

Health & Safety Matters

**Use your union and your rights
Make your workplace safer**

Your Safety Representative:

As an Unite member, you can obtain free initial advice on any non-work-related legal matter by telephoning our 24-hour helpline on 0870 240 45 45.

www.uniteunion.org

H&S030



Safety Reps Rights

Unite safety reps are a key part of providing better health and safety for Unite members at work. Safety reps have specific rights enshrined in law, which enables them to:

- Inspect the workplace regularly.
- Investigate employee complaints concerning health and safety issues at work.
- Investigate accidents, dangerous occurrences and potential hazards.
- Represent workers on health, safety, and welfare matters to their employer.
- Inspect health and safety documents.
- Receive information from HSE Inspectors.
- Establish a joint union-management Safety Committee.

Employers are required to consult safety reps, especially about:

- Measures introduced at a workplace that may substantially affect health and safety.
- Arrangements for appointing health & safety competent persons and emergencies.
- Health & safety information required to be provided to employees.
- Health & safety training arrangements for the workforce, such as induction training.
- New technology introduced and planned, regarding consequences to health & safety.

Employers are legally required to provide safety reps with the resources to carry out their role.

ACAS suggest:

- Room with desk and chairs at work, for carrying out interviews and meetings.
- Secure facilities for storing documents.
- Access to internal and external telephones.
- Access to word processor now IT facilities.
- Access to duplicating facilities.
- Notice board.

Other facilities should include copies of relevant statutes, Regulations, Approved Codes of Practice and HSE guidance, copies of safety journals, and legal and international standards that are relevant to the workplace.

Unite H&S Training

Unite health and safety training is available to safety reps regionally and nationally. There are a variety of different courses for both new and experienced reps.

Get details from your Regional Office or visit www.unitetheunion.org/education

Key H&S issues for Unite include:

- Effective and active safety reps
- Recruitment and retention of reps
- Using and improving safety reps rights
- Improving workers health and conditions
- Corporate manslaughter & directors duties
- Violence at work
- Stress
- Manual handling
- Slips and trips
- Controlling dangerous substances
- Safe work equipment
- Asbestos
- Noise and vibration

Make sure you are accredited

Contact your regional office for details. When accredited you will be issued with an Unite Safety representatives card.

For more H&S information talk to your safety rep, or become one yourself! For help contact your regional office or go to the Unite web site at www.unitetheunion.org/healthandsafety

Register for email updates on health and safety by emailing: healthandsafety@unitetheunion.org

Unite is committed to improving health and safety in all workplaces. Union organised workplaces are safer than non-organised workplaces.

