requirements for Work Equipment

Schedule 2 – Personal Protective Equipment

Schedule 3 – Risk Factors for Manual Handling of Loads

Schedule 4 – Minimum Requirements for all Display Screen Equipment

Schedule 5 – Inspection of Work Equipment

Schedule 6 – Hand-Arm Vibration and Whole-Body Vibration

Schedule 7 – Protection of Children and Young Persons

Schedule 8 – Lists of Agents, Processes and Working Conditions Relating to Pregnant, Post Natal and Breastfeeding Employees

Schedule 9 – Safety and Health Signs at Work

Schedule 10 – Explosive Atmospheres