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OHSa Operations

During the month of July, the Occupational Health and Safety Authority (OHSa) carried out 680 workplace inspections.

In 119 workplaces visited, the hazards present were deemed serious enough to potentially cause death or serious physical harm and were an imminent danger to the health and safety of the workers due to blatant breaches of OHS legislation. In these instances, OHS Officers issued orders for work activities to stop immediately until the situation was remedied. These cases will continue to be followed up with the imposition of administrative fines or the commencement of judicial proceedings once OHSa's investigations are finalized.

During the same month, 38 entities and individuals were issued with administrative fines for breaches of occupational health and safety legislation committed during the preceding months. The fines ranged between €250 and €1000 depending on the severity of the case. The most common infringements were the lack of provisions to prevent falls from heights, construction site project supervisors not adhering to OHS general principles of prevention and construction site clients not following the recommendations of the project supervisor.

During the same period of time, OHSa also issued 147 improvement notices where workplaces were not fully compliant with the law and vetted 436 equipment examination reports.

“Despite the widely-available information on how to mitigate occupational health and safety risks, there still remain persons who choose to ignore their legal obligations, thus putting workers at risk of injury, ill-health or worse. In such situations OHSa will intervene to not only stop the work activity, but also to issue fines or commence judicial proceedings depending on the severity of the risks identified. At the moment, OHSa is waiting to commence legal action against a further 450 individuals for breaches of occupational health and safety legislation,” said Dr Mark Gauci, OHSa's CEO.