



Press Release

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Löfstedt Review: “Reclaiming health and safety for all”

IIRSM comments on review

IIRSM welcomes the publication of the report into “Reclaiming health and safety for all” from the committee chaired by Professor Ragnar Löfstedt. In particular, we are pleased to see that many of the features of the UK legislative system have been retained or enhanced. The report recognises the value of the changes which arose from the Robens Report, in particular the fundamental principle that the duty for controlling workplace risks should rest with the business which creates the risks and that the level of control should be proportionate to the degree of risk. Along with this, IIRSM is pleased to see that the Committee has recommended that a risk based, as opposed to a hazard based, approach should be adopted. To support this view the report has identified some uncertainty in society around the meaning of “risk” and has recommended stimulating a wider debate. Again, as a risk management institute, we welcome Professor Löfstedt’s views and hope to have an opportunity for input to that process.

Looking back to the Health and Safety at Work Act 1974, IIRSM supports the proposal that regulations which impose strict liability should be reviewed, and where this is not essential, qualified by the “reasonably practicable” standard. This will prevent civil liability from arising as a result of a breach of these regulations.

Whilst recognising the sense in exempting self-employed workers from the requirements of health and safety legislation, where their actions pose no potential risk to third parties, IIRSM feels that there is still work to do on this as this opt-out may not be as simple as it appears. Many self-employed workers work in the construction sector which is inherently hazardous. Will these self-employed workers fully understand the requirements?

One recommendation which may raise some questions relates to the proposal to give HSE control over Local Authority inspection and enforcement. There could be value in ensuring that there is greater consistency between the regimes. IIRSM feels that the associated recommendation which will extend the Local Authority “Primary Authority” approach to other national multi-site business is a positive move which will again lead to greater consistency of standards.

IIRSM is pleased to see that, at this stage, there has been no wholesale revocation of existing regulations although the report has conceded that more time was needed for a full consideration. What could be a positive move is the proposal to consider a sector specific approach.

This has been a significant report and there will be much to consider going forward. IIRSM will continue to monitor the situation and provide guidance to our members as the position develops.

-ENDS-

NOTES TO EDITORS

IIRSM

The International Institute of Risk and Safety Management (IIRSM) is a professional body for health and safety practitioners and specialists in related fields who have a health and safety remit. It was set up to advance standards in accident prevention and occupational health throughout the world.

Established in 1975 this not-for-profit organisation offers membership to practitioners in over 70 countries. IIRSM welcomes third sector engagement at every level and actively seeks partnerships with equivalent bodies throughout the world. It has strong links with leading universities and international bodies and works to establish and promote standards of professional competence.

In support of its mission statement: “to provide recognition, information, support and enhancement to our growing membership” IIRSM places the interests of its membership at the centre of everything it does.

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