

"RISK 2005"

[Certificates of attendance will be issued]

DELEGATE BOOKING FORM:

The Burlington Hotel, Dublin 4

9.00am Tuesday 12th April 2005

Booking Details:

- **Special Discount – I.E.S. / I.S.C.P. / H.S.A. / A.O.T.I.** €185.00 ✓
- **Normal Delegate Fee** €300.00 ✓
- **Amount enclosed** € _____

Chairperson:

Dr Dan Murphy, Medical Director, H.S.A.

Name: _____

Contact Address: _____

eMail _____

Telephone Number (W & H) _____

Facsimile Number (W & H) _____

4 ways to reserve your place:

- 1: By post: Madden Events, Summerhill, Co. Meath
- 2: By eMail: flor@madden.ie
- 3: By fax: LoCallFax: 1890 – 790 690 [046 – 955 8747]
- 4: By phone: CallSave [Ire]: 1850 – 750 650 [046 – 955 8746]
FreeFone [UK]: 0800 – 039 22 33 [00 353 – 46 955 8746]

Reservations are non-refundable but are transferable.

Please return completed form along with payment details (Cheque, Postal Order or Visa Details payable to Madden Events) to:

Flor. J. Madden, FREEPOST, Event Manager,
Madden Events [Risk 2005], Summerhill, Co. Meath.

VISA Details [ALL 5 ITEMS REQUIRED]

1. Card Holders Name _____
2. Card Holders Statement Address _____
3. Card Number _____
4. Expires End _____
5. CVC No [Last 3 Digits on the Signature Strip on the reverse side] _____

Provisional Programme

- Module 1:** 9.00am – 10.30am
Manual Handling - Obesity
- Module 2:** 11.00am – 12.30pm: 2 Parallel Sessions [Delegates choose 1]
- Option A:** Medical Error
Option B: Management of Human Error
- Module 3:** 2.00pm – 3.30pm: 2 Parallel Sessions [Delegates choose 1]
- Option A:** A Participatory approach to minimising risk – Employer & Employee
Option B: Needle Stick Injuries
- Module 4:** 4.00pm – 5.30pm
Cost/Benefit Analysis & Panel Discussion



The Irish Ergonomist

Newsletter of the Irish Ergonomics Society

<http://www.irishergonomics.com>

The Irish Ergonomics Society Useful contacts:

Chairman

Mr. Steven Chan
Dept. Industrial Design, NCAD,
100 Thomas Street, Dublin 8
Email: chans@ncad.ie

Secretary

Dr. Leonard O'Sullivan
Dept. Manufacturing & Operations
Engineering,
University of Limerick, Limerick.
Email: Leonard.O'Sullivan@ul.ie

Treasurer

Mr Gerry Holmes
11 Woodlands Drive, Dun Laoghaire,
Co. Dublin.

Contributions needed: articles, book reviews, upcoming conferences etc.
Send to :

Newsletter Editor

Dr. Sara L. Cox
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Feature Personality:

Professor Ray Fuller MIES

IES Fellow honoured with Professorship



Ray Fuller presenting a keynote address at the Or Yarok Conference on Traffic Safety in Tel Aviv, earlier this year

Last September, Ray Fuller was appointed Associate Professor of Psychology in Trinity College Dublin. A graduate of the University of St Andrews, Ray obtained his PhD from the University of Dundee before taking up permanent residence here in 1968. He was elected President of the Psychological Society of Ireland in 1977 and became a Fellow of TCD in 1992, where he was head of the Department of Psychology from 1988-94. In 1998 he was a joint recipient of the Applied Ergonomics Award, presented by Elsevier Science in association with The Ergonomics Society and in 2002 was a winner of the Provost's Teaching Award "for his outstanding contribution to teaching".

His main research interest for the past 30 years has been human factors aspects of transportation safety, both on land and in the air, the latter with the Aerospace Psychology Research Group, of which he is a founder member. In recent years he has also established the Dyslexia Research Group in TCD. He is currently a member of the government advisory group on metrication of speed limits and has published reports for the National Roads Authority on the government high enforcement strategy and for the National Council for Curriculum and Assessment on driver education and training in post-

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primary schools. With well over 100 publications, his most recent book (with Jorge Santos) is *Human Factors for Highway Engineers*, published by Elsevier Science in 2002. He also has a chapter on motivational aspects of traffic signs in *The Human Factors of Transport Signs* (ed. C. Castro and T. Horberry), published by CRC Press this year.

In the area of transport safety, Ray's current work is concerned with the role of risk in driver decision making and with the development of a web-based human factors training course for aviation maintenance engineers.

VERY IMPORTANT

The Irish Ergonomics Society

Consultation on Manual Materials Handling Training in Ireland

The Health and Safety Authority has recently invited the IES to make a submission as part of their review of Manual Materials Handling Training in Ireland.

The objective of this review is to gain an understanding of issues that contribute to the perceived variation in the quality and consistency of manual handling training courses and to present the findings of this review.

The IES is limited to 2 pages in its reply to the HSA so hence it will summarise the main points submitted by the IES members. Please note that as the deadline for submission is October 22nd, we require all contributions to arrive no later than October 18th.

Submissions are only to be made directly to the IES secretary using either of the following methods

Mail:

Dr. Leonard O'Sullivan,
Ergonomics Research Centre
University of Limerick
Castletroy
Limerick

EMAIL:

Leonard.osullivan@ul.ie

Fax:

061 202 913

We request that interested parties make their submission using the following headings, and limit your response to the points under Part B to 2 pages if possible.

A. Your level of IES membership (Fellow, registered or associate), your education background and other relevant qualifications

B 1. Introduction
B 2. Competencies required for manual handling (Instructors/trainers)
B 3. Content of training courses
B 4. Registration system for approved trainers
B 5. General comments.

Note: Submissions received after October 18th may not be considered in the IES response to the HSA.
Leonard O'Sullivan
3-10-04

Safety, Health and Welfare at Work BILL2004

The SHWW Bill 2004 updating the 1989 act has been published and it can be down loaded from the following link
<http://www.entemp.ie/employment/osh/>

The IES is preparing a submission on this so we invite all interested parties to read this and forward comments to the IES Secretary, Dr. Leonard O'Sullivan by the end of October 2004.
Email: Leonard.O'Sullivan@ul.ie

IES NEWS

IES AGM and annual internal conference

Call for Papers

The provisional date and place for the IES annual internal conference and AGM has been set for 11 April 2005 in Dublin. Papers are welcome from all areas of Ergonomics. If you would like to present a paper, please forward an expressions of interest to the Society Secretary.

Membership Issues: Membership Certificates

The Society has issued new certificates to all fully paid up members. If you have not received a certificate and you are entitled to one, please contact Dr. Leonard O'Sullivan
Email: Leonard.O'Sullivan@ul.ie
Tel: +353 61 234249

Record Keeping!

Can members please update their contact details especially their email addresses so that we can keep our records up-to-date and get the newsletter and other information to you without delays.

If anyone is aware of a member who has moved or changed address can they contact that member or pass the information on to us so that we may do so. Particularly those members listed below.

Ian	Daly
Pat	Fehin
Niamh	Glennon
Karina	Grace
Damien	Hardiman
Mairead	Hogan
Richard	Keegan
Georgina	Lonergan
Cormac	Lyons
Cora	McCaughan
Ina	McGrath
Afric	Morrissey
Barry	O'Brien
A	O'Hanlon
Nuala	O'Regan
Shaun	Pierce
Anthony	Power
Paul	Sheehan
Brian	Spillane

- situation awareness, augmented cognition, adaptive interfaces, etc.)
- **Human Computer Interaction** (including computer-mediated communication, augmented reality, ubiquitous computing, online communities, cross-cultural interfaces, accessibility, etc.)
- **Health & Safety** (including occupational health and hygiene, shift work, vibration, epidemiological studies, etc.)
- **Ergonomic Methods** (including ethnography, participatory design, organisational design, low-cost interventions, usability testing, etc.)
- **Community Ergonomics Development** (including diverse user communities, mobile communities, macroergonomics, communication and education, etc.)

Costs

Early-bird registration (before 1 July 2005): **US\$100**

Later registration (after 1 July 2005): **US\$130**

Registration includes a CD-Rom copy of the proceedings and participation in all online sessions (and of course all your travel "expenses")

Registration discounts (US\$60) are available for participants from Industrially Developing Countries and for full time registered students.

How to find out more and register

For more detailed information, visit the CybErg website at:
<http://cyberg.wits.ac.za/>

Letters to the Editor

Air your voices in letters and opinions on any ergonomics related subject or respond to articles in the newsletter.

Some thoughts on industrial ergonomics in Ireland

Madam,

HAAMAHA'2004, the 9th International Conference on Human Aspects of Advanced Manufacturing Agility & Hybrid Automation was hosted by NUI Galway during August. At the one day symposium on Human Behaviour in Safety Management Systems held in conjunction with the conference, a small number of individuals were invited to summarise their comments on the scene in Ireland at present. I made five main points that I would like to share with your readers.

1. The role of business ergonomics
Injuries in Ireland are still high and the benefits of good prevention strategies and risk reduction approaches for musculo skeletal disorders are not appreciated, especially at the pre-production and early product design stages. As outlined in the course of the one day symposium, motivation in safety systems is critical for success. Likewise for industry, motivation is critical for successful interventions and commitment to good quality ergonomics programmes. Hence, ergonomics is clearly a selling game, even more so now that companies have tightened their purse strings. Ergonomists need to aim for two specific goals to improve management commitment to safety and ergonomics. Firstly, we need to ensure they perform 'good' ergonomics interventions, typified by decreased risk of injury, accompanied by increased production quality, increased productivity and improved worker satisfaction. As Hal Hendrick (1996) pointed out, there are too many examples of bad ergonomics. Secondly, we need to highlight the cost benefit aspects of interventions. Modern cost benefit models are available. Maurice Oxenburgh and co-authors have published a second edition of 'Increasing Profit through Health and Safety: The Financial Returns from a Safe Working Environment (2004, Taylor and Francis)' which outlines the business case clearly. Ergonomics in Ireland needs more of this so that ergonomics is integrated in companies as a preventative strategy and not just a knee jerk reaction approach to manual handling and RSI injuries.

2. Data on the Irish scene

The nature of industry in Ireland is changing rapidly, especially with the shift of many SMEs towards new and emerging approaches, including Lean and Agile manufacturing. Combined with a greater emphasis on service industries and a knowledge-based economics our industry has experienced many changes, and will experience many more. To support change and preserve a strong industrial base we need to adapt intervention strategies and prevention programmes to uphold a good respect for ergonomics. However, little specific ergonomics data exists in Ireland. This is exemplified by the reliance of the Health and Safety Authority (HSA) on their counterparts in the UK (HSE) for longitudinal and detailed studies and guidance documents on the likes of MMH. The Irish government needs to provide more support for the HSA and Irish research institutes to gather data and perform studies specific to the Industrial needs of companies in Ireland.

3. Research Needs and prevention strategies
Prof. Karwowski and other presenters at the symposium mentioned the importance of

knowledge management in industry and case examples were used to demonstrate the case in safety critical systems. This approach may be extended to reflect the ergonomics expertise in academia in Ireland. Although there are few academic experts in Ireland, they uphold excellent standards in their research work as exemplified by their publishing record in peer reviewed journal papers and international conferences. It is my view that at present the academic network is largely involved in importing the knowledge base to support their research work and then exporting the knowledge base for use internationally. However, little of this knowledge is being exploited in Ireland. Stronger allegiances with industry and product developers would support more ergonomics use on home soil.

4. The carrot and stick approach to ergonomics

A three day conference was held in Amsterdam in September titled 'Soft Law and Voluntary Initiatives', with the underlying theme being to thrust about discussion on new approaches to safety culture. Among the approaches was the prospect of reducing enforcement with a greater emphasis on voluntary adoption of good safety practices. The Dutch have a good reputation in ergonomics and safety and hence the supporters of this initiative have good grounds for it. But, unfortunately I do not envisage this as a good model for Ireland just yet as the education platform for dissemination of (A) the benefits and (B) the knowledge base on how to do it is weak. Again, the HSA appears to be under resourced to support such a dramatic change in safety education. In the meantime I think the weak enforcement approach of no carrot and no stick will prevail. I hope I am wrong.

5. The role of the Irish Ergonomics Society
The IES is the professional learned society for ergonomics in Ireland. It is affiliated with the International Ergonomics Association, The Federation of European Ergonomics Society (FEES) and provides the platform for accreditation of European Ergonomists (Eur Erg) in Ireland through CREE. It is good news for ergonomists that the new safety legislation due in 2005 will stipulate the need for competent safety professionals. As the IES is recognised internationally as the representative body for ergonomics in Ireland, it is imperative that it's members are recognised by the legislation as the competent professionals in this area.

Yours,

Leonard O'Sullivan
Ph.D. MIES, M. Erg.Soc

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Year	Number of Injuries due to lifting, handling or carrying activity	Total Number of non fatal accidents reported	% Of Injuries due to lifting, handling or carrying activity
1993	804	3777	21.28
1994	1151	4652	24.75
1995	1383	5247	26.35
1996	1268	5116	24.78
1997	1483	5894	25.16
1998	1867	6748	27.68
1999	2451	8292	29.55
2000	2154	7564	28.47
2001	2849	8909	31.97

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Health and Safety Authority received a commitment from Irish cement manufacturers that the use of 50 kg bags of cement will be eliminated and that supply would be restricted to 25 kg bags, in an effort to reduce manual handling injuries.

Review of Manual Handling Training

On September 7th 2004, the Health and Safety Authority announced that it is carrying out a review of manual handling training. The objective is to evaluate training available in Ireland in order to understand the issues contributing to the perceived variation in the quality and consistency of the trainers and the training course and to make recommendations on actions needed. A consultation process will begin at the end of September 2004.

For further information on H.S.A. activities see their Website at www.hsa.ie

Events Diary:

RISK 2005—RISK IN THE WORKPLACE

The IES is delighted to announce that it's involved in the organisation of RISK 2005 which will be held on **April 12th 2005 in the Burlington Hotel, Dublin. This is the day after the AGM and internal conference. The provisional programme is outline as follows:**

Module 1: 9.00 -10.30 Manual Handling and Obesity—Implications for Staff/Carers/ Patients

Module 2: 11.00 -12.30 Parallel Sessions
A: Medical Error
B: Management of Human Error

Module 3: 14.00 -1530 Parallel Sessions

A: A Participatory Approach to Minimising Risk
B: Needle Stick Injuries

Module 4: 16.00 -17.00 Cost/ Benefit Analysis & Panel Discussion

It is envisaged that each session will consist of a main paper and a small number of subsequent case studies. At this stage the IES would like to invite either main papers or case studies under these topics. Interested parties should contact the conference organisers with their expressions of interest.

SEE PAGE 8 FOR REGISTRATION FORM

ALOIS 2005

Action in Language, Organisations and Information Systems, 15-16 March, 2005, University of Limerick

The IES is please to announce ALOIS2005. The conferences aims to bring together researchers and practitioners with an interest in action-theoretic approaches for understanding information and communication technologies and their relations to work organisations. The conference organisers welcome contributions and the deadline for full papers is 14 Nov 2004. Further details can be obtained at, <http://www.alois2005.ul.ie/>

CYBERG 2005

First Call for Papers

"Meeting Diversity in Cyber/ Online Ergonomics"

Invitation to Participate

You are cordially invited to participate in the 4th International Cyberspace Conference on Ergonomics, CybErg 2005. This conference, CybErg 2005, is an online (virtual) conference on Ergonomics and Human Computer Interaction.

Conference Dates: **15 September to 15 October 2005.**

Call for Abstracts

Full Papers: Extended abstracts of approximately 800 words are due by **15 December 2004.**

Short Papers: Extended abstracts of approximately 400 words are due by **21 January 2005.**

Symposia: Proposals of 800 words are due by **15 December 2004.** Symposia proposals should include approximately 3 position papers and the names of the relevant authors.

Abstracts will be peer-reviewed by a panel of International reviewers, and successful presenters will be notified by **25 February 2005.** Papers are invited in the following areas:

- **Physical Ergonomics** (including repetitive strain injuries, work-rest schedules, anthropometry, work-related musculoskeletal disorders, workplace layout, manual materials handling, etc.)
- **Cognitive Ergonomics** (including human error, mental workload, naturalistic decision making,

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New Members

The IES would like to welcome the following new members to the Society:

Professor Ray Fuller	Fellow
Dr. William Gaughran	Member
Dr. Peter Williams	Associate
Fintan O'Donnell	Associate
Stephen Hehir	Student
Marie Louise Sheehy	Student
Caroline Duffy	Student

Au revoir to a founding member



The IES hosted a small lunch party to say goodbye to founding member Professor Tim Gallwey who is retiring to a warmer, sunnier place. On behalf of the Chairman, Steve Chan, who was unable to attend, Eleanor McMahon made a small presentation to Tim and thanked him for all he had done for Ergonomics and the Society over the years.

We all wish Tim and Joanna a happy and active retirement in their new home.

IES Working Group news

- **Ergonomics in School Group**
This group is currently working on a guidance document for Teachers about ergonomics in schools. In addition, the group has provisional plans to hold a seminar on ergonomics in schools during the next 9 months.

The New Web page

A lot of work has gone into the web page over the summer and it is now almost complete. The details for valid paid Members has also been posted on it. Please check and make sure that this information is correct. There are also areas where the editor would welcome suggestions, especially for the information section. Contributions are welcome.

Academic Focus:

Students of St. Mary's Secondary School, New Ross, Co Wexford question:

"Ergonomics, is it happening or not?" Young Scientist Exhibition at the RDS, Dublin

Teacher asking the group a few questions: Kathryn Keenan, Scoil Brid, Celbridge, Co. Kildare



Left to right students:

Emma Cumminns
Maria Russell
Elaine Hart
from St. Mary's Secondary School New Ross Co. Wexford

A group of girls from St. Mary's Secondary School New Ross Co. Wexford presented a project titled "Ergonomics, is it happening or not?" at the Young Scientist exhibition in Dublin in the Spring. The girls wanted to investigate how good was the ergonomics of VDT workstations in their school. As part of the project the students used discomfort scales and questionnaires to evaluate their fellow students experiences of computer workstations in a number of locations in their school. The study was well planned and the results clearly showed the problem areas in their school.

What's happening out there:



International Ergonomics Association

INTERNATIONAL ERGONOMICS ASSOCIATION

The news letter can be accessed electronically on the web address [Http://www.iea.cc/](http://www.iea.cc/)



Fees activities report May 2003 to May 2004

The Federation of European Ergonomics Societies (FEES) - affiliated with the International Ergonomics Association (IEA) - is the 'umbrella' of the ergonomics societies in 15 countries in Europe. FEES was approved to be a network of IEA in the council meeting in Seoul, South Korea in August 2003. The 15 societies are the following:

Belgian Ergonomics Society (BES, Belgium)
Finnish Ergonomics Society (Suomen Ergonomiyhdistys, Finland)
German Ergonomics Society (Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft, German)
Ergonomics Society (United Kingdom)
Hellenic Ergonomics Society (Greece)
Irish Ergonomics Society (Ireland)
Italian Ergonomics Society (Società Italiana di Ergonomia, Italy)
Portugal Ergonomics Society (Associação Portuguesa de Ergonomia, Portugal)
Spanish Ergonomics Society (Asociación Española de Ergonomia, Spain)
Swiss Society for Ergonomics (SwissErgo, Switzerland)
Dutch Ergonomics Society (Nederlands Vereininging voor Ergonomie, The Netherlands)
Nordic Ergonomics Society (Nordiska Ergonomisällskapet, Sweden, Norway, Denmark, Iceland and Finland)

The formal foundation of FEES took place in the context of the 48th Spring Conference of the Gesellschaft für Arbeitswissenschaft in Munich, on May 7th, 2003. The council was attended by thirteen delegates from 12 different societies. The first executive committee for FEES was elected at that council meeting. The president is Pieter Rookmaaker from the Netherlands, secretary general is Clas-Håkan Nygård from Finland and treasurer is Dirk Delaruelle from Belgium.

The board have had two meetings during the year 2003 (10th June 2003 in Brussels, Belgium, 23rd October at Hoofddorp) and two meetings during the year 2004 (13th February at Leuven, Belgium and 7th May at Hoofddorp, the Netherlands). To the board meetings different persons from FEES working groups or other has been invited to discuss matters of mutual interest. The

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board meetings have been joined by:

Veerle Hermans and Jaques Malchaire (Brussels Task Force), Ernst Koningsveld (IEA 2006 chair), Jan Graafmans (invited expert on EU-related matters), Philippe Mariaux (CREE).

Web site

FEES web site was opened during the foundation meeting of the federation in May 2003 at the address: www.fees-network.org . The web manager is Dietmar Gude from Germany. The web site has been updated several times during the year and now provides the most essential data about FEES.

EU related matters

The working group Brussels Tasks Force (BTF), which was established already a few years ago with the aim to invent EU related ergonomic activities and institutions, came to an end with its present constellation. The BTF group (Veerle Hermans, Jaques Malchaire and Roland Gauthy) has done valuable work with finding relevant links to different institutions. The links are presented at FEES web site. The group sampled also a questionnaire from the societies with relevant national addresses to ergonomics related sources.

The board members has discussed with several persons (i.e. Jan Graafmans and others) with the aim to disseminate information about various facilities by the European Union for the FEES-members.

Contacts with societies

The main part of the information from FEES board to the societies has gone through the secretary but all board members have had personal contacts with many of the societies. "Personal talks with societies" was started in the beginning of the year. The three board officers have had talks with the president of the societies and the FEES representatives about the societies' expectations and wishes towards FEES. A preliminary summary of the talks will be given at the council meeting in June in Paris.

Regularly contacts with IEA executives have been established.

Conferences

FEES was a co-organizer of the 48th International German Ergonomics Conference in Munich organized by the German Ergonomics Society (GfA). FEES organized a European session and had its council meeting and foundation meeting

during the conference.

FEES has been taken part in the Ergonoma/ Confoset (2nd European tradeshow on work place and work situations ergonomics) in Brussels 7th to 9th April. This was an experiment to see how FEES can be active in making contacts both to researchers as well as practitioners in a commercial conference like this. The participation will be evaluated in order to make rules for FEES participation in commercial conferences in the future.

Regularly contact with CREE has been taken during the year in order to plan the 1st European Forum for Professional Ergonomists in Paris 4th to 5th June 2004.

FEES is a co-organizer with the Dutch Ergonomics Society to the IEA 2006 conference in Maastricht 2006. IEA 2006 chair Ernst Koningsveld has reported the proceedings in the planning regularly. Pieter Rookmaaker is the contact person for FEES to IEA 2006 organizers.

Finances

In the startup year of FEES, the total of the incoming money was 11.900,51 €. This amount is the sum of the 2.166,13 e contribution of the IEA to start up the FEES network. The rest, 9.724,42 €, represents the fees from our member countries (Belgium, Germany, Italy, Netherlands, Finland, Nordic Ergonomics Society, Portugal, UK, Ireland, Switzerland and Spain) and some small bank interests. The outgoing money, 3.252,03 €, consisted of costs related to the council meeting, the executive committee' meetings, printing of leaflets and some small bank costs and costs made by BTF. Due to the fact that quite a lot of things need to be started up in 2004, the benefit of 2003 was 8.648,48 €. The proposed budget for 2004 is therefore negative.

Paris 3rd June 2004

FEES executive committee
Pieter Rookmaaker
Clas-Håkan Nygård
Dirk Delaruelle

Contacts to:
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FIN-33014-University of Tampere

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Phone: +358 3 2156658
Fax: +358 3 2156057
Web site: www.FEES-network.org



Rob Saunders

Galway, 10th September, 2004

25th CREE Council meeting held in Paris on the 6th & 7th June.

Membership:

Two new members were appointed: Damien Huyghe, the new French rep replaces Thierry Morlet, and Veli-Matti Tuure, rep for the future Finnish board that is to be accredited to CREE. Finland is trying to gain membership of CREE . Formerly, they were (are) a part of the larger Nordic Ergonomic Society, but are very eager to be a part of CREE as a separate entity.

Applications:

There were 17 successful new applicants and 9 renewals. A further 4 were 'inadequate' and had to be postponed. This process took nearly 5 hours!

Ireland was questioned on the fact that the majority of its EurErgs had 'expired'. Tim Gallwey and I explained briefly, but the issues raised were considered serious and it was deferred until after the election of Treasurer. [A brief report was also requested].

The CREE committee then met Pierre Falzon – IEA President. This meeting arose from (the reaction to) the Bologna Agreement and the IEA's drive to standardise Master's teaching programmes across the world. They want CREE/FEES support for this, but already, there is strong opposition within Europe. No commitments were made.

The Netherlands have requested to revisit the "exception to the rule" procedure and are to propose a new procedure for assessing "senior" ergonomists – to be examined at the next meeting.

Each NAB (National Assessment Board) is to prepare a report on the CPD requirements relevant to their country, and is to design their own 'national' form for assessing the CPD requirement issue for each candidate.

Since Tim Gallwey is retiring, and Gabriella? (the former Italian rep.) cannot now perform

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the task, the Council have asked me to take it on. Term is until end of '06. Therefore, a new Irish rep. To the Cree council needs to be elected.

The next meeting is in November in Brentford, UK.

Health and Safety Authority

news:

Frank Power

The Health and Safety Authority is the national body in Ireland with responsibility for securing health and safety at work. It is a state sponsored body, established under the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 1989 and it reports to the Minister for Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

Its key functions are to monitor and enforce compliance with occupational health and safety law, to provide information and expert advice, to promote workplace safety, health, welfare, education and training, to publish research and to propose new regulations and codes of practice.

In the area of Ergonomics the main piece of legislation under the remit of the Health and Safety Authority is the Manual Handling Regulation in Statutory Instrument Number 44 of 1993. This regulation sets out a framework for employers to reduce the risk of injury from manual handling activity. It seeks to reduce the very large incidence of injury and ill health arising from the manual handling of loads at work.

In 2000, 35% of accidents reported to the Health and Safety Authority were injuries resulting from manual handling activity. The data in table 1 below demonstrates that this type of injury makes up a significant percentage of non-fatal accidents reported.

Injuries due to lifting handling or carrying activity reported to the H.S.A. 1993-2001

Table 1:

Table 2 highlights that there is an upward trend in the level of such injuries.

In 2001 the Health and Safety Authority completed a detailed study to assess the management of manual handling in the workplace

The results highlighted that 83% of all sites inspected across different work sectors did not carry out any risk assessment of manual handling activities and 60% of all sites inspected had not carried out any manual handling training.

Table 2:

The Health and Safety Authority recognised that a number of interventions would have to be introduced over a period of time in order to address the issues raised in this report. Some interventions introduced by the Health and Safety Authority are detailed below:

New Guidance on Risk Assessment:

A new guidance document of the management of manual handling in the workplace is currently under review by the L

Legislation and Guidance sub-committee of the H.S.A. Board.

Further Enforcement and Inspections

In November 2002 Judge Elizabeth Dunne of Dublin Circuit Court upheld the earlier decision of the District court in rejecting Ryan Air's appeal against enforcement action taken

by the Health and Safety Authority. The Ryan Air appeal challenged a decision by two inspectors to require the introduction of mechanical equipment, during aircraft baggage loading/unloading operations so as to minimise the risk of manual handling injuries.

In January 2003 the Health and Safety Authority secured a prosecution for breach of the manual handling regulations. The prosecution was brought after a shop manager sustained a serious injury while moving large quantities of stock to a storeroom. The company pleaded guilty to a breach of Regulation 28(b) of the Safety Health and Welfare at work (General Application) regulations 1993.

Inspectors have received further training in relation to addressing manual handling issues in the workplace and since 2001 the Programme of Work has outlined the need to carry out a set number of inspections primarily focused on addressing manual handling.

Work with Cement manufacturers to eliminate the 50 kg bag of cement:

In October 2003 the

HSA Statistics 1993-2001: Injuries while handling, lifting or carrying as a Percentage of Total non fatal injuries

