# CHECKLIST FOR HEALTH AND SAFETY INSPECTIONS

Produced by ASTI (March 2006)

#### Health, Safety and Welfare at Work Act – Section 25 (2) (3):

A Safety Representative may inspect the whole or any part of the place of work after giving reasonable notice to the employer or immediately, in the event of an accident, dangerous occurrence or imminent danger or risk to the safety, health and welfare of any person. The Employer and the Safety Representative shall, having regard to the nature and extent of the hazards in the place of work, agree the frequency or schedule of inspections which may be carried out, which agreement shall not be unreasonably withheld by the employer.

#### Frequency:

A comprehensive inspection of the school should be carried out by the Safety Representative at least once a year. Further inspections or partial inspections should be carried out as deemed appropriate by the Safety Representative. The comprehensive inspection of the whole school may be conducted on one day or it could be done in stages over a number of days. It is estimated that the full inspection could take approximately two hours to complete.

#### Principal:

There should be full co-operation between the Safety Representative and the School Principal on the issue of a school inspections. The Principal should be consulted on the timing of the inspection. It may be deemed helpful and in the interests of good health and safety practice if the Safety Representative and Principal together inspected the school. If necessary, the Safety Representative is entitled to request 'time off' work in order to conduct an inspection.

#### **Consultation:**

The checklist below is not exhaustive. The Safety Representative should amend and adapt the checklist to suit the circumstances of his/her own school. In adapting the checklist, it is recommended that the Safety Representative consults with the teachers who have specific expertise, e.g. science teachers, P.E. teachers, home economics teachers, art teachers, etc.

#### **Specialist Areas:**

As the Safety Representative may well not have expertise in examining specialist rooms, e.g. science laboratories, it is appropriate for the Safety Representative to consult with the specialist teachers in order to identify any faults or failings in the specialist rooms and in adapting the inspection checklist.

#### **Post Inspection:**

Following an inspection, the Safety Representative should retain copies of the completed checklist and any other notes he/she may have taken. If matters of concern have been identified, these should be listed and given to the School Principal so that they can be addressed. The Act states that every employer shall consider any representations made by the Safety Representative on matters of health, safety and welfare of employees.

### THE INSPECTION

Circula	ation A	<b>Areas</b>
---------	---------	--------------

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	$\boxed{\hspace{0.1cm} \checkmark \hspace{0.1cm}}$	$\sqrt{}$	$\sqrt{}$	
STAIRWAYS				
Are banisters secure and safe	?			
Are stairways adequately lit?				
Are steps / carpets worn?				
Are steps slippery?				
PASSAGES / CORRIDORS				
Are floor surfaces even?				
Are floor surfaces slippery?				
Are passages adequately lit?				
Is litter / rubbish allowed to accumulate?				
Are mats / carpets a tripping hazard?				

	•	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	Check for loose plaster, damaged walls				
DOC	DRS AND WINDOWS				
	Any doors obstructed?				
	Safety of glass in doors				
	Is glass in fire doors reinforced?				
	Any broken / damaged hinges?				
	Damaged catches?				
	Broken wood panels?				
	Broken, cracked glass?				
	Loose, stiff handles?				
	Dangerously swinging doors?				
	All doors open from inside?				
	All doors open in emergency?				

		Troblem	•	Problem	Comment
	Exit doors clearly identified?				
	Night lighting over exit doors?				
	Push / pull notices on doors?				
	Windows cleaned regularly?				
	Windows open easily?				
	Windows broken or cracked?				
	Window fastenings / cord				
	damaged?  Dangerous jutting windows				
	when open?				
HEA	FING AND VENTILATION				
	Heating system regularly serviced?				
	Adequate heating?				
	Safety of mobile heaters?				
	Objects left on heaters?				

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
Blinds / shading from sunlight	?			
Adequate ventilation?				
FIRE SAFETY				
Fire exits clearly marked?				
Fire exits clear of obstructions inside?				
Fire exits clear of obstructions outside?				
Escape route clear of obstruction outside?+				
Fire doors open outwards?				
Fire doors not wedged open?				
Fire doors kept unlocked?				
Evacuation procedure clearly displayed?				
Evacuation procedure clearly explained to staff?				
Evacuation procedure clearly explained to students?				

	Problem	•	Problem	Comment
Evacuation drills held once per term?				
Evacuation drills evaluated and logged?				
Expert advice received on fire equipment?				
Sufficient fire extinguishers correctly placed?				
Sufficient fire blankets correctly placed?				
Fire equipment regularly serviced?				
Staff trained to use fire equipment?				
Fire alarm clearly audible in all rooms?				
Alarm system link to external buildings?				
Safe storage of flammable substances?				
Procedure for calling fire brigade checked?				
Procedure for calling ambulance checked?				
Procedure for calling gardai checked?				
Procedure for calling medical Personnel checked?				

## Problem ? No Comment Problem

### ELECTRICAL EQUIPMENT

Gener	ral				
	Does competent person check equipment?				
	<b>Equipment correctly wired and earthed?</b>				
	Plugs correctly wired?				
	Correct fuse ratings?				
	Circuit breakers as appropriate?				
	Isolating switches clearly marked?				
	Isolating switches well sited?				
Lighti	ing	_	_	_	
	All light fittings working properly?				
	Light switches in safe condition?				

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	Adequate lighting for type of work?				
	Adequate lighting in classrooms?				
	Adequate lighting in corridors?				
	Adequate lighting in cloakrooms?				
Plugs	/ Sockets / Leads				
	Plugs in good conditions?				
	Sockets in good conditions?				
	Socket screws and mountings secure?				
	Socket positions convenient?				
	Sockets not subject to damp?				
	Insulation on leads in good condition?				
	Leads are the correct length?				
	No trailing leads?				
	Multi point adaptors?				

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
Equip	oment				
	Electrical equipment operating correctly?				
	Electrical equipment unplugged when not used?				
	On / off indicators working?				
	Regular servicing of equipment?				
GAS					
	Gas isolator valves known?				
	Gas isolator valves accessible?				
	Gas taps and valves tested regularly?				
	Storage of compressed gas?				

## **Problem** No **Comment Problem** FIRST AID Clear first aid notices? Notice on basic first aid and advice? Adequate number of first aid boxes? Location of first aid boxes? Procedure for calling help? **Emergency telephone numbers?** First aid boxes contain: Basic first aid advice card Sterile adhesive dressings Sterile eye pads **Bandages** Safety pins Medium, large sterile dressings Disposable gloves **Cotton wool Tweezers Scissors** Antiseptic cream

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	Accident report book				
	No paracetemol, etc.				
CLA	SSROOMS				
	Are rooms overcrowded?				
	Are cupboards, blackboards, etc. stable?				
	Any damaged furniture?				
	Sharp edges in furniture, etc.?				
	Are shelf mountings secure?				
	OD A TODAY				
LAB	ORATORIES  Are safety rules displayed?				
	Is there safe access / egress?				

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
Are chairs, stools, etc. safe?				
Condition of floor?				
Is floor non slip?				
Is floor drying equipment available?				
Adequate protective equipment for pupils?				
Adequate protective equipment for teachers?				
First aid boxes?				
Fire extinguishers?				
Fire blankets?				
Safe work surfaces?				
Disposal arrangements for glassware?				
Disposal arrangements for waste chemicals?				
Disposal arrangements for For biological debris?				
Standard of labels on chemicals?				
Nature of risks on labels?				
Manufacturers' names on labels?				
All substances dated?				

	Problem	<b>'</b>	Problem	Comment
Shelf life of substances marked?				
Correct storage of substances?				
Security of risky substances?				
Washing facilities?				
Shelving for chemicals?				
Safe storage of flammable materials?				
Cupboards properly labelled?				
Fume cupboard in working order?				
Chemical spillage procedures adequate?				
KSHOPS				
Workshop tidy, floors clear?				
Machines adequately guarded?	?			
Hand tools in good condition?				
Safe storage of tools?				
Machine cut-off switches?				
	marked?  Correct storage of substances?  Security of risky substances?  Washing facilities?  Shelving for chemicals?  Safe storage of flammable materials?  Cupboards properly labelled?  Fume cupboard in working order?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  Machines adequately guarded?  Hand tools in good condition?  Safe storage of tools?	Shelf life of substances marked?  Correct storage of substances?  Security of risky substances?  Washing facilities?  Shelving for chemicals?  Safe storage of flammable materials?  Cupboards properly labelled?  Fume cupboard in working order?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  ———————————————————————————————————	Shelf life of substances marked?  Correct storage of substances?  Security of risky substances?  Washing facilities?  Shelving for chemicals?  Safe storage of flammable materials?  Cupboards properly labelled?  Fume cupboard in working order?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  SKSHOPS  Workshop tidy, floors clear?  Machines adequately guarded?  Hand tools in good condition?  Safe storage of tools?	Shelf life of substances marked?  Correct storage of substances?  Security of risky substances?  Washing facilities?  Shelving for chemicals?  Safe storage of flammable materials?  Cupboards properly labelled?  Fume cupboard in working order?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  Chemical spillage procedures adequate?  CRISHOPS  Workshop tidy, floors clear?  Machines adequately guarded?  Hand tools in good condition?  Safe storage of tools?

	Problem	•	Problem	Comment
<b>Dust ventilation?</b>				
ART AND POTTERY				
Guillotines guarded?				
Guillotines locked?				
Pottery kiln safety cut-out?				
Pottery kiln sited safely?				
Ventilation for clay dust, etc.?				
Safe glazes, adhesives?				
Safe wax heating facilities?				
Throwing wheels safety maintained?				
Containers properly labelled?				
Safe storage of materials?				
Safe storage of equipment (scalpels, etc.)?				
Washing facilities?				
Safe work surfaces?				

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
HOM	IE ECONOMICS				
	Refrigerators, fridges operating properly?				
	Washing facilities, soap, etc.?				
	Disposable towels?				
	Safe storage of cleaning materials?				
	Safe labelling?				
	Disposal of unwanted equipment?				
	Safe electric irons and ironing boards?				
	Sharp utensils safely stored?				
	Hazardous substances locked away?				
	Safety guards on cookers?				
	Safe storage presses?				
	Safe procedures for heavy lifting?				
	Safe sewing machines?				

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
First aid boxes?				
Non slip floors?				
Ventilation?				
GYM AND HALLS				
First aid boxes accessible?				
Floors clean, non slip?				
Brackets securing ropes, wall bars safe?				
Secure stacking of P.E. equipment?				
P.E. mats in good condition?				
Regular equipment checks?				
Splinters on wooden beams?				
Vaulting horses, benches safe?				
Safe showers?				
Stage steps safe?				

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	Stage lighting safe?				
OFF.	ICES				
	Chemicals stored safely?				
	Ventilation?				
	Machine noise?				
	V.D.U. light glare?				
	H.S.A guidelines on V.D.U. use available?				
KITO	CHEN				
	Kitchen area clean?				
	Dining area clean?				
	Non slip floors?				

		Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
	First aid boxes?				
	Equipment safe?				
	Safe labelling?				
ВОИ	ED				
BOIL	No combustible waste?				
	Boiler in proper working				
	order?				
	Boiler safely maintained?				
	Safe disposal of ash, etc.?				
STAF	FFROOM				
	Adequate heating, ventilation?				
	Adequate cloakroom facilities?				

	Problem	•	Problem	Comment
Adequate personal storage?				
Staffroom overcrowding?				
Staffroom catering facilities?				
Staff sanitary facilities?				
HYGIENE				
Soap?				
Hand drying facilities?				
Hot water?				
Toilet paper?				
Litter bins?				
Safe, suitable sanitary facilities?				

**Problem** No **Comment Problem** OUTSIDE Footpaths, slabs even, not broken? Safe steps with handrails? Roofs, drain pipes maintained? Safe manholes? Safe external P.E. facilities? Safe goalposts, tennis posts? Safe car parking? Safe bicycle parking? SCHOOL PROCEDURES Safety statement adequate? Regular staff safety consultation? Discipline and staff? Discipline code? **Bullying and staff?** 

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
Bullying code?				
Stress training?				
Sexual harassment code?				
Regular evacuation drills?				
Evacuation drills assessed?				
Visitor security checks?				
C.C.T.V. security?				

	Problem	?	No Problem	Comment
Name of Safety Representative	:			
Date(s) of Inspection:				