Construction Safety Partnership 2012 Report

**Introduction**

This is a report on the work of the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP) in 2012. The Programme of Work for 2012 was the fifth since the establishment of the CSP (www.csponline.ie). The CSP is an alliance of all the leading bodies involved with the Construction Industry. The CSP met four times in 2012 to review progress against the six stated objectives in the 2012 Plan. The work on the planned outcomes was carried out by the Organisations participating in the Objectives. The Construction Safety Partnership’s Programme of Work was again supported by the Department of Enterprise Trade and Innovation and the Health and Safety Authority. The emerging issues in 2012 were the proposed changes to the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations and the future of Safe Pass and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

CSP Wins National Good Practice Award

On 29th November 2012, the Health and Safety Authority announced that the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP) was the national winner in the over 100+ category of the European Good Practice Awards.  The other winner of the national award was the West Offaly Dairy Group. The two Irish winners then went forward with a range of national winners from across Europe to compete for the European Good Practice Awards early in 2013.

The Good Practice Awards is a European-wide competition aimed at encouraging best practice in relation to workplace safety and health.  The theme for this year’s awards was “working together for risk prevention” with the focus on employers and employees working in close cooperation to improve workplace safety and health standards.  The campaign is coordinated by the European Agency for Safety and Health at Work in association with the member states.

Martin O’Halloran, Chief Executive of the Health and Safety Authority said, “I’m delighted to see these two very worthy initiatives going forward to the European leg of the competition...  The Construction Safety Partnership is an excellent initiative which has had far reaching benefits for thousands of construction workers. The construction industry is still a major employer with approximately 100,000 workers in the sector.  Since the establishment of the Construction Safety Partnership in 1999 the fatal accident rate for the industry has been halved. It’s essential that the substantial improvements made in the sector are maintained and further built upon...”

**Objective No. 1:**

**Improving Safety in Design, Procurement and Coordination (PSDP/PSCS)**

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, they must ensure that the appointee has “adequate resources” to complete the work safely. Experience in the construction industry has been in recent years 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.

**Outcomes in 2012**

* Completion and rollout of the CSP Client Assessment Guidelines and checklist. Promote and place access for free downloads on the CSP ( [www.csponline.ie](http://www.csponline.ie) ) and other websites.
* Commenced research and development of case studies on “adequate resources “as referred to in the Safety Health and Welfare at Work ( Construction ) Regulations 2006.
* Continue to pilot and roll out the CSP Pre Qualification Safety Questionnaire with the Local Government Management Services Board

**Organisations participating in Objective 1:**

Kevin Rudden ACEI

Dermot Carey CIF

John Graby RIAI

Peter Stafford SCS

Kathy O’Leary CIF

Chris Gavigan LGMSB

JoAnn Salmon EI

Michael McDonagh HSA

**Objective No. 2:**

**Site Plant & Equipment – Testing & certification - Guidance & Tracking System**

**Safety Culture / behaviour development**

Accidents associated with construction mobile plant continue to feature in accident reports (fatal and serious). The working group proposed to develop initiatives in this area. The group identified training issues and the pending changes expected in 2012 with FÁS and FETAC as relevant. Also, the group decided to continue the development of an innovative online tool for the tracking / monitoring of maintenance of lifting equipment.

Behavioural programmes – the construction safety initiatives to date have focussed primarily on the development of a safety infrastructure based on strict rules and legislation – a “command and control” model. It has been shown that in order to further improve the safety culture, behavioural issues, of both workers and management, need to be addressed. The leading performers within industry have grasped this concept. The group agreed to investigate what actions we can take to develop this behavioural concept.

**Outcomes in 2012**

* [www.certracker.ie](http://www.certracker.ie/) - The group decided to focus on their efforts to finalise the development of and launch an innovative, online certification management system designed for small to medium sized contractors who owned and managed plant items that required periodic testing / examinations as set out in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007. The final product is an online depository for certificates ([www.certtracker.ie](http://www.certtracker.ie/)) which also has functionality built in – i.e. when entering data on a particular item of plant, it is categorised which automatically sets alarms ( texts / email) when renewal of certification is approaching. The service is offered free to the industry in order to improve the management of these devices. The task was also to make industry aware of the service and the group developed flyers to be used in training courses etc. to raise awareness.
* The working group commenced work on developing and electronic Construction Safety Plan in an effort to simplify the paperwork associated with managing construction work in accordance with legislative requirements but to maintain the essential elements to ensure work can be done safely. The objective is to develop an online form that can be used be small and large firms and is recognised throughout industry as meeting documentary requirements. The [www.certtracker,ie](http://www.certtracker,ie/) platform would then be extended to allow its functionality to be increased to develop accounts where documentation could be stored and accessed via multiple interfaces. This is an on-going project into 2013.
* Training Issues – this group was part of the oversight of the review of Construction Skills Certification Scheme and Safe Pass , as carried out by Claritas on behalf of the CSP. This was designed to inform the discussion as to the future of industry training in the light of the impending changes within FAS.
* Behavioural programmes – the group were part of a wider group within the Health and Safety Authority set up to investigate how Behaviour Based Safety could be incorporated into the management systems in small to medium sized enterprises. This is an innovative and new area which will require further work to make applicable to the mainstream of the construction industry.

**Organisations participating in Objective 2:**

Dermot Carey CIF

Paraig Earley HSA

Michael McDonagh HSA

Jim Horgan Advanced Safety Management Ltd

Kathy O’Leary BAM Contractors

**Objective No. 3:**

**Small Contractors and Sub contractors – extending the use of SMP20 Safety Management Pack and follow up site support/evaluation visits.**

Health and Safety Authority statistics continue to show that small enterprises find the issue of managing health and safety very challenging and micro and small firms feature all too frequently in accident figures. The CSP has focussed on this area and has developed a number of simple tools to assist these employers to improve their safety management. In 2011, the working group developed an online training tool with ease of access in mind. Nevertheless, despite this focus, this group still feature regularly in accident reports. It is for this reason that it has been agreed that focus should remain on micro industry and initiatives to help this sector.

**Achievements against Objective**

* To maintain the SMP20 pack and engage with interested parties in the delivery of the pack to group within larger organisations . Again achieved with ESB as a partner.
* Health & Safety plan was developing 2012 to add value to the pack for the end users.
* Maintain the SMP20 E -learning module.
* Plan for reprint pack 2013
* Establish [www.smp20.ie](http://www.smp20.ie/) website to make access easier.
* Consider cost effective ways of engaging with and assisting small firms and the self-employed to improve safety standards.
* Support a safety innovation award for small contractors in order to showcase the good practice possibilities.

**Sub Committee Composition**

Robert Butler CIF

Michael McDonagh HSA

Brian Molloy HSA

Jennifer Crilly LGMSB

Jerry Lucey IOSH CSS

Pauric Corrigan NISO

**Objective No. 4:**

**Worker Engagement and Site Safety Representative Facilitation including in 2012 Workers on small sites with normally less than 20 workers.**

**Background and introduction**

The SRFP has been working to improve safety in the construction industry for the past twelve years. Its genesis is in the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP) of 2000. The C.S.P. was the Construction Industry’s response to the health and safety crisis which rocked the industry in the late 1990s. Congress argued at the time that a properly resourced project aimed at encouraging the industry to optimize the use of the Safety Representatives on construction sites would make a major positive contribution to improving safety in construction. So it proved.

The project’s mission is to promote co-operation between employers and workers and to spread the message that consultation with workers Safety Representatives (SRs) is not only a legal requirement but can be used to advantage by site managers who are trying to encourage employee engagement with safe working practices.

The project has been successful from the beginning and in spite of the economic melt-down the Construction Industry now leads the field in the number of trained and active SRs in Irish industry. The Construction industry has been transformed for a relatively poor performer in safety terms to now being regarded as an example for others to follow.

**Outcomes in 2012**

1. Project carried out 350 site visits.
2. Each visit is recorded in a log book which includes the name and contact details of the Safety Manager, the Safety Representative the estimated peak workforce and the timescale for completion of the project
3. On many sites the facilitator performed on-site tool –box talks to encourage volunteers for the role.
4. The project distributed Health and Safety information and material for other organizations such as the Construction Workers Health Trust (CWHT) and Construction Industry Federation.
5. The facilitator ran a helpline for safety reps and safety managers to give assistance or advice when necessary
6. The project organised and promoted ‘The Construction Site Safety Representative of the Year Award’‘ by distributing application forms through our safety manager’s data base and presented an award to the successful candidate. The Winner of the CSP Construction Site Safety Representative 2012 was Sean O’Flynn, BAM Contractors.
7. The project provides FETAC level 5 safety rep training on demand. This year due to the collapse in demand only 20 new Safety Reps were trained.

**Sub Committee Members**

Fergus Whelan ICTU

Pat ONeill Project ICTU - Facilitator

**Objective No. 5**: **Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS).**

Safety awareness and competency were identified by the Construction Safety Partnership as vital elements in worker skills that had to be developed, before safety performance could be improved. For this reason the CSP were at the fore front of establishing training programmes (FÁS Construction Skills Certification Scheme) and awareness programmes (Safe Pass) on a statutory footing, in the original 3 year plan the Partnership drew up. Since then, these programmes have been at the core of developments and have continually contributed to industry improvements. With the pending changes in FÁS from 2012, the CSP have a major interest in the future of safety training in the industry and the development of these programmes to ensure the ongoing competency levels within the industry.

* Promote and pursue the CSP Policy on Safe Pass/CSCS
* Conduct research on future options.
* Liaise with the Department of Education and Skills, SOLAS, and QQI.
* Act as the principal consultative forum on changes as they evolve.

**Outcomes in 2012**

* The published policy of the CSP was circulated to industry and in particular to Minister Ciaran Cannon , (Minister for Training & Skills) to raise awareness regarding the views of the CSP in the light of the planned changes within FAS and the establishment of the new Further Education and Training Authority (SOLAS) and Quality and Qualifications Ireland (QQI).
* The working group commissioned a report to outline the potential future models for the delivery of Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Scheme. This report was designed to open discussion and to inform the debate to highlight the concerns of industry as to the future of these schemes.
* The CSP Chairman took up a position on the CSCS Steering Committee.
* The CSP in responding to concerns about Safe Pass organised a presentation by FAS in November, on the new Version of Safe Pass to be rolled out in 2013.There was positive feedback on the event and the improvements in the revised programme.

**Subcommittee Members**

Peter McCabe Chairman CSP

Fergus Whelan ICTU

Dermot Carey CIF

Mary Dorgan HSA

**Objective 6.**

Continue to support work in progress on other CSP initiatives including;

* Health and Safety Benchmarking
* Safe-T-Cert
* Construction Health Issues

**Outcomes in 2012**

* The health and safety benchmarking tool is now complete. It is available from the CSP website, www.csponline.ie.
* Safe-T-Cert is a safety management accreditation scheme for small to medium construction enterprises. The scheme grew in 2012 as the promotional work which saw the scheme mentioned in the Dept. of Finance procurement documentation and following an audit under the Safety Schemes in Procurement ([www.ssip.co.uk](http://www.ssip.co.uk/)) system in the United Kingdom, the scheme retained its accreditation.
* The CSP Safety Innovation Award 2012 was won by King & Moffatt Group. The

**Sub Committee Members**

Peter McCabe Chairman CSP

Fergus Whelan ICTU

Dermot Carey CIF

Mary Dorgan HSA

**Construction Safety Partnership Members**

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