

Professional
Agricultural
Contractors of
Ireland

The Influence of Agricultural Contractors on Farm Safety

IOSH - Rural Industries Group
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The Influence of Agricultural Contractors on Farm Safety

- ▶ Professional Agricultural Contractors of Ireland (PAC) Background
 - ▶ Evolved from the Irish Association of Agricultural Contractors (IAAC)
 - ▶ PAC has a more stringent criteria for membership to exclude black economy
 - ▶ Appropriate insurance
 - ▶ Health and Safety Statement
 - ▶ VAT Registered

The Influence of Agricultural Contractors on Farm Safety

- ▶ Professional Agricultural Contractors of Ireland (PAC) Background
 - ▶ PAC works closely and proactively with many government departments, agencies, and organisation including:-
 - ▶ Health and Safety Authority
 - ▶ Farms Safety Partnership Advisory Committee (FSPAC)
 - ▶ Work Related Vehicle Safety Committee (WRVS)
 - ▶ National and Local Government Departments
 - ▶ Road Safety Authority
 - ▶ Teagasc
 - ▶ Irish Agricultural Supply Industry Standards (IASIS)
 - ▶ European Commission and other European Agencies
 - ▶ CEMA and Machinery Manufacturers
 - ▶ Banks

The Influence of Agricultural Contractors on Farm Safety

- ▶ Why professional agricultural contractors have a good safety record
 - ▶ Capable and experienced workforce
 - ▶ Latest machinery
 - ▶ Well maintained machinery
 - ▶ Compliant with all relevant legislation, spraying, chemicals, waste management
 - ▶ Good time management

The Influence of Agricultural Contractors on Farm Safety

▶ On the Ground

▶ Contractors

- ▶ Work closely with farmers to establish clear responsibilities to manage health and safety
- ▶ Assess potential risks for contractor, farmer and others
- ▶ Communicate risks to farmer and discuss how to manage them
- ▶ Agree a plan in case of an emergency
- ▶ Have a back up plan where there is no phone coverage
- ▶ Agree an approximate timeframe for work

▶ Farmers

- ▶ Hire a professional contractor with appropriate insurance cover
- ▶ Give an exact job specification
- ▶ Advise contractor of potential risks re. location/people/animals
- ▶ Machinery without appropriate safety guards not allowed on the farm

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▶ PAC Focus

- ▶ Official Registration of Agricultural Contractors to eliminate the Black Economy
- ▶ Certification of Roadworthiness for Tractors and Machinery ten years or older
 - ▶ Dept. Of Transport, RSA and Insurance Companies should take the lead
- ▶ Promote benefits of using a professional agricultural contractor to farmers
- ▶ Work with Teagasc and other agencies to advocate Whole Farm Contracting
 - ▶ People in Dairy Action Plan
- ▶ Ongoing dialogue with CEMA and machinery manufacturers
- ▶ Keep agricultural contractors up to date with regard to safety legislation