

Partnership on Health And Safety in Scotland

'Leading on health and safety at work: leadership actions for board members'

Issue

1. New guidance 'leading health and safety at work: leadership actions for board members' from the Health and Safety Commission (HSC) and the Institute of Directors (IoD) will be launched on 29 October 2007.

Recommendation

2. To maximise awareness of the guidance among board members, PHASS member organisations are asked for their help in promoting it to their members in Scotland when it is launched, particularly amongst those who are board members/directors and also to those who can influence them. The guidance will be available on the internet as well as hard copy.

3. To facilitate this HSE would be grateful for contact details to discuss such opportunities with your organisations, including any assistance it can give with messages or other promotional material. Please contact Rob Olsen (details below) or pass on contacts via GNN Scotland.

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Background

4. HSC asked the IoD to lead a steering group¹ overseeing development of the guidance so that it is written 'by directors, for directors'. The Health and Safety Executive (HSE) is providing support.

5. The guidance is aimed at directors and board members in organisations in the private, public and voluntary sectors. It is relevant to both large organisations and small business.

¹ Steering group members were nominated by the Confederation of British Industry (CBI), Federation of Small Businesses (FSB), Institution of Occupational Safety and Health (IOSH), Local Authorities Coordinators of Regulatory Services (LACoRS), Local Government Association (LGA), National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NCVO), NHS Confederation, Princess Alice Hospice, Trades Union Congress (TUC), University of Warwick.

6. The introduction of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act in April 2008 will increase its pertinence.

7. The guidance does not add new requirements, but it does explain in practical language what board members need to do. It has been produced as an action plan, enabling a board to provide a lead on planning, delivery, monitoring and review required for effective health and safety performance. It also includes case studies of the benefits leadership can bring and the pitfalls it can help avoid.

Action

8. To help with promotion and publicity, as above.

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