IRELAND. INSPECTION ACTIVITIES

Title of the inspection activities: **Inspection Campaigns in Quarries**

Duration of the inspection activities: **Two weeks in May 2023, a follow-up campaign two weeks in October 2023**

Aim of the inspection activities: **The main objective of the inspection campaign carried out in the Quarry sector was to drive improvements in the sector that is identified as posing a risk to workers and to enable inspectors to target hazards specific to this sector.**

Scope of the inspection activities: **The campaign was focused on Machinery Guarding and Maintenance. During the campaign a questionnaire was used during the inspections, which consisted of 32 questions, grouped into three headings: Risk Assessments and Training, Guarding and Estops and Maintenance and Isolation**

Sector covered by inspections: **Quarries and associated manufacturing sites**

The number of establishments inspected in the framework of the activities: **158 in May, 150 in September**

The number of labour inspectors involved in implementing the inspection activities: **Approximately 10 inspectors**

The number of persons involved in supervising the implementation of the inspection activities (including development of inspection documents and summarizing results of inspections): **1**

Short summary of the outcome of the inspection activities: **The initial campaign's 158 inspections resulted in 180 enforcements, including 25 Improvement Notices and 23 Prohibition Notices whilst the follow-up campaign (150 inspections) resulted in 127 enforcement notices, including 8 Improvement Notices and 11 Prohibition Notices.**

The inspection campaign highlighted key safety issues, including inadequate machine guarding, no risk assessments for planned and unplanned maintenance activities and lack of training in Permit to Work and Lock Out Tag Out systems.

No.	question	yes/no	comment
**Inspection activity**
**A. Selecting priority areas for inspection**
1.	What sources of information did you use in selecting the priority area for inspection?		☒ inspectorate's own database of workplace accidents **The inspectorate have a database of all accidents reported and inspections previously carried out** ☒ external database of workplace accidents (please specify) **The statutory company register** **Information from employer stakeholders.** ☒ proposals of stakeholders – employer organizations ☒ proposals of stakeholders – trade union organizations ☒ complaints; **The inspectorate have a database of all complaints and this is used to plan inspection campaign**
2.	What was the main reason for selecting the inspection priority area?		☒ high rates of workplace accidents, including fatal and serious accidents ☒ stakeholders' expectations
3.	What was defined as priority area?		☒ a particular hazard (a group of hazards) in a given sector
4.	What was the predominant aim of workplace inspections?		☒ to provide the inspected entities with information on legal requirements ☒ to enforce compliance with the law in the inspected entities ☒ to achieve a measurable effect, e.g. in the form of reduced accident rate, morbidity rate, etc. ☒ others (please specify) **To raise standards**

5.	How did you determine the number of entities to be inspected?		☒ the percentage of all registered entities where the problem determined as the priority area was expected to surface (range: ☒ over 75 % of all registered entities); ☒ the percentage of the overall number of inspections planned in a given year – if so, what percentage? **A number of campaigns take place during the year – which account for over 75 percent of the inspections carried out by HSA in the sector for that year.**
6.	What was taken into consideration when determining the number of inspections to be carried out by individual field offices (regions):		☒ the number of entities typical of a given programme in the region; ☒ the number of inspectors carrying out inspection tasks in a given region;
7.	Were IT tools used to identify the priority area in the described inspection campaign?	YES	A brief description of IT tools **Internal database of inspections, accidents and complaints.**
8.	Were IT tools used to identify the target group of inspected entities in the described inspection campaign?	YES	A brief description of IT tools **Inspectors database – inhouse design.** The type of data: **Inspection, Accident, complaint and enforcement data .**
B. Determining the time span of inspection activities			
9.	How was the breakdown of inspections planned? Were the inspections carried out:		
a)	evenly throughout the whole period of the planned activities	YES	**Inspectors are provided with locations to inspect over a two or three week period.**
b)	as a series of intensified inspections in predetermined short periods of time	YES	If so, did you plan for: ☒ two inspection periods during the campaign;
c)	other way (how?)		**Inspectors are provided with locations to inspect over a two or three week period**.

10.	What was the average duration of a workplace visit conducted in the framework of the programme implementation (the time it took to complete inspection activities at an individual establishment)?		☒ within one day, between 2 and 4 hours; ☒ within one day, between 4 and 8 hours;
11.	What was the average duration of the activities carried out in the office of the labour inspectorate (excluding the penal and administrative sanctions)?		☒ within one day, no longer than 2 hours;

C. Selecting establishments for inspection.

12.	What criteria were used when selecting establishments for inspection?		☒ overall number of workers ☒ accident rate in a particular workplace ☒ personal knowledge of labour inspectors who supervise particular workplaces (groups of workplaces) ☒ workplace location criterion
13.	What sources of information were used when selecting establishments for inspection?		☒ inspectorate's own database ☒ others (please specify) **In addition the statutory register of establishments from Companies registration office.**
14.	Were IT tools used to select specific inspected entities in the described inspection campaign?		The type of data: **Inspection, Accident , Complaint and enforcement data**

D. Provision of staff for carrying out inspections

15.	What group of inspectors was involved in the inspection activities?		☒ a select team of inspectors was involved based on their education and experience: ☒ up to 10% of the staff **Less than 10% of HSA staff but the full quarry team (7inspectors) plus experienced inspectors from other teams, approx 10 inspectors.**

16.	How were inspectors prepared for the inspection activities (additional training)?		☒ additional training was provided by the same person (the same team) for all labour inspectors involved in the campaign; **Central briefing for inspectors who are familiar with sector. In addition enforcement expectations and checklist guidance was provided.**
17.	Were IT tools used to prepare labour inspectors to carry out activities within the described inspection campaign?	NO	
18.	What materials were at the inspectors' disposal during the activities?		☒ description of the inspection activities' objectives; ☒ description of the ways in which to implement the activities (tasks to be completed); ☒ checklists; ☒ examples of reactive actions to be taken by inspectors upon identification of typical cases of incompliance;
19.	Did labour inspectors use IT tools when carrying out activities within the described inspection campaign?		A brief description of IT tools: **Onsite the inspectors use their own inspectors notebook and checklist. A tailored checklist is completed on IT system and reports are generated to summarise activities – power bi reports were generated to analyse the data.** IT tools were used : ☒ when summarizing and documenting the results of the inspection in a specific inspected entity - how did they support the labour inspector in (please provide a short description): - preparation for an inspection?

			Checklist developed for Campaign
E. Involvement of other regulators, institutions, authorities for labour protection and social partners in the implementation process.			
20.	Can other regulators, institutions, authorities for labour protection and social partners submit their proposals of inspection topics to the inspectorate's plan of work?	YES	**A tripartite industry and social partnership committee is established and details of the campaign and its outcome are discussed with partners. In addition proposals for future campaigns are considered with industry.**
21.	Was the inspection activity the result of a proposal submitted by another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner?	NO	
22.	Was there any cooperation between the labour inspectorate and another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner?	YES	**A tripartite industry and social partnership committee is established for the quarry sector in Ireland and details of the campaign and its outcome are discussed with partners.**
23.	At which stage was the cooperation with another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner initiated?		☒ at the communication stage regarding the onset of the inspection activity; ☒ at the stage of popularizing the information about the results of the inspection activity;
24.	What did the cooperation with another regulator, institution, authority for labour protection or social partner involve?		☒ others (please specify): **Sharing information and gathering feedback.**
25.	Are there any legal requirements obliging other regulators, institutions, authorities or social partners to make their data accessible to the labour inspectorate for inspection needs?	YES	**Data sharing agreements are in place with other regulators where cooperation is required.**
26.	Does the labour inspectorate have direct online access to information	YES	**Statutory Companies Register is part of new inspectorate ICT system**

	and data collected by other bodies, institutions and authorities?		
27.	What information obtained in the above manner was used for implementing the inspection campaign?		**Establishing the list of locations to inspect**.
F. Supporting inspection activities with training provided for employers or workers (combining inspection and educational activities)			
28.	Were establishments covered by inspections provided with information or training **prior to the commencement of the inspection task**?	YES	**A tripartite industry and social partnership committee is established for the quarry sector in Ireland and details of the campaign and its outcome are discussed with partners.** **Irish Concrete Federation – employer representative group were informed of campaign.** **In advance of the campaign, an online briefing to over 120 participants was given to members of the Irish Concrete Federation, a key stakeholder group in Ireland. Approx 25%.**
29.	Is the effectiveness of prior information or training activities taken into account when evaluating the results of the inspections?	NO	**Not evaluated.**
30.	Once the **inspection activity is completed**, are representatives of inspected establishments provided with recommendations and proposed corrective measures – in the form of guidance or training – regarding the identified compliance level in establishments operating in the field covered by inspection?	YES	What form do they have? **Summary feedback is provided to Quarry Safety Partnership and Irish Concrete Federation (Employer stakeholder group)** What percentage of establishments selected for guidance/training (or other forms of communication activities) actually attended? **Approx 25% .**

G. Monitoring the implementation of inspection activities			
31.	Was the implementation of inspection activities in any way monitored and coordinated?	YES	How many people were involved in monitoring and coordination of the inspection activity? **Line management – mainly the senior inspector responsible for quarry team.** What was the function of those persons in relation to labour inspectors who implemented the activity (fellow labour inspectors, immediate supervisors, national coordinator at the labour inspectorate's headquarters)? **Ensuring inspections/enforcement carried out consistently and appropriately.**
32.	What was the scope of monitoring and coordinating actions regarding the inspection activity?		☒ assistance in solving problems ☒ monitoring the implementation level of the developed quantitative plan
33.	Were IT tools used to carry out monitoring and coordination activities as part of the described inspection campaign?	YES	A brief description of IT tools: **Onsite the inspectors use their own inspectors notebook and checklist. A tailored checklist is completed on IT system and reports are generated to summarise activities – power bi reports were generated to analyse the data.** IT tools were used to: ☒ monitoring the implementation level of the developed quantitative plan
H. Communicating the information about inspection campaign and its results.			
34.	Did you develop any plan to communicate the information about the inspection activities to:		
a)	stakeholders in the sector covered by the inspection activity ?	YES	**After the campaign, an online briefing to quarry industry participants was given to members of the Irish Concrete Federation, a key stakeholder group in Ireland. Findings**

			also provided at Quarry Safety Partnership and in industry newsletter. **Social Media and a press release were also used to deliver information about the campaign.**
b)	the general public?	YES	**Press release and social media were used to highlights hazards in sector and that an inspection campaign was commencing.**
35.	What was the scope of information communicated to:		
a)	stakeholders in the sector covered by the inspection activity ?		**Press release and social media were used to highlights hazards in sector and that an inspection campaign was commencing**
b)	the general public?		
36.	How was the information about the inspection activities communicated to stakeholders and the general public?		**As above.**
I. Evaluating the results of the inspection activities. Evaluation methods and tools.			
37.	How were the **results** of inspection campaign evaluated?		
a)	based on a checklist	YES	How are the results of inspections evaluated by means of a checklist? **Checklists are summaried by Inspectors ICT system and a Powerbi reports are generated**
b)	based on the number of legal measures issued	YES	**Reports look at enforcement and type of enforcement by hazard**
c)	based on the type of legal measures issued	YES	*No answer in the questionnaire – answer YES given on the base of the summary of the campaign*
38.	How was the information about the **effects** of inspection campaign obtained (e.g. about the elimination of irregularities, introduction of higher standards)?		

a)	information provided by the employer	YES	If so, what form did the information provided by the employer have? **Employers required to respond to enforcement activity by providing evidence of compliance.** Was the information provided by employers randomly verified by labour inspectors? **YES** What is the employer's liability for providing false information? **N/A** What is the ratio of information provided by the employer to the overall pool of information about the effects of inspections? **No answer**
b)	information provided by the labour inspector who conducted the next inspection at the workplace		If so, what form did the information provided by the inspector have? **Inspection report and enforcement** . What is the ratio of information provided by the labour inspector who conducted the next inspection at the workplace to the overall pool of information about the effects of inspections? **All information is shared on ICT system**
39.	What performance indicators were used to evaluate the effectiveness of the inspection campaign?		Please list and briefly describe the indicators: **Compliance at next inspection.** **Compliance with enforcement Notices issued.** **Feedback from stakeholders.** **Compliance and improvements seen on 2nd campaign.**
40.	Were IT tools used to assess the effectiveness of the inspection campaign?	YES	A brief description of IT tools: **Inspectors ICT system which captured summary of inspection.**

			IT tools were used to: ☒ provide compilations of data on the basis of which the inspection campaign was assessed ☒ formulate an assessment of the effectiveness of labour inspectors' activities within the inspection campaign **Conclusion is done manually.**
41.	How were the project **effects** evaluated?		
a)	Was any final summary evaluation of the inspection task (inspection campaign) made?	YES	If so, what was the scope of such evaluation? **Repeat campaign carried out later in year to examine sustained compliance**,
b)	Were partial assessments made during the inspection activity?	YES	If so, what was the frequency and scope of such assessments? **Repeat campaign carried out later in year to examine sustained compliance**.
c)	Did you prepare a formal document with evaluation of the inspection activity after its completion?	NO	
42.	How was the final document utilized in practice?		**Shared with Quarry Sector to raised standards.**