

Legislation Outlook

October 2024



This monthly legislation briefing will help you plan for the maintenance of your ISO 14001, ISO 22301, ISO 27001, ISO 45001 and ISO 50001 systems. We will provide advance warning about important legislation that will affect compliance with these standards, including relevant news, newly published guidance and government consultations, and any other significant legislation beyond the scope of the standards listed, which may potentially impact your organisation. We don't waste your time on items such as an increase in administrative fees, we only report on items of value.

The Grenfell Inquiry Report, published this month, contains recommendations that will have a significant impact on those organisations working in the construction industry. See our Focus section below for more information on the potential impacts.

Updated Standard-Related Legislation

ISO 45001

Personal Protective Equipment at Work (Amendment) Regulations (Northern Ireland) 2024

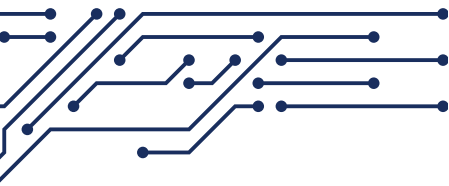
These Regulations come into force on 21st October 2024 and amend the Personal Protective Equipment at Work Regulations (Northern Ireland) 1993 to make changes mirroring those made to the regulation of PPE in Great Britain in 2022. These changes extend the obligation on employers found in the 1993 Regulations to a wider group of workers, known as “limb (b) workers”, who have more casual employment relationships than employees. Limb (b) workers are defined by the Health and Safety Executive as workers who:

- carry out casual or irregular work for one or more organisations;
- after 1 month of continuous service, receive holiday pay but not other employment rights such as the minimum period of statutory notice;
- only carry out work if they choose to;

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- have a contract or other arrangement to do work or services personally for a reward (the contract doesn't have to be written), and only have a limited right to send someone else to do the work, for example swapping shifts with someone on a pre-approved list (subcontracting); and
- are not in business for themselves (they do not advertise services directly to customers who can then also book their services directly).

If you have any limb (b) workers in Northern Ireland, you will now need to ensure that they are provided with any required PPE free of charge.

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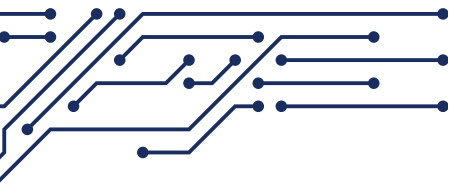
Find out more

Focus

Grenfell Inquiry Report Recommendations

The [Phase 2 Report](#) of the public inquiry into the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, which killed 72 people, was published earlier this month and is expected to have a significant impact on the construction industry.

The report concluded that the fire resulted from decades of failures by central government and other bodies in positions of responsibility in the construction industry to thoroughly assess the risks of using combustible materials in the external walls of high-rise residential buildings, and to act on the information available to them.



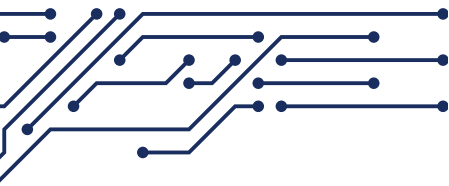
The report makes several recommendations, including:

- the creation of a single construction regulator responsible for functions currently carried out by various bodies, including:
 - the regulation of construction products;
 - the development of appropriate methods for testing the fire performance of materials and products used in construction;
 - the testing and certification of such products;
 - the issue of certificates confirming construction products' compliance with legislation, statutory guidance, and industry standards;
 - the regulation and oversight of building control;
 - the licensing of contractors working on higher-risk buildings;
 - monitoring the operation of the Building Regulations 2010 and statutory guidance and advising the Secretary of State on necessary changes;
 - conducting research on fire safety issues in the built environment;
 - collecting and exchanging information, both domestically and internationally, on fire safety matters;
 - exchanging information with fire and rescue services on fire safety issues;
 - accrediting fire risk assessors; and
 - maintaining a publicly accessible library of test data and publications;



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- updating the legislative definition of “higher-risk building,” which currently refers to a building that is at least 18 meters in height (or has at least seven storeys) and contains at least two residential units, to include consideration of the building’s use and, in particular, the likely presence of vulnerable individuals who may face difficulties evacuating in the event of a fire or other emergency;
- an urgent review of Approved Document B, the statutory guidance for meeting the fire safety requirements of the Building Regulations 2010, to ensure that developers following the guidance can be confident of complying with the Regulations;
- recognition and regulation of the fire engineer profession to establish a body of registered professionals capable of contributing to the design and delivery of safe buildings and educating other construction professionals on effective fire safety strategies;
- the creation of a statutory requirement for a fire safety strategy, taking into account the needs of vulnerable individuals (including additional time required for evacuation or facilities needed to ensure their safety), to be prepared by a registered fire engineer and submitted with building control applications for higher-risk buildings; and
- the introduction of a licensing scheme for principal contractors wishing to work on higher-risk buildings, and the creation of a legal requirement for applications for building control approval for a higher-risk building to be accompanied by an undertaking from the director of the principal contractor to take all reasonable steps to ensure that, upon completion and handover, the building meets the safety requirements of the Building Regulations 2010.

Following its publication, the Prime Minister issued a statement promising that the Government would respond to the report within six months. We will, of course, provide further information on this when it becomes available.

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