

Safety reps survey 2006

This is the sixth 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: healthandsafety@tuc.org.uk.

This form should be returned by 1 August 2006 to:
TUC Safety Rep Survey
LRD, 78 Blackfriars Road
London SE1 8HF

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This is our new edition of the popular loose-leaf Hazards manual, completely revised, updated and republished as an A4 book. Probably the most comprehensive guide to health and safety the TUC has ever produced.

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HAZARDS AT WORK

- Q1 What are the main hazards of concern to workers at your workplace? (tick up to five)
- | | | | | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|
| Chemicals or solvents | <input type="checkbox"/> | Violence and threats | <input type="checkbox"/> | Infections | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Working alone | <input type="checkbox"/> | Back strains | <input type="checkbox"/> | Overwork or stress (if so, answer Q2) | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Display screen equipment .. | <input type="checkbox"/> | Workplace transport accidents | <input type="checkbox"/> | Bullying | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Machinery hazards | <input type="checkbox"/> | Dermatitis/skin rashes | <input type="checkbox"/> | Handling heavy loads | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Repetitive Strain Injuries (RSI) | <input type="checkbox"/> | High temperatures | <input type="checkbox"/> | Passive smoking | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> | Vibration | <input type="checkbox"/> | Road traffic accidents | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Dusts | <input type="checkbox"/> | Low temperatures | <input type="checkbox"/> | Others (please list) | |
| Asthma | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slips, trips, falls on the level | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Asbestos | <input type="checkbox"/> | Slips, trips, falls from a height | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Long hours of work | <input type="checkbox"/> | | | | |
- Q2 If you ticked overwork or stress related diseases, which of the following issues are a problem at your workplace?
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Bullying | <input type="checkbox"/> | Long hours | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cuts in staff | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Sex or racial harassment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Redundancies | <input type="checkbox"/> | Shiftwork | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Change | <input type="checkbox"/> | Workloads | <input type="checkbox"/> | Cramped working conditions | <input type="checkbox"/> |

MANAGEMENT OF HEALTH AND SAFETY

- Q3 Does your employer have a written health and safety policy for your area of work?
- | | | | | | |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|-----------|--------------------------|----------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|
- Q4 Has your employer carried out formal written risk assessments to cover the workers you represent?
- | | | | | | |
|------------------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Yes, they are adequate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Yes, but they are not recorded | <input type="checkbox"/> | No, they have not been done | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Yes, but they are inadequate | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know | | | <input type="checkbox"/> |
- Q5 How much were you or other Safety Reps involved in drawing up the risk assessment?
- | | | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Not involved at all | <input type="checkbox"/> | Involved but not enough ... | <input type="checkbox"/> | Satisfied with involvement .. | <input type="checkbox"/> |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|
- Q6 Does your employer provide occupational health services to the workers you represent?
- | | | | | | |
|-------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| Yes - in house | <input type="checkbox"/> | No | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
| Yes - external provider | <input type="checkbox"/> | Don't know | <input type="checkbox"/> | | |
- Q7 If so, do they provide.....
- | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------------|---|--------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Health surveillance | <input type="checkbox"/> | Treatment | <input type="checkbox"/> | Access to rehabilitation | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| First aid | <input type="checkbox"/> | Sickness monitoring | <input type="checkbox"/> | Advice on prevention | <input type="checkbox"/> |
| Pre-employment medical screening | <input type="checkbox"/> | Records which Safety Reps are given | <input type="checkbox"/> | Disciplinary assessments ... | <input type="checkbox"/> |

SAFETY REPS' RIGHTS

Q8 What union training have you received as a Safety Rep?

TUC/Union Stage I course <input type="checkbox"/>	Other TUC/Union course <input type="checkbox"/>	Joint union-employer course <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Other TUC/Union Stage II course <input type="checkbox"/>	Course provided by employer <input type="checkbox"/>	TUC certificate in OH&S <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Own union introductory/basic course <input type="checkbox"/>		

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	it was not the right time in the day/week <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
you were too busy at work <input type="checkbox"/>	prevented by family responsibilities <input type="checkbox"/>
.....

Q10 Does your management consult you or your union in good time over safety issues?

	Frequently	Occasionally	Never
Automatically	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
When you ask	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Q11 In the last twelve months, how many times have you inspected your workplace? (If in post less than a year, please state number of inspections carried out since appointed)._____

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 <input type="checkbox"/>	5-10 hours <input type="checkbox"/>
1-5 hours <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 10 hours <input type="checkbox"/>

Q13 Is there a joint union-management Safety Committee where you work?

Yes <input type="checkbox"/>	Yes but it rarely meets <input type="checkbox"/>	No <input type="checkbox"/>
.....

ABOUT YOUR EMPLOYER

Q14 How many people work at your workplace?

Under 50 <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 100 <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 1000 <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
50-100 <input type="checkbox"/>	Over 200 <input type="checkbox"/>	
.....	

Q15 Is the organisation you work for:

in the public sector? <input type="checkbox"/>	in the private sector? <input type="checkbox"/>	in the not-for-profit/voluntary sector? <input type="checkbox"/>
.....

Q16 What sector of the economy is your employer in? (These are standard industrial classifications - please pick the closest.)

Agriculture and Fishing <input type="checkbox"/>	Education <input type="checkbox"/>	Local Government <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Health Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Manufacturing <input type="checkbox"/>	Central Government <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Distribution, Hotels and Restaurants <input type="checkbox"/>	Energy and Water <input type="checkbox"/>	Transport and Communications <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Banking, Finance and Insurance <input type="checkbox"/>	Leisure Services <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Services <input type="checkbox"/>
.....
Voluntary Sector <input type="checkbox"/>	Construction <input type="checkbox"/>	
.....	

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?
Scotland ☐ Yorkshire and Humberside ☐ East Anglia ☐
Wales ☐ Midlands ☐ London ☐
Northern (including Cumbria) ☐ South West ☐
North West ☐ South East ☐
- Q21 How would you describe yourself?
Male ☐ Afro Caribbean ☐ Asian ☐
Female ☐ White ☐ Other ☐
Black and Ethnic Minority ☐ African ☐
..
- Q22 What age are you?
16-25 ☐ 36-45 ☐ 60+ ☐
26-35 ☐ 46-60 ☐
- Q23 Do you have access to the web?
At home ☐ At work ☐

ENFORCEMENT

- Q24 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 27)
..
- Q25 Were you aware of the most recent visit before it took place?
Yes.....☐ No..... ☐
- Q26 Did the inspector speak to you or any other safety rep ?
Yes ☐ No ☐ Don't know.....☐
- Q27 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..... ☐

- Q28 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..... ☐
- Q29 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)
- Q30 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 ☐
- Q31 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 2006.

Many thanks for completing this questionnaire. Please remember to return it by 1 August 2006 to:
 TUC Safety Rep Survey
 LRD, 78 Blackfriars Road
 London SE1 8HF