

Occupational Exposure Safety Consultancy Pack



Safecon

A Training and Consultancy company
for all your Health and Safety needs.

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Occupational Exposure
Safety
Consultancy Pack

Welcome to Safecon Training and Consultancy

Safecon's client base expands across Ireland's leading private sector organisations, including numerous public and Government departments to small firms with a handful of employees. We make no distinction in terms of quality of service provided to our cliental.

With offices in Dublin, Limerick, Galway and further resources through out the country, our Training & Consultancy Division is well positioned and ready to meet any requirement our clients may have. We offer a wealth of experience and provide bespoke and cost effective solutions for all your health & safety needs.

As an innovative and forward thinking company we continually dedicate time & resources toward product & services research & development.

Did you know?

The Safety Health & Welfare at Work Act 2007 and General Application Regulation 2007, places "General Duties" on every employer to provide:

- Information for employees.
- Instruction, training & supervision of employees.
- Provisions for handling emergencies & serious & imminent dangers.
- Protective & preventative measures such as – Hazard Identification & Risk Assessment, Safety Statement, Health Surveillance,
- Medical Fitness to Work, Joint Safety & Health Agreements.
- The "General Duties" must cover persons other than their employees.
- Obtaining where necessary the services of a "Competent" person (whether under contract of employment or otherwise) for the purpose of ensuring so far as reasonably & practicable the safety health & welfare at work of his or her employees.

Index

1.0 Air Quality Monitoring	4
1.1 Chemical Agents Risk Assessment	6
1.2 Legionella Assessment	8
1.4 Occupational Noise Assessment	10
1.5 Pregnant Employees Risk Assessment	12

1.0 Air Quality Monitoring

The legal requirements for Air Quality Monitoring

The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemicals Agents) Regulations 2001 require, without prejudice to the principal Regulations, that it shall be the duty of every employer to determine whether any hazardous chemical agents are present at the workplace and to assess any risk to the safety and health of employees arising from the presence of those chemical agents.

The 2002 Code of Practice for the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemicals Agents) Regulations, 2001 provides practical guidance as to the observance of Regulations 4 (1) (e), 4 (5) (d), 6 (1) (c), and 10 (3) of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemicals Agents) Regulations, 2001, in relation to occupational exposure limit values (OELv) for a number of chemical agents as listed in Schedule 1 to the Code.

Safecon's consultancy team includes excellent highly qualified Occupational Hygienists who can assist clients in undertaking any Air Quality Monitoring needs.

What is Air Quality Monitoring?

Air Quality Monitoring is assessing air for the presence of substances that could potentially cause an adverse effect on human health if present at sufficiently high levels. Examples of such substances would be dust or organic vapours that are produced by certain processes/activities within a workplace.

Monitoring can take two forms. One is to attach sampling equipment to an employee within their breathing zone (within 30cm of their nose or mouth) and collect what is called a personal sample. Results derived from this monitoring process can be compared directly to the relevant OELv for the chemical of concern. The second form of air quality monitoring is to collect area samples. This involves setting up sampling equipment in a specific area and determining the levels of the chemical agent of concern within that area. Such results are not directly comparable to an OELv but can indicate whether certain work activities/processes are emitting dangerously high levels of a substance.

Air Quality Monitoring involves using pumps that are connected to a form of sampling device by tubing. Examples of such devices are filters or charcoal sampling tubes. Air is drawn through the sampling device for a certain length of time, often 8 hours, and the analyte of interest is collected on the sampling media before being sent to a laboratory for further analysis.

How Safecon Consultancy can help with your Air Quality Monitoring?

- Provide and use all equipment necessary to carry out air quality monitoring
- Based on results obtained, determine risk
- All sampling devices used for personal exposure measurements will be sent for further analysis
- Assess the level of compliance of your company with current legislation regarding air quality
- Assess the effectiveness of control measure currently in place
- Make any necessary recommendations for reducing employee exposure
- Provide advice on chemical and PPE management programmes.

Do you need to undertake Air Quality Monitoring?

- Do you have an Air Quality Monitoring Policy in place?
- Are you in line with legislative requirements in this area?
- Do you review your Air Quality on a regular basis?

1.1 Chemical Agents Risk Assessment

Introduction

By law, under the chemical agents regulations, it shall be the duty of every employer to determine whether any hazardous chemical agents are present at the workplace and to assess any risk to the safety and health of employees arising from the presence of those chemical agents.

Safecon's consultancy team includes some excellent highly qualified Occupational Hygienists who can assist clients in undertaking any Chemical Agents Risk Assessment needs.

What are the legislative requirements for a Chemical Agents Risk Assessment?

The legislation pertaining to Chemical Agents Risk Assessments is detailed in Regulation 4 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations 2001.

The employer must determine whether any hazardous chemical agents are present at the workplace and assess any risk to the safety and health arising from their presence, taking into consideration:

- their hazardous properties;
- information on safety and health provided by the supplier;
- the level, type and duration of exposure;
- the circumstances of work involving such agents, including their amount;
- any national occupational exposure or biological limit values;
- the effect of preventive measures taken or to be taken;
- the conclusions to be drawn from any health surveillance already undertaken.

What is a Chemical Agents Risk Assessment?

A Chemical Agents Risk Assessment involves the systematic study of the substances used in the workplace, how they are handled and their potential to cause harm. It provides organisations with the basis upon which action can be taken to eliminate or control risk.

How Safecon Consultancy can help with your Chemical Agents Risk Assessment

- Due to the updating of the Chemical Agents Regulations in 2001, organisations must now document all Chemical Agents Risk Assessments in writing. Many organisations will not have the internal competency to conduct such risk assessment and in these cases external assistance such as our Safecon consultants may be necessary
- Our Consultants will provide you with a full assessment and survey carried out in your organisation and recommendations made in priority order

Do you need to undertake a Chemical Agents Risk Assessment?

- Do you assess the risk of all hazardous substances in your organisation?
- Have you any new activities in place involving hazardous substances?
- Have you assessed how substances are handled and their potential to cause harm?
- Do you review your Chemical Agents Risk Assessments on a regular basis?

1.2 Legionella Assessment

Introduction & Legal Requirement

Under the The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Biological Agents) Regulations 1994 (SI 146 of 1994), an employer is required to assess the risks from legionella bacteria that may affect your staff / residents or members of the public and take suitable precautions to reduce all risks to a minimum. This process is known as a legionella risk assessment.

What is contented in Legionella Assessment ?

A Legionella Assessment:

- include a full asset register outlining exactly which systems on-site fall within these guidelines.
- carry out sampling of suspected water systems if required
- outlines the current condition of the water systems and whether the water storage is hygienic
- check whether water temperatures are satisfactory for the control of Legionella bacteria.
- includes digital photographs of assets.
- includes AutoCAD schematic drawings of water systems.
- defines any remedial actions required to achieve compliance with the guidelines.
- provides a schedule for on-going monitoring.
- provides you with a clear understanding of how the guidelines relate directly to your site. You will have proof to show external agencies that you are taking the correct course of action.

Do you need a legionella risk assessment in your organisation ?

- Have you identified a need for Legionella Assessment in your workplace?
- Have you competence within your organisation to carry out an assessment?
- Are you in line with legislative requirements in this area?

1.3 Exposure Monitoring

Introduction & Legal Requirement

There are two important pieces of legislation that govern this area; The Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Chemical Agents) Regulations, 2001 and the 2002 Code of Practice for chemical agent regulations. These regulations lists occupational exposure limit values (OELv) for a large number of chemical.

What is Exposure Monitoring?

The term “chemical exposure monitoring” typically means the measurement of employee exposure to airborne vapors or particles of hazardous chemicals. Exposure can occur in a wide variety of scenarios; solvents in a chemical laboratory, exhaust fumes in a garage, dust in a joinery etc. How Safecon consultancy can help with exposure monitoring?

Using sampling equipment and recognized guidelines (MDHS, NIOSH), a Safecon occupational hygienist will collect samples which will then be analysed by a trusted and accredited laboratory.

The findings of the laboratory testing, plus a recording of the observations made during the visit will be issued to the client in a detailed report. Standard OLV levels will be compared to the recorded findings on the client site and specific recommendations will be made to the client in order to ensure compliance.

Do you need exposure monitoring assessments undertaken in your workplace?

- Do you use chemicals in the workplace?
- How do you handle chemicals at your workplace? Do you have a chemical handling policy?
- Has it been two years since your last chemical exposure monitoring assessment?

1.4 Occupational Noise Assessment

Introduction & Legal Requirement

Damage to hearing from exposure to noise in a work environment has led to an increase in the number of compensation claims. Businesses now have to review their policy on noise in the workplace under the Safety Health & Welfare at Work (Control of Noise at Work) Regulations, 2006.

The noise legislation is focused on the employee exposure to noise. The first level threshold is 80 dB(A). The approach moves away from an over reliance on assessment, quantification of exposure levels and consequent hearing protection solely in the form of PPE, towards an agenda of proactive and active control and management of noise issues.

What is a Safecon Occupational Noise Assessment?

Safecon can undertake a noise at work survey for you – including fixed and personal dose monitoring – and make sure your working environments meet the legal levels.

The survey includes:

- Evaluate noise risk with fixed point and personal dose meter readings.
- Assessment of exposure levels - who might be harmed and how.
- Recommend what you need to comply with legal requirements and how to reduce noise levels.
- Documentation of new policy in conjunction with the business.
- Review assessment.

Our approach is as follows:

- Individual bespoke interviews and job role risk assessments with all permanent members of staff at your sites
- From this, recommendations for control measures, and where necessary, personal protective equipment recommendations
- Full report and action plan broken down into: Individuals needs, structural needs, environmental needs
- Series of fixed interval variable location noise level monitoring assessments during different trading periods and locations
- All work carried out by qualified and experienced acoustics consultants
- Continued service on an annual or ad hoc basis as necessary. Repeat assessments to be carried out under the constraints of legislative requirements.

Do you need a noise assessment to be carried out in your place of work?

- Are your staff surrounded by intrusive noise for most of the working day?
- Are raised voice levels being to be heard at two metres away?
- Are their powered tools or machinery in use for more than 30 minutes a day
- Do your staff work in a noisy industry such as manufacturing, nightclub,

1.5 Pregnant Employees Risk Assessment

Introduction & Legal Requirement

The Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (Pregnant Employees etc.) Regulations 2000 and the Maternity Protection (Amendment) Act 2004 provide the legislative guidance to organisations who employ expectant mothers

Once an employer has been notified in writing of the pregnancy, birth or the fact that an employee is breastfeeding, the employer is under an obligation to do all that is reasonable to remove or prevent exposure to any significant risk from a variety of hazards.

The hazards include noise, excessive heat, handling of loads and movement and postures which are abrupt and give rise to excessive fatigue.
How will the Pregnant Employees Risk Assessment be carried out?

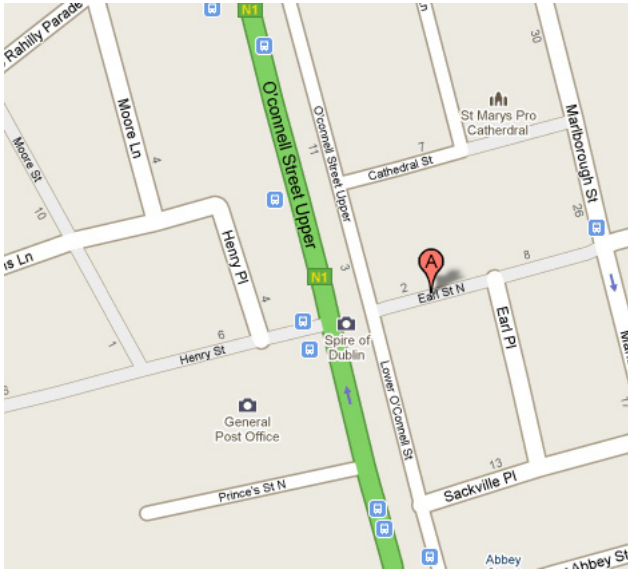
A qualified assessor completing will discuss each the above listed hazards with the expectant mother and indicate if any of these hazards are present in the work environment, providing details and documenting what corrective measures must be taken. If there is a specific problem with the work or environment, it will be indicated during the assessment.

The risk assessment report will advise on a formal system to be put in place for the control of work activities undertaken by pregnant workers

Do you need to undertake a Pregnant Employees Risk Assessment?

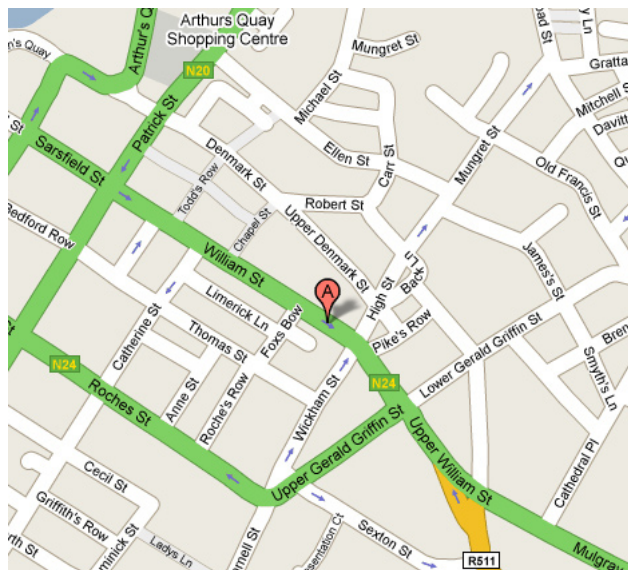
- Do you determine the suitability of activities carried out by a pregnant worker?
- Do you have a formal system in place to examine work activities undertaken by pregnant workers?
- Are you aware of the legislative requirements that apply to pregnant workers?

Safecon Offices:



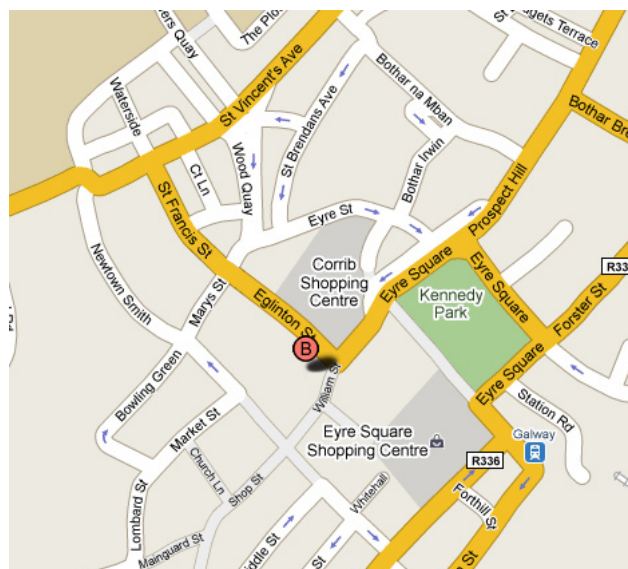
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