

New association to promote safe work at height formed

A number of specialists in working at height have come together to form a new association to promote safe work at height in Irish workplaces.

Brandon Agencies, Bruce Shaw Safety Management, Skyway Safe Access Equipment and TGP Safety Management are founding members of the recently-established Irish Safety at Height Association (ISHA). The aims of the Association are to:

- Establish a credible source of information on preventing falls from heights for impartial practical advice to clients, architects, design teams, project supervisors design process and construction stage;
- Demystify legislation by publishing summaries and easy to understand guides;
- Disseminate information to interested parties through guides, to be published in print and on the ISHA website, www.safetyatheight.ie, and through blogs and e-zines;
- Create an understanding of best practice that will be practical and in compliance with regulations;
- Review internationally-published and industry best practice papers and apply the outcomes to the Irish context;
- Identify and influence future changes in regulations, standards and government practices;

- Deliver presentations at conferences and exhibitions, in order to educate interested parties on safe working at height.

The Association has already published its first guide, *Safe Work at Height on Roofs: A Simple Guide for Clients*. Among the main points made in the guide, which can be downloaded from the Association's website, is that clients cannot pass on responsibilities and that a risk assessment is essential. The guide addresses issues such as providing safe access to frequently and infrequently accessed roofs.

The ISHA is now working on guides on the use of hooped ladders and the use of personal fall-arrest systems and standards in relation to fall arrest equipment.

For information about the Association visit the ISHA website, www.safetyatheight.ie, or contact one of the following, Kieran Meegan (email Kieran@skyway.ie), Niall Harrington (email niall.harrington@bruceshaw.com), Des Brandon (email des.brandon@brandonagencies.com) or Brian Lahiff (email brian.lahiff@tgp.ie).