

Construction safety and workforce skills: publication of draft legislation to make the construction industry safer and more attractive to future workers through upskilling and licencing of construction workers

POLICY DEVELOPMENT

REGULATION/LEGISLATION

 IRELAND

Timeline

2023 Legislative process

2024 Legislative process

ID number 48911

Background

This is a key element of the Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science's response to meeting construction skills needs and workforce requirements to meet the wider policy agenda in Ireland under the Housing for All strategy, and the National Development Plan (NDP).

Objectives

The aim of the Construction Safety Licencing Bill is to reform and modernise the existing model for the sector, to make construction an even safer industry to work in, and to make the industry more attractive to future workers.

Safety skills will be embedded into worker skills development, and make safety management easier for employers.

The legislation will also recognise workers who are not qualified (either through apprenticeship or professional qualifications), but have relevant construction skills to obtain a licence that recognises their skills, relevant to the individual's workplace activities.

The legislation allows a new licencing authority to be established, replacing the existing training model where qualifications are issued for life. Construction workers will have to hold a licence and renew the licence to keep their skills and training up to date. The new authority will keep a register of licensees and be the relevant authority to recognise qualifications achieved outside Ireland.

The Licencing Authority will also provide for the licencing of tutors to provide training relevant to construction safety.

Description

The legislation was developed as a matter of urgency following targeted consultation with key construction industry stakeholders in 2022. The draft legislation was published in 2023 and is progressing through the Irish Parliament to pass into law.

2023 Legislative process

The legislation was published in March 2023, and has been debated by the lower house of the Irish Parliament.

2024 Legislative process

This draft legislation continues its progress through the lower house of the Irish parliament. A public consultation on the proportionality of the legislation was held in August/September 2024, to seek the views of construction and quarrying sector workers, organisations and interested members of the public.

Bodies responsible

- Department of Further and Higher Education, Research, Innovation and Science (DFHERIS)

Target group

Learners

Older workers and employees (55 - 64 years old)
Unemployed and jobseekers
Persons in employment, including those at risk of unemployment
Low-skilled/qualified persons

Education professionals

Teachers
Trainers

Entities providing VET

Companies
Small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs)

Other stakeholders

Social partners (employer organisations and trade unions)
National, regional and local authorities

Thematic categories

Governance of VET and lifelong learning

Coordinating VET and other policies
Further developing national quality assurance systems

Modernising VET offer and delivery

Modernising VET standards, curricula, programmes and training courses
Acquiring key competences

Reinforcing work-based learning, including apprenticeships

Transparency and portability of VET skills and qualifications

Developing and applying qualifications smaller/shorter than full

Supporting lifelong learning culture and increasing participation

Financial and non-financial incentives to learners, providers and companies

Providing for individuals' re- and upskilling needs

Subsystem

IVET CVET

Further reading

[Minister publication of the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2023](#)

[Progress of Construction Safety Licencing Bill 2023 though Irish Parliament](#)

[Public Consultation on the proportionality of the Construction Safety Licensing Bill 2023](#)

Related policy developments

2021 Approved/Agreed

Transforming Learning 2020-24: Ireland's National Further Education and Training Strategy

The FET strategy 2020-24 was developed in consultation with the FET sector and other key stakeholders. Consultation was wide-ranging and included bilateral meetings, regional workshops and a public call for submissions.

 IRELAND

Type of development

Regulation/Legislation

Subsystem

IVET CVET

“ ... ” Cite as

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<https://www.cedefop.europa.eu/en/tools/timeline-vet-policies->

