

**Overview
of the
SOLAS
Safe Pass Programme
Health and Safety Awareness Training**





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Introduction

The purpose of the SOLAS Safe Pass health and safety awareness training programme is to ensure, over the course of time, that all workers in construction, will have a basic knowledge of health and safety, and be able to work on site without being a risk to themselves or others who might be affected by their acts or omissions.

The SOLAS Safe Pass programme arose from an initiative of the Construction Industry Training Committee. The initiative was incorporated into the Construction Safety Partnership Plan which was launched by the Government in 2000, following consultation between FÁS, the HSA, expert working groups, the social partners, including the Construction Industry Federation and ICTU, with support from the Construction Industry Training Committee.

Training provided under the Safe Pass Programme, which has its legislative basis in the Safety, Health, and Welfare at Work Act 2005, the Safety Health and Welfare at Work (General Application) Regulations 2007, and the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013, and is not intended to relieve employers of their statutory duty to provide adequate health and safety training to employees.

SOLAS maintains a national register of people who attended and successfully completed a SOLAS Safe Pass programme. On successful completion of a SOLAS Safe Pass programme participants received a validated SOLAS Safe Pass card, which is valid for a period of four years. It is a condition of renewal of the Safe Pass card that card holders must update their health and safety awareness training every four years.

Programme Descriptor

The SOLAS Safe Pass programme provides health and safety awareness training for construction workers, who are bound by legislation to hold a valid SOLAS Safe Pass card. The programme is a one day health and safety awareness programme, delivered by an approved SOLAS Safe Pass Tutor. Successful completion of a Safe Pass programme results in the attainment of a Safe Pass identification card, which is valid for a period of four years, after which it can be renewed by updating their health and safety awareness by undertaking a subsequent Safe Pass programme.

Programme Objectives

The Safe Pass programme was introduced to ensure all workers in construction would receive health and safety awareness training in order to be able to work on site without being a risk to themselves or others who might be affected by their acts or omissions.

Statistical evidence demonstrates there has been a major reduction in the rate of fatalities and injuries in the construction industry since the introduction of the Safe Pass programme along with other health and safety initiatives, all of which have helped to create and promote an ever improving culture of health and safety in the construction industry. The overall objectives of the Safe Pass programme are to:

- Prevent workplace accidents, work related injuries and fatalities
- Raise the standard of health and safety awareness in the construction industry



- Ensure all site personnel undergo basic health and safety awareness training
- Enhance the avoidance of health and safety hazards
- Positively and actively contribute to a committed construction health and safety culture

SOLAS is committed to promoting equality of opportunity in the workplace. Consequently, the SOLAS Safe Pass programme is open to all persons.

Benefits to Employers

The SOLAS Safe Pass programme is but one of a number of initiatives that have been put in place to enhance the level of health and safety awareness in construction sector. However, the SOLAS Safe Pass programme provides employers with the following benefits:

- Contributes to a decline in work environment accidents, injuries and fatalities
- Improves health and safety awareness amongst all construction workers
- Supports the promotion and development of a health and safety culture
- Assists in the reduction in lost time due to accidents
- Allows employers to identify personnel that have successfully completed health and safety awareness training
- Improves employee morale and wellbeing

Benefits to Employees

The SOLAS Safe Pass programme is designed to address and promote health and safety awareness at the level of the individual worker. Consequently, the SOLAS Safe Pass programme provides individual workers with the following benefits:

- A valid Safe Pass card provides evidence of successful completion of health and safety awareness training
- Enhances personal health and safety awareness
- Promotes the benefits of being health and safety conscious
- Contributes to personal development
- Improves employment prospects

Scope of Safe Pass

The SOLAS Safe Pass Programme is designed to encompass and facilitate all workers in construction. All new entrants to the construction sector, including construction related apprentices, trainees undergoing construction related traineeship programmes and transition year students availing of work experience opportunities within the construction sector are required to attend and successfully complete a Safe Pass course.



Safe Pass Review and Revision Process

SOLAS in consultation with construction sector stakeholders continuously reviews the Safe Programme content and, where necessary, revises the Safe Pass content to reflect evolving health and safety requirements and practices within the construction sector.

Safe Pass Card Fee

A fee of €32.00 is payable to SOLAS at the time of application to the Safe Pass programme. Upon successful completion of the Safe Pass programme participants will be issued with a validated SOLAS Safe Pass card, which remains valid for four (4) years.

Safe Pass Programme Content

The training modules incorporated within the one-day Safe Pass programme are as follows:-

Number	Learning Unit
Learning Unit 1	Introduction to Site Safety
Learning Unit 2	Legislation and Site Safety
Learning Unit 3	Site Accident Reporting
Learning Unit 4	Introduction to Risk Assessment
Learning Unit 5	Risk Assessment for Electricity
Learning Unit 6	Risk Assessment for Excavations
Learning Unit 7	Risk Assessment for Heights
Learning Unit 8	Behaviour-Based Safety
Learning Unit 9	Site Safety and Construction Equipment
Learning Unit 10	Site Safety and Construction Vehicles
Learning Unit 11	Personal Health and Welfare
Learning Unit 12	Noise and Vibration
Learning Unit 13	Personal Protective Equipment

SOLAS Approved Safe Pass Tutors

Only SOLAS approved tutors may deliver the Safe Pass programme, administer the required assessment, and register successful Safe Pass course participants onto the SOLAS card management system.

Prior to arranging for participants to attend a SOLAS Safe Pass programme employers, as well as individual participants planning to undertake a Safe Pass course, are advised to check with SOLAS to ensure that the intended provider of the SOLAS Safe Pass programme has been approved by SOLAS.

Further Information

Persons wishing to acquire further information on the SOLAS Safe Pass programme can contact the SOLAS Safe Pass Unit by email to safepass@solas.ie