



**CONSTRUCTION  
SAFETY  
PARTNERSHIP**

# PROGRAMME OF WORK

> 2013



An Roinn Post, Fiontar agus Nuálaíochta  
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation



An Bord Seirbhíse Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil  
Local Government Management Services Board



**ACEI**  
Association of Consulting  
Engineers of Ireland  
Cumann Innealtóirí Comhairle na h-Éireann





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## Foreword by Chairman of the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP)

The CSP Programme of Work for 2013 focuses on a number of key issues including Design and Procurement, Small Contractors and Domestic Clients, Worker Engagement, Management Systems and Safety Training and Certification.

The programme has been drafted following consultation with the main players representing all aspects of construction and so including employers, workers, Government, including the HSA and relevant professional bodies. The CSP, which is an alliance of the lead organisations involved in the construction industry, depends mainly on the input and resources of the member organisation to support its initiatives. The members meet in plenary session four times each year to consider emerging developments, agree strategy and plans and monitor progress. The CSP Core Management Group (CIF, ICTU, HSA and the Chairman) and the secretariat (HSA) provide the operational support. I am particularly proud of the contribution of members through Working Groups established to progress each of our main goals. I am pleased to report that this will continue in 2013.

At a time when new challenges are emerging and safety in construction needs sustained support, it is disappointing that access to minimal funding for CSP initiatives has been diminished. This is indicative of the times we are in and we can appreciate the need to cut costs. However, unless new sources of funding can be found, the influence, the contribution and the future of CSP beyond 2013 may be in question. We must work to change this. We have seen great improvements in the past decade. We must work to ensure that safety does not decline in recession and in the anticipated recovery over the coming decade.

The members of the CSP are fully committed to addressing the targeted actions in the Programme of Work 2013 and in continuing to be the principal group for consultation, consensus building and representation on matters relating to Construction safety and health. I am very happy to present a comprehensive programme of initiatives and to continue to approach construction safety in an inclusive manner. I wish all those involved a successful year.

*Peter McCabe*

*Chairman*

*Construction Safety Partnership*



This Programme of Work for 2013 is the sixth programme agreed by the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP).

During this period direct employment in the construction industry declined from approximately 14% of total employment in the economy to below 6% in 2012. Direct employment in the construction industry is expected to remain at 100,000 in 2013. It is hoped that the stimulus package introduced by the Government and other measures will redress this decline and that many of the well trained, safety conscious, experienced workers will rejoin the industry over the coming recovery years.

The makeup of the industry has changed dramatically with an emphasis on much smaller projects with smaller contractors and sub contractors. Work is mainly focused on repair, maintenance and improvement, schools building programme, energy conservation in buildings and the emergence of work on unfinished projects. The safety and health risks associated with this diverse range of projects need more attention, targeted supports and intervention. Whilst it may be good for clients to note that tender prices are down significantly, this undoubtedly puts further pressure on contractors and sub contractors to reduce costs. There is no doubt that this will impinge on safety resources, training and other inputs required to provide a safe place of work and safe systems of work. Self build, self employment and work in the grey economy add further to the current difficulties of maintaining acceptable safety standards. The influence of the CSP and particularly our initiatives on Safety in procurement are most important in addressing these critical matters.

In January 2013 the Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Authority, Martin O'Halloran expressed concerns about construction safety standards, "the increase in fatalities and the feedback from inspectors indicates that there has been, in some cases, a slippage in standards". The figures below indicate the improved safety performance in this high risk sector over the past decade. We are dedicated to supporting clients, designers, contractors and workers to ensure that the investment and commitment in raising the standards and image of the industry relating to safety and health is not allowed to regress to the costly and damaging scenario of times past. The definitions of "Construction Work" and "Construction Activity" are extensive. It will be important for CSP to consider issues relating to serious and fatal incidents which occur outside the influence and remit of established construction bodies and structures.

The introduction of the revised Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations from 1st June 2013 and its impact on duty holders together with changes relating to Safe Pass and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme are also high on the CSP agenda in 2013.

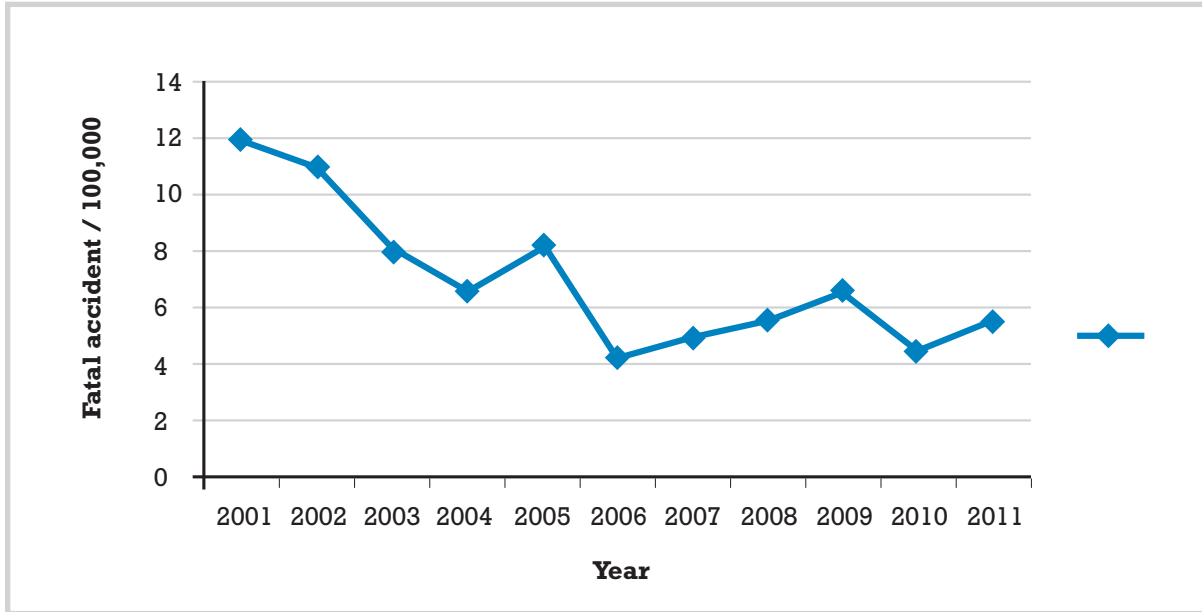


Fig 1: Construction fatal accident rates / 100,000 workers

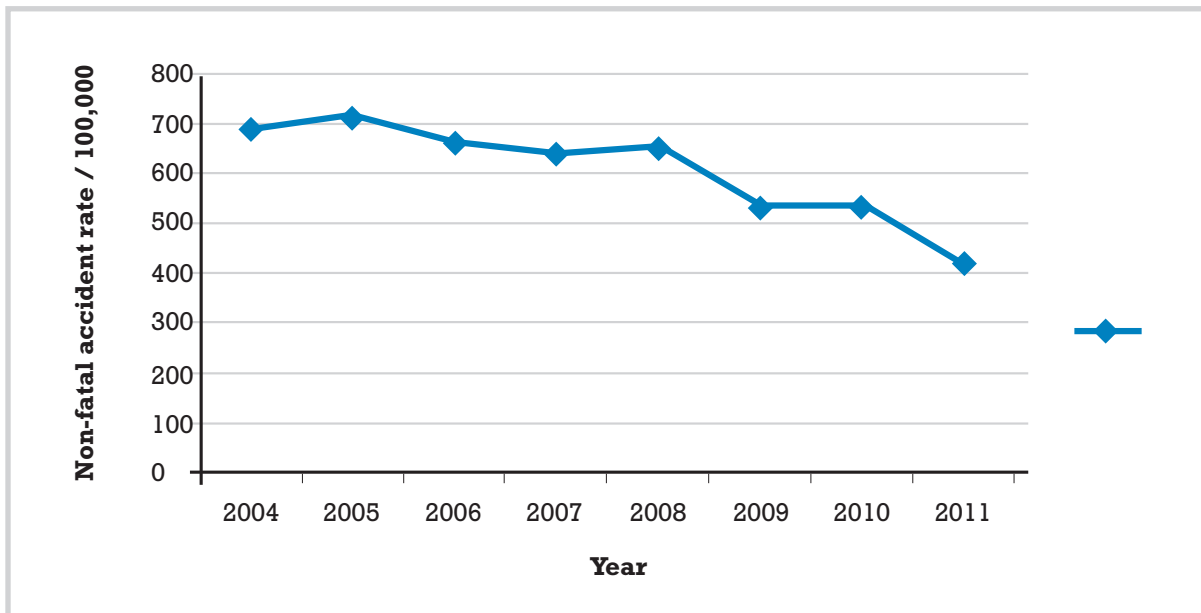


Fig 2: Construction Non-fatal reportable accident rates / 100,000 workers

YEAR	No. Employed in Construction	Fatal Accidents	Fatal Rate / Construction	Non-Fatal Accidents	Non-Fatal Rate/100,000
2001	183200	22	12	----	-----
2002	188500	21	11	----	-----
2003	202300	20	8	----	-----
2004	221108	16	6.6	1527	691
2005	237944	23	8.3	1700	714
2006	268596	13	4.3	1784	664
2007	258915	18	5	1660	641
2008	179900	15	5.6	1178	655
2009	129100	10	6.6	688	533
2010	107300	6	4.5	571	532
2011	107600	6	5.6	454	421



The CSP programme of work is outlined below across our five principal objectives. The proposed Working Group to support each objective is also set out.

**Objective 1.**

**Improving Safety in Design Procurement**

The procurement process still sets the agenda for safety standards and the client requirements and awareness of safety issues drives how the function will be managed throughout the project. All parties agree that clients must consider value for money in these austere times. But along with this consideration, the legislation requires clients to ensure that whoever they appoint, be it designer or contractor, the appointee has “adequate resources” to complete the work safely. In recent years experience in the construction industry has shown that this is not always the case and projects are awarded to the lowest bidder regardless of resources.

In the CSP plan for 2011 & 2012, the working group commenced developments in this area and produced an innovative, simple design stage safety document to ensure that safety considerations were reviewed and taken into account by all the relevant parties, downstream of the construction site. In 2013, the working group will continue to develop the awareness of this area and will endeavour to influence client bodies and procurers of construction services to place a high priority on safety competence when procuring services. Specifically;

- Revise the CSP’s Client Guideline document in the light of changes in the construction regulations that now include house owners in the definition of clients. We will also seek to work with the HSA on the promotion of their guidance for domestic and non domestic clients.
- Complete research on what would be deemed to be “adequate resources” as required by the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006 and so develop guidance for clients.
- Continue to roll out the CSP Pre Qualification Safety Questionnaire with Public Sector Clients.

**Working Group - Objective 1:**

Kevin Rudden	Association of Consulting Engineers (ACEI)
John Graby	Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland (RIAI)
Alan Isdell	Society of Chartered Surveyors (SCS)
Dermot Carey	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Kathy O’Leary	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Chris Gavigan	Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
JoAnn Salmon	Engineers Ireland (EI)
Michael McDonagh	Health and Safety Authority (HSA)



## Objective 2.

### Small and Medium Contractors – Special Initiatives

#### (a) Site Specific documentation

In 2012, the working group rolled out [www.certracker.ie](http://www.certracker.ie), a resource for all contractors and a platform for the management and maintenance of plant and equipment. In 2013, it is intended to develop this platform to provide contractors and sub contractors with an online depository for their health and safety documentation. This would allow the storage and retrieval of standard documents from any location with the target of making access to modern technology available to contractors of all sizes and reduce the bureaucracy (real or perceived) relating to safety documentation.

#### (b) Initiatives for domestic clients and small contractors

In the past, CSP has developed SMP 20 for small contractors. In the light of the changes made to the Construction Regulations which now describe domestic homeowners as clients if they procure construction services, this group will investigate how homeowners and micro contractors can be assisted to ensure compliance and better safety performance in this sector.

#### (c) Behavioural programmes – continue to investigate how influencing human behaviour through Behaviour Based Safety (BBS) initiatives can benefit health and safety at work

#### Working Group - Objective 2:

Dermot Carey	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Stephen Cunningham	Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH)
Robert Butler	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Pauric Corrigan	National Irish Safety Organisation (NISO)
Michael McDonagh	Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
Jim Horgan	Advanced Safety Management
Paraig Earley	Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
Kathy O’Leary	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Eddie Ronayne	Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)
Jennifer Crilly	Local Government Management Agency (LGMA)

**Objective 3.**

**Competency and Training - Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and Management up skilling**

At the core of a safer industry is a more safety conscious and competent workforce. This has always been the philosophy of the CSP. With the changes envisaged in FAS, the provider of both Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Skills training, it is vital that the industry – employers, unions and government departments – are at one regarding the infrastructure requirements to ensure the on going provision of quality training to the construction industry. CSP will develop its policies in this area and feed these views into the transition process. We will closely support and monitor developments for awards, certification through QQI and recognition of qualifications.

**Working Group - Objective 3:**

Peter McCabe -	Chairman CSP
Dermot Carey	Construction Industry Federation (CIF)
Fergus Whelan	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Brian Higginson	Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
Nominee to be confirmed	FAS



#### **Objective 4.**

#### **Worker Engagement – Safety Representative Facilitation Project**

##### **A new way to continue in 2013:**

Changes to the management system of the SRFP come into force in 2013 with the principal change being the HSA direct funding support for the project.

The site visits will remain a central aspect of the project and continue to be much welcomed and appreciated by both on site Safety Managers and Safety Representatives. Congress will deliver the following by year end.

In addition to actions set out below, SRFP will engage in discussions with the HSA whose inspectors are well placed to support the work of safety representatives.

1. 350 construction sites will be visited throughout the country. Particular attention will be paid to the school building programme and lessons learned will be applied to other public projects which will form part on the Government's stimulus package for the Irish economy.

Each visit will be recorded in a log book which will include the name and contact details of the Safety Manager, the Safety Representative, the estimated peak workforce and the timescale for completion of the project

2. During 2013 the project will have a special focus on sub-contractors. In this regard the project will engage with main contractors as their co-operation will be invaluable.
3. A three Day Construction Safety Representatives Training Course and a One Day Refresher Course will be advertised for March, 2013. Subsequent courses will be held on demand.
4. The One Day Refresher Courses for Safety Representatives trained before 2009 will be offered on demand throughout 2013.
5. The Project will organise the Construction Safety Representative of the Year award in 2013.
6. The project will aim to have safety Representative in situ on 60% of eligible site by end 2013.
7. The project will report on activity on a quarterly basis to the plenary meeting of the Construction Safety Partnership, and provide an annual report to the HSA. at end December 2013.
8. Monthly financial reports will be given to the Board of the HSA

##### **Working Group - Objective 4:**

Fergus Whelan	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)
Michael McDonagh	Health and Safety Authority (HSA)
Pat O'Neill	Irish Congress of Trade Unions (ICTU)

**Objective 5.**

To continue to support CSP initiatives including Safe-T-Cert, SMP 20, CSP Awards

The Construction Safety Partnership has been instrumental in developing ground breaking initiatives to assist the development of health and safety in the Irish Construction Industry.

Safe-T-Cert is a construction focussed safety management accreditation scheme that encourages companies involved in construction activities to attain third party accreditation of their safety management system, with the ultimate aim of continuous improvement. The CSP is committed to assisting the scheme to build on its success to date.

SMP 20 is an innovative approach to engage with smaller employers and assist them manages the safety and health function. This initiative will continue in 2013.

CSP Awards – CSP has continuously supported innovation and involvement of workers in safety improvements. For this reason in 2013, the CSP will once again support the CSP Safety Innovation Award (sponsored by CSP as part of the NISO Annual Safety Awards), targeted at smaller contractors who show a commitment to improving safety by implementing an initiative designed to make work safer.

The Safety Representative Award is designed to recognise individuals, who in their role as Safety Representatives have made outstanding efforts to improve safety. CSP will support this award again in 2013.

**Working Group – Objective 5**

This objective will be managed by the Core Management Group comprising the Chairman of the CSP – Peter McCabe together with CIF, ICTU and HSA

## Construction Safety Partnership Members

CSP Chairman/Coordinator	Peter McCabe	pmccabeok@gmail.com
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Construction Industry Federation	Robert Butler	rbutler@cif.ie
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Fergus Whelan	fergus.whelan@ictu.ie
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