

Safety reps survey 2010

This is the eighth TUC survey of safety reps. It is designed to provide the TUC and individual unions with information about who safety reps are, and what their experiences and needs are. We need this information so that the TUC and unions can do more to help safety reps, and so that safety reps' views and experiences are better reflected in public policy debates and the work of the Health and Safety Commission. We will publish the results, and use them to campaign for better safety standards at work (including more rights for safety reps).

Your response is crucial to ensuring that this survey provides the information we seek. Please answer as many questions as you can – but if they seem irrelevant to your experiences, ignore them. Collating the responses to this survey will be a time-consuming and expensive task, so we cannot enter into correspondence arising from the survey. But we do want to know about any successes you have had in improving health and safety standards. Please send details to the TUC, Congress House, Great Russell Street, London WC1B 3LS. Email: <mailto:healthandsafety@tuc.org.uk>

Many thanks for completing this questionnaire. Please return it as soon as you can (by 1 July 2010 at the latest) to:

**TUC Safety Rep Survey
LRD, 78 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8HF**

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HAZARDS AT WORK

Q1 Please tick any of the following hazards that are of concern to workers at your workplace.

- | | | |
|--|--|---|
| 01) Asbestos..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 10) Handling heavy loads..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 19) Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI)..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 02) Asthma..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 11) High temperatures..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 20) Road traffic accidents.... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 03) Back strains..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 12) Infections..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 21) Slips, trips, falls from a height..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 04) Bullying/Harassment..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 13) Long hours of work..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 22) Slips trips, falls on the level..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 05) Chemicals or solvents.... <input type="checkbox"/> | 14) Low temperatures..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 23) Stress..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 06) Cramped working conditions..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 15) Machinery hazards..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 24.) Vibration..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 07) Dermatitis/skin rashes.... <input type="checkbox"/> | 16) Noise..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 25) Violence and threats..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 08) Display screen equipment..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 17) Overwork..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 26) Working alone..... <input type="checkbox"/> |
| 09) Dusts..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 18) Passive smoking..... <input type="checkbox"/> | 27) Workplace transport accidents..... <input type="checkbox"/> |

Please list any other hazards of concern at your workplace

Q2 Looking at the hazards you have ticked in Q1 above, please select the **five of greatest concern** and enter the appropriate number in the spaces below, eg if overwork is the most important concern enter 17 in the leftmost space.

Most important concern

Second most important

Third most important

Fourth most important

Fifth most important

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MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

Q3 Does your employer have a written health and safety policy for your area of work?
 Yes No Don't know

Q4 Has your employer carried out formal written risk assessments to cover the workers you represent?
 Yes, they are adequate Yes, but they are not recorded No, they have not been done
 Yes, but they are inadequate... Don't know

Q5 How much were you or other Safety Reps involved in drawing up the risk assessment?
 Not involved at all Involved but not enough ... Satisfied with involvement ..

Q6 Does your employer provide occupational health services to the workers you represent?
 Yes - in house No
 Yes - external provider Don't know

Q7 If so, do they provide.....
 Health surveillance..... Treatment Access to rehabilitation
 First aid Sickness monitoring..... Advice on prevention
 Pre-employment medical screening Records which Safety Reps are given..... Disciplinary assessments ...

SAFETY REPS' RIGHTS

Q8 What union training have you received as a Safety Rep?
 TUC/Union Stage I course... Other TUC/Union course ... Joint union-employer course
 Other TUC/Union Stage II course Course provided by employer..... TUC certificate in Occupational Safety and Health
 Own union introductory/basic course.....

Q9 If you have ever been unable to take up such training courses, was this because...(tick as many boxes as apply to you)
 management refused time-off it was not the right time in the day/week
 you were too busy at work prevented by family responsibilities

Q10 Does your management consult you or your union in good time over safety issues?
 Frequently Occasionally Never
 Automatically
 When you ask

Q11 In the last twelve months, how many times have you inspected your workplace?
 No inspections..... Two inspections..... Five or more inspections.....
 One inspection..... Three-four inspections.....

If you have been in post for less than a year, please say how many months in post ---

Q12 Last week, how much time did you spend specifically on workplace health and safety matters? (If last week was very unusual, answer for the week before).
 0-1 hours 5-10 hours
 1-5 hours Over 10 hours

Q13 Is there a joint union-management Safety Committee where you work?
 Yes Yes but it rarely meets No

ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYER

Q14 How many people work at your workplace?
 Under 50 Over 100..... Over 1000
 50-100 Over 200.....

Q15 Is the organisation you work for:
 in the public sector? in the private sector? in the not-for-profit/
 voluntary sector?

Q16 What sector of the economy is your employer in? (These are standard industrial classifications - please pick the closest.)
 Agriculture and Fishing Education Local Government.....
 Health Services Manufacturing Central Government
 Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants Banking, Finance and Insurance Transport and Communications
 Energy and Water..... Leisure Services Other Services
 Voluntary Sector Construction

ABOUT YOU

Q17 Which union do you belong to? -----

Q18 How long have you been a Safety Rep?
 Under 1 year 1 year to 5 years Over 5 years

Q19 Are you a steward as well?
 Yes No

Q20 Which region of the country are you in?
 Wales
 Scotland
 England
 Northern (including Cumbria) North West Yorkshire and Humberside...
 Midlands..... East Anglia London
 South East and South..... South West

Q21 Are you?
 Male Female.....

Q22 How would you describe yourself (please tick the closest description)
 Asian or Asian British..... Chinese..... White British.....
 Black or Black British..... Mixed race White – Other.....
 Other (please specify) -----

- Q23 What age are you?
 16-25 36-45 Over 60.....
 26-35 46-60
- Q24 Do you have access to the web?
 At home At work

ENFORCEMENT

- Q25 When was your workplace last inspected by an HSE Inspector or Environmental Health Officer?
 Within the last 12 months ... Over 3 years ago
 1-3 years ago Never, as far as you know .. (Please go to question 28)
- Q26 Were you aware of the most recent visit before it took place?
 Yes..... No.....
- Q27 Did the inspector speak to you or any other safety rep?
 Yes No Don't know.....
- Q28 To what extent would you say that your employer has improved health and safety or compliance with the law because of the possibility of being visited by an HSE Inspector or a Local Authority inspector?
 Not at all A little Somewhat.....
 A lot..... Don't know.....
- Q29 Has your employer in the last 2 years made improvements to health and safety after hearing about an enforcement notice or prosecution of another employer?
 Yes No Don't know.....
- Q30 Has your employer ever received a legal enforcement notice?
 Yes No Don't know.....
 (Please continue to question 31) (Please do not answer questions 31 and 32) (Please do not answer questions 31 and 32)
- Q31 How much did your employer involve safety reps in taking steps to make improvements to comply with the most recent legal enforcement notice? (*Tick the one most appropriate response.*)
 I heard about it, but only after changes had been made I heard about the changes to be made, but as far as I know no safety reps were involved in planning At least one safety rep was involved in planning changes immediately or soon after receipt of the notice
- Q32 How would you describe your employer's response to the most recent legal enforcement notice? Did they (*tick any that you think apply*):
 Do the minimum they could to comply with the notice Implement best practice, but the effect was short term and only affected one work activity or area
 Comply with the notice and also review other practices in the company in different departments and/or work activities Implement best practice and the effect has lasted for at least several months but only in one work activity or area.

WHAT HAPPENS NEXT?

The answers you submit will be processed by the Labour Research Department and passed to the TUC. The information will not be passed to any third party. The results of the survey will be available on the TUC website from October 2010. Many thanks for completing this questionnaire. Please remember to return it **as soon as you can** (by 1 July 2010 at the latest) to:

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London SE1 8HF