

1.0 Introduction

1.1. Background

THIS code of practice is the result of a joint initiative between the Health and Safety Authority and the Farm Safety Partnership Advisory Committee to the Health and Safety Authority.

The aim of the code is to improve the level of safety and health in the agriculture sector. In particular, the code:

- examines the data available on fatalities, injuries and ill health in farming
- shows how such occurrences can be reduced

Priority is given to issues that lead to the most numerous and serious causes of injury and ill health. References to further sources of information are provided.

This code cannot be definitive for every circumstance that may arise. To address specific issues and supplement the information provided here, you are advised to seek competent advice.

1.2 . Status and scope of the code of practice

THIS code is issued by the Health and Safety Authority under section 60 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work Act 2005, and with the consent of Mr Tony Killeen, Minister of State at the Department of Enterprise, Trade and Employment.

The code is intended to provide practical guidance to:

- farmers
- farm family members
- employees
- service providers
- advisers
- trainers
- people with a role related to safety and health in agriculture

Failure to observe any part of this code will not in itself render a person liable to civil or criminal proceedings. However, where the code gives practical guidance on observing any of the relevant statutory provisions, compliance or non-compliance with those provisions may be admissible as evidence in criminal proceedings.

Where the Health and Safety Authority takes any actions, including prosecutions, it will rely generally on legal duties rather than specifically on this code of practice.

This code gives recommendations and practical guidance on securing safety and health in agriculture. It does not cover other activities on the farm such as construction, forestry, manufacturing, retail, etc.