

## RE: IMPORTANT CHANGES TO THE NATIONAL GENERAL RISK ASSESSMENT FORM

According to the HSE Integrated Risk Management Policy (IMRP), the HSE manages risk on an integrated basis. This involves proactively identifying risks that threaten the achievement of objectives, e.g. the delivery of high quality safe care, staff safety health and wellbeing, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and putting in place actions to reduce these to an acceptable level.

The Corporate Safety Statement (CSS) outlines the Occupational Safety and Health (OSH) risk management process adopted by the HSE. The management of safety, health and welfare at work is integral to the HSE's approach to risk management and, in accordance with the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005 (Act 2005), requires that all hazards at the place of work are identified and risk assessed.

Both the IMRP and CSS share the following purposes (non-exhaustive):

- Assist staff in understanding their roles and responsibilities and the need to adopt a consistent approach to the assessment and management of risk,
- Set out the systems and processes that are required to ensure that risks are managed consistently across the HSE.

In pursuit of the above and responding to feedback from duty-holders (e.g. managers and risk and safety professionals) Quality Assurance and Verification and the National Health and Safety Function have worked collaboratively to develop a single risk assessment form, which satisfies both the requirements of ISO 31000 and the Act 2005.

### **A copy of the new form is attached.**

This form respects both the ICC and OSH hazard-based approaches to risk assessment and, subject to several notable exceptions\*, should now be used for **all** risks. A full description of these approaches may be found at the following links:

1. IRMP and guidelines:  
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/about/qavd/riskmanagement/risk-management-documentation/>
2. Guidelines on OSH Hazard Identification and Risk Assessment:  
<https://www.hse.ie/eng/staff/safetywellbeing/healthsafetyand%20wellbeing/safetystatementsandriskassessments.html>

Note\*: Please note that specialised forms must be used for the following specific OSH hazards and risks:

- Chemical Agents
- Display Screen Equipment
- Pregnant Employees
- Stress
- People Handling

These forms and guidelines on their use can be found on the HSE's Health and Safety web-pages at the second of the above links.

The adoption of this single form should benefit duty-holders by streamlining the risk assessment process, reducing administrative burden and the potential for confusion over which form to use in any given situation.

We hope that you will find this development of benefit. Should you have any further queries in relation to the *OSH risk assessment process* you may contact the NHSF helpdesk at:



Log your health & safety request at:

<http://www.hse.ie/safetyandwellbeing> or go to:

<http://pndchssdweb02.healthirl.net/Health.WebAccess/ss> Alternatively

contact the National Health & Safety Helpdesk on 1850 420 420

between 10:30-12:00 and 14:00 – 15.30 Hrs Monday to Friday

**For all other risk related queries you can contact:**

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