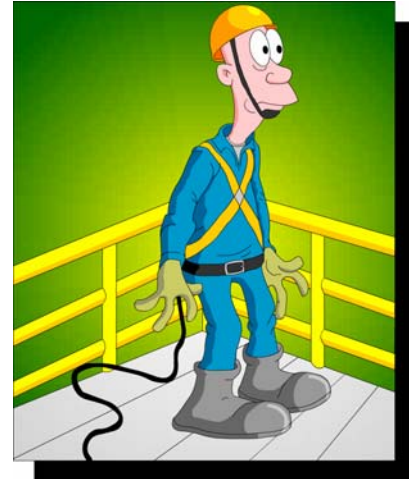


General Applications Regulations 2007

On 1st November 2007 Ireland's General Application Regulations 2007 will come into force repealing 26 different statutory instruments dating back to 1956. While a number of new regulations are introduced, most of the changes are of a subtle nature, such as the requirement to inspect and test electrical installations annually or in relation to manual handling to "ensure that particularly sensitive risk groups of employees are protected".

The new General Application Regulations 2007 set out the specific duties of employers in relation to the:

- Workplace
- Use of Work Equipment
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)
- Manual Handling of Loads
- Display Screen Equipment (VDUs)
- Electricity
- Work at Height
- Noise
- Vibration
- Young persons and Children
- Pregnant, post natal and breastfeeding employees
- Night work and shift work
- Safety signs at places of work and
- Explosive Atmospheres



Who do these regulations apply to?

- The Regulations place obligations regarding 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
- The objective is to assist employers and employees to understand and comply with essential occupational safety and health requirements.

Is there any information in the 1993 General Application Regulations still applicable?

- Only Part X and the Twelfth Schedule to the General Application Regulations 1993, relating to the notification of accidents and dangerous occurrences.

According to the HSA, what changes are in the new GA Regulations 2007?

Some modifications contained in these Regulations include:

- Regulation 7 regarding minimum temperature for indoor sedentary work
- Regulation 18(c) regarding seating
- Regulation 22 regarding accommodation for employees
- Regulation 26 regarding the ability of tenants or landlords to make application to the Circuit Court



- Regulation 30(b) regarding the periodic examination of work equipment subject to deterioration
- Regulation 81 regarding checking and inspection of electrical portable equipment
- Regulation 91 regarding switch rooms
- Regulation 93(2) regarding work near overhead electricity lines
- Regulation 107(a) regarding scaffolding
- Schedule 9 – which clarifies that safety signs do not contain text

The H.S.A website contains a link to a very useful checklist developed by Health & Safety Review:

http://www.healthandsafetyreview.ie/dynamic/pdf/Gen_App_Checklist_07.pdf

This checklist has been designed as an aide-memoir to help employers and safety advisors to comply with the legal duties under the regulations. The checklist is divided into the following sections:

- What is new or subtly changed
- Topic checklist

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