



CONSTRUCTION  
**SAFETY**  
PARTNERSHIP

# PROGRAMME OF WORK

> 2012



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



An Bord Seirbhísí Bainistíochta Rialtais Áitiúil  
Local Government Management Services Board



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







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This is the fifth Programme agreed by the Construction Safety Partnership (CSP). The industry has experienced dramatic change and downsizing since 2007 and employment in 2012 is forecast to be below 100,000. In taking account of this the CSP is dealing with a very different industry dominated by small contractors and small projects and tender bids up to 30% below 2007 rates.

Whilst it is encouraging to see lower rates of fatalities and accidents in this high risk industry there are signs that safety standards are slipping on sites.

Following on from the debate and consultation at the Construction Safety Forum in November 2011 the CSP has agreed to focus on five key objectives covering; Design and Procurement, Plant and Equipment, Small contractors safety management system SMP20, Worker Engagement and Representation and Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Scheme. The programme also includes two CSP Construction industry safety awards for Safety Innovation and for Site Safety Representative 2012.

This Olympic year 2012 will provide CSP with new challenges including changes relating to the dissolution of FÁS and Certification through the Further Education and Training Awards Council (FETAC). The CSP Policy on Safe Pass and CSCS (Dec 2011) will be a key area of concentration this year.

The CSP, as an alliance of lead organisations dealing with the Construction industry is committed to addressing the targeted actions as outlined in the CSP Programme for 2012.

*Peter McCabe*

*Chairman Construction Safety Partnership 2012*

The construction industry still employs approximately 100,000 people directly and remains a hazardous industry. The concern of all the partners at this time is that economic pressures will erode the achievements of the past decade and unless a continued focus on safety is maintained, all progress could be lost.

The CSP welcomes the ongoing support of the Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation in order to assist with the funding of initiatives and maintaining the priority status that is required on industry safety performance. We also welcome the comments made in 2011 by **Richard Bruton T.D., Minister for Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation**:

*"The CSP was launched 10 years ago with the overall aim of achieving, through a partnership arrangement with the main actors in construction, the highest possible standard of safety, health and welfare in the Irish construction industry.*

*Your achievement since then has been to help bring about a real change in the safety culture of the construction sector. Your strength is the fact that you can draw upon and activate the key elements and interests involved in the sector. You set your plan, establish your targets, allocate responsibilities and get on with implementation. It is worthy of note that, in a sector where relations have not always been the smoothest, you have been able to coalesce around a practical plan designed to improve health and safety standards and to deliver on them. I encourage the partnership to continue with its work and I wish it well in its endeavours."*





## > The 2012 Plan

The programme of work is outlined below.

### **Objective No. 1:**

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

A key driver of the safety regime that exists on any construction project is the ethos and safety considerations that exist with the client and during the design phase of that project. This was the basis on which the European Union's Mobile Site Directive was focussed. In the CSP plan for 2011, 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 2012, 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 of safety competence when procuring services. Specifically;

- Increase awareness of clients statutory duties to make health and safety appointments – on time – through the roll out of the Client Assessment Form.
- Carry out 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.

### **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:

(a) Site Plant and Equipment – Testing and Certification - Guidance and tracking system & (b) Safety culture / behaviour development

- (a) Accidents associated with construction mobile plant continue to feature in accident reports (fatal and serious). The working group will continue to develop initiatives in this area. The group will focus on training issues and the pending changes expected in 2012 with FÁS and FETAC. Also, the group will complete the development of an innovative online tool for the tracking / monitoring of maintenance of lifting equipment.
- (b) 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. It would be our intention to investigate what actions we can take to develop this behavioural concept.

### Organisations participating in Objective 2:

Dermot Carey	CIF
Paraig Earley	HSA
Sean Mannion	CIF
Alan Farrell	FÁS
Tommy Flaherty	CIF
Pauric Corrigan	NISO
Gerry Lucy	IOSH Construction Group





### 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.

- Explore options to increase awareness of Construction Safety issues and best practice for domestic clients.
- Consider cost effective ways of engaging with and assisting small firms and the self employed to improve safety standards.
- Continue with the CSP Safety Innovation Award for small contractors/sub contractors in partnership with NISO.

### Organisations participating in Objective No. 3:

Robert Butler	CIF
Michael Mc Donagh	HSA
Brian Molloy	HSA
Jennifer Crilly	LGMSB
Stephen Rooney	IOSHCG
Pauric Corrigan	NISO

### Activity Area and Specified Objectives/Plan

- Maintain the SMP20 E -learning module.
- Develop a Safety & Health plan which will be available in word format downloadable from [www.csponline.ie](http://www.csponline.ie)
- Plan for reprint pack
- Continue to work with larger multipliers to gain further access to target groups of contractors.





#### Objective No. 4:

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

#### Activity Area & Objectives/Plan

The Construction Safety Representative Project is unique in its objective to develop and support Site Safety Representatives within the construction industry. The programme provides training and assistance to individuals who take on this voluntary role with a view to improving safety on sites and increasing worker involvement and both employer and worker "buy in". To date the project has been very successful and it has been found that this support is more vital when the industry is in a difficult economic position. In 2012, the role of the project will be enhanced to include a support and promotion role for the SMP 20 project.

The project commits to;

- Implement 320 construction site visits to include mentoring and promotion.
- Promote and assist smaller companies operating the SMP 20 system.
- Deliver training to Site Safety Representatives.
- Recognise the major contribution that Site Safety Representatives make to safety in the industry by supporting the 10th Annual Site Safety Representative Award.

#### Organisations participating in Objective No. 4:

Fergus Whelan	ICTU
Pat O'Neill	SRFP
Dermot Carey	CIF
Kathy O'Leary	CIF



### **Objective No. 5:**

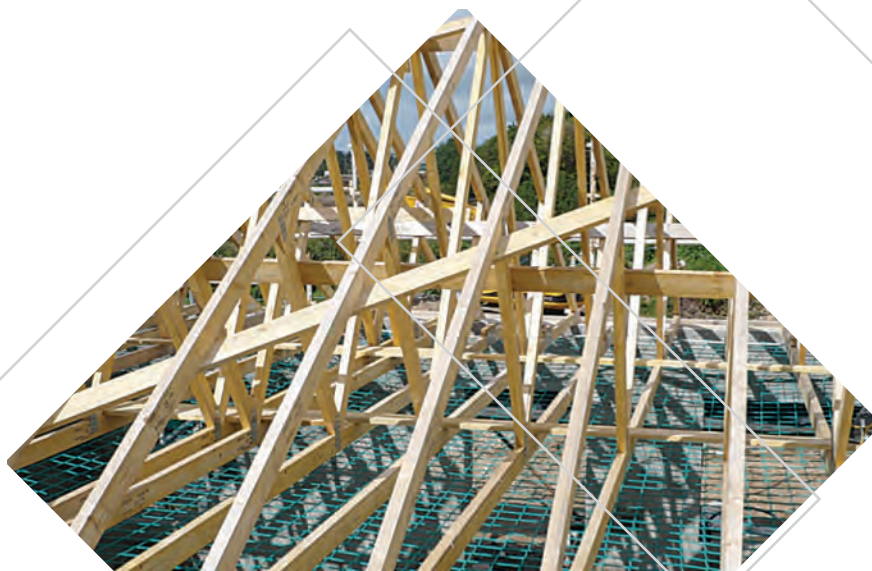
Safe Pass and Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS).  
Ref CSP Policy Document, Appendix 1

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 forefront of on-going developments relating to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme and Safe Pass in the first CSP Plan 2000-2003. Since then, these programmes have continually contributed to overall safety improvements on construction sites. With the pending changes in FÁS in 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
- Act as the principal consultative forum on changes as they evolve.

### **Organisations participating in Objective No. 5:**

Peter McCabe	Chairman CSP
Fergus Whelan	ICTU
Dermot Carey	CIF
Mary Dorgan	HSA



**Objective No. 6:**

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

**Health and Safety Benchmarking:**

Benchmarking Safety performance in Contractor organisations. Comparisons with best practice and standards in UK and from this information to identify areas of best practice and innovation that can be shared with other organisations.

**Safe-T-Cert:**

Continue development and uptake of Safe-T-Cert the sector specific Safety management System. Consider progression links for SMP20 to Certification under Safe-T-Cert. Enhance status and recognition of Safe-T-Cert in Procurement systems. Simplify systems and burden on contractors.

**Construction Health Issues:**

Continue to liaise with HSA and the Construction Workers Health Trust (CWHT) on Health risks including MSD and Manual Handling.

**Organisations participating in Objective No. 6:**

Peter McCabe	Chairman CSP
Fergus Whelan	ICTU
Dermot Carey	CIF
Michael McDonagh	HSA



## **Construction Safety Partnership (CSP)**

### **Policy Statement on Safe Pass and the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)**

The CSP is an alliance of all the leading bodies involved in the Construction Industry. The CSP has played a leading role in many successful initiatives aimed at improving Safety and Health in the Construction Industry. The CSP led the way in ensuring that the requirements for Safe Pass and CSCS were brought into statutory provision in the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations.

Recent developments impacting these schemes include the forthcoming dissolution of FÁS and the notification by FETAC that their current award system will not apply to the CSCS scheme with effect from January 1, 2013. The CSP sets out its policy below in regard to the future of these schemes:

- Safe Pass and CSCS are essentially about ensuring the safety of workers. In CSCS this is achieved through developing and assessing competence to carry out construction related activities safely. In the case of Safe Pass, it is achieved through raising safety awareness amongst participants.
- Safe Pass and CSCS to continue to place duties on employers and workers as covered in the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006-2010 and Schedules 3 and 4 thereof until amendments to these regulations by the Minister set out different arrangements.
- That new arrangements for the provision of Certification and Awards under the National Framework of Qualifications post FETAC be put in place for High Risk Activities/Skills as in Schedule 4 of the Regulations.
- That new arrangements be put in place as a matter of urgency for the control and issuing of Safe Pass and CSCS Cards.
- That transitional arrangements be put in place which will ensure continuity in the provision of Safe Pass and CSCS Cards.
- That proposed new arrangements for training, for awards to participants, for the issue of cards and for scheme management and development, takes account of previous reviews and recommendations and current views of employers and workers in regard to the operation of these schemes. New arrangements should bring about as far as possible improvements that result in better safety and efficiency.

The CSP wishes to remain at the forefront of these highly successful schemes and is available to assist Government Departments in establishing new viable arrangements. The CSP proposes that it will be the principal consultative forum on proposals.

Signed on behalf of CSP

Peter McCabe, Chairman; Dermot Carey, CIF; Fergus Whelan, ICTU; Mary Dorgan, HSA



## Construction Safety Partnership Members

CSP Chairman/Coordinator	Peter McCabe	pmccabeok@gmail.com
CSP Secretary (HSA)	Colin Garahy	Colin_Garahy@hsa.ie
<b>Partner Organisation</b>	<b>Member</b>	<b>Email address</b>
Construction Industry Federation	Dermot Carey	dcarey@cif.ie
Construction Industry Federation	Robert Butler	rbutler@cif.ie
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Fergus Whelan	fergus.whelan@ictu.ie
Irish Congress of Trade Unions	Pat O'Neill	safepatoneill@hotmail.com
Department of Jobs, Enterprise and Innovation	Frank Mooney	Frank.Mooney@djei.ie
Health & Safety Authority	Mary Dorgan	Mary_dorgan@hsa.ie
Health & Safety Authority	Michael McDonagh	michael_mcdonagh@hsa.ie
Engineers Ireland	JoAnn Salmon	Joann.salmon@ftco.ie
Royal Institute of Architects of Ireland	John Graby	jgraby@riai.ie
Association of Consulting Engineers of Ireland	Kevin Rudden	kevin.rudden@tgp.ie
Society of Chartered Surveyors	Peter Stafford	pstafford@scs.ie
SIPTU	Eric Fleming	efleming@siptu.ie
Local Government Management Services Board	Chris Gavigan	cgavigan@lgmsb.ie
Local Government Management Services Board	Jennifer Crilly	jcrilly@lgmsb.ie
National Irish Safety Organisation	Pauric Corrigan	pcorrigan@niso.ie
Institution of Occupational Safety & Health Construction Committee	Martin Byrne	martin.byrne@crowe.ie

