

HEALTH & SAFETY MATTERS IN THE PRINTING INDUSTRY



Everyone has the right to work in a healthy, safe environment. Unite offers the latest training, information and advice to representatives, members and employers to ensure that best practice is followed, creating healthier, safer working environments for everyone.

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

YOUR UNITE SAFETY REP IS:

www.unitetheunion.org



Employers have a general duty of care for the health, safety and welfare of their employees.

This includes providing:

- a safe and healthy workplace where risks are suitably and adequately controlled
- safe work equipment, properly maintained and used, suitable for purpose and safe systems of work
- adequate welfare facilities
- information, training and supervision necessary for health and safety.

Unite GPM is at the forefront of health and safety in the printing industry. The GPM sector plays an active part in the tripartite Printing Industry Advisory Committee. PIAC brings together Unite with print employers and the HSE to tackle health and safety issues in the printing industry.



Key health and safety issues for Unite GPM include

- Solvents in inks and cleaning materials
- UV inks and lacquers
- Ink misting
- Machine safety
- Hand fed plattens
- Manual handling and ergonomics
- Upper limb disorders
- Slips trips and falls
- Lone working
- Stress
- DSE and work stations
- News distribution
- Loading/unloading
- Securing loads
- Safety reps and worker involvement

Unite has thousands of safety reps who are supported by branches regions and national staff and resources.

Safety reps deal with issues locally supported by their senior workplace reps.

**To access your regional office call:
0845 850 422
or visit the website:
www.unitetheunion.org**



Legal help

Unite offers free legal assistance to any member who wants to bring a personal injury claim for damages for any accident (outside of their own home) in the UK or Republic of Ireland.

We provide free legal advice and representation to members who have employment related problems.

As a Unite member, you and your family members can obtain free initial advice on any non work related legal matter by telephoning our 24 hour help line on

0870 240 4545

Unite Health & Safety Unit

Unite has a dedicated Health and Safety Unit consisting of several Health and Safety Advisers and Researchers dealing with national issues around specific sectors and specialist topics.

For enquires contact:

Unite Health and Safety Unit
healthandsafety@unitetheunion.org

Information links

Health and Safety Executive: www.hse.gov.uk

HSE info line Tel: 0845034500055

TUC: www.tuc.org.uk

Greater Manchester Hazards Centre:
www.gmhazards.org.uk

Hazards magazine: www.hazards.org

Labour Research Department: www.lrd.org.uk

To join Unite online visit www.unitetheunion.org



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 joint union-management Safety committee.
- Time off to carry out functions.

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 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.



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