
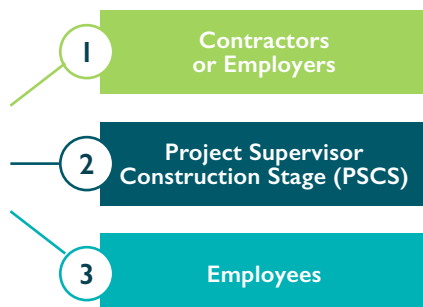


SAFETY REPRESENTATIVES IN CONSTRUCTION: INFORMATION SHEET

WHAT IS A SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE?



- They represent employees on all matters related to health, safety and welfare to management on site,
- they are a worker, selected by their fellow employees and workers. 
- they provide a direct link between employees, the project supervisor construction stage, and
- (PSCS), contractors or employers on health and safety issues identified through direct communication with fellow workers.



WHEN MUST A SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE BE APPOINTED ON A CONSTRUCTION SITE?



- When there are more than 20 persons employed at any one time on a construction site, and
- the project supervisor construction stage (PSCS) shall facilitate the selection of Safety Representatives from among the employees working on the construction project.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



A Safety Representative

- Is not a **Safety Officer** or **Safety Advisor**, and is protected against penalisation (Section 27 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005).



WHAT CAN A SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE DO?

CONSULTATION



A Safety Representative may consult with, and make representations on health, safety and welfare matters relating to the employees in the workplace to the:

- Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS), and
- employers or contractors

The PSCS / contractor or employer must consider these representations, and act on them if necessary.

Where a safety committee is already in existence, it can be used for this consultation process.

INVESTIGATIONS



A Safety Representative may:

- investigate accidents and dangerous occurrences in the workplace, and
- may make written or verbal representations to HSA inspectors.

INSPECTIONS



Safety Representatives, after giving reasonable notice to the employer:

- have the right to inspect the whole or part of the construction site, at a frequency or on a schedule agreed between them, employer and the Project Supervisor Construction Stage (PSCS).

The frequency of inspections undertaken by the Safety Representative(s) depends on:

- the size of the site, and
- the number of workers and the profile of the risks.

TRAINING



It is essential that Safety Representatives have the knowledge and skills necessary to perform their role effectively.

Safety Representatives should:

- be allowed time for training, without loss of earnings, so that they can acquire the knowledge to carry out the role, and
- have training costs, whether provided by a commercial training organisation or trade unions, paid for by employer.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION



A Safety Representative must not interfere with anything at the scene of an accident.

MEETINGS/FACILITIES



A Safety Representative should:

- attend meetings when health and safety issues are being discussed.

A Safety Representative should be provided with reasonable facilities on site such as:

- a meeting room, or access to up-to-date safety and health information and published guidance,
- a room to consult with employees or to prepare any submission or reports, and
- be given time to undertake their role as a Safety Representative on the construction site.



“A Short Course for Safety Representatives”

is available to raise awareness of the role of a Safety Representative on hsalearning.ie.



WHAT ELSE CAN A SAFETY REPRESENTATIVE DO?

A Safety Representative may also:

- make representations to the employer on safety, health and welfare at the workplace,
- receive advice and information from inspectors in relation to safety, health and welfare at the workplace,
- make verbal or written representations to inspectors, including about the investigation of accidents or dangerous occurrences,
- accompany a Health and Safety Authority inspector carrying out an inspection at the discretion of the inspector,
- can be present when the inspector interviews the employee about an accident or dangerous occurrence at the workplace (if requested by employee),
- consult and liaise with other Safety Representatives appointed on the same construction site, and
- the employer must consult the Safety Representative in advance of workplace changes which can potentially impact on health and safety in the workplace.

A properly trained and informed Safety Representative will play an important role in health and safety promotion and preventing accidents and ill-health.

It is in the PSCS and contractors or employers interest to ensure that Safety Representatives are supplied with all relevant information.

Safety Representatives must have access to information on:

- any risk assessments and safety statement relating to their place of work,
- reportable accidents, occupational illnesses and dangerous occurrences without identifying any individual,
- safety and health measures required under safety and health legislation, and
- any safety and health information on dangerous equipment, chemicals or processes used at their workplace including instruction manuals and safety data sheets.



Videos and information for Safety Representatives are available at:



HSA

An tÚdarás Sláinte agus Sábháilteachta
Health and Safety Authority



**CONSTRUCTION
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