

Why you should be a UCU safety representative

What do UCU health & safety representatives do?

UCU health and safety representatives help to improve the quality of our members working lives. They do this by ensuring that the workplace is as safe and as risk free as possible, and adequate in terms of facilities for the welfare of members of staff. Their appointment is underpinned by a set of legal regulations that give trade union appointed safety representatives a number of statutory functions, and enable the union to build a more effective workplace organisation.

UCU appointed safety representatives:

- **investigate** actual and potential hazards; workplace incidents and the causes of injury; cases of work-related ill-health; dangerous occurrences and near misses, and complaints by employees
- **inspect** the workplace regularly every quarter and other inspections when changes are introduced; inspect the circumstances and causes of injury, dangerous occurrences or cases of disease, and inspect and take copies of documents relating to the health and safety of employees
- **represent** general health, safety & welfare matters to the employer; take-up individual complaints; attend meetings of the safety committee, and meet with inspectors of the Health & Safety Executive when they visit the workplace
- **receive information** about health, safety and welfare from the employer, and from enforcing inspectors from the Health & Safety Executive during and following visits. Inspectors will also provide advice and assistance if asked
- **consult** with the employer on a wide range of issues related to health, safety and welfare in the workplace –a formal duty to consult is imposed on employers.

You don't have to do it in your own time – your employer has to allow health & safety representatives to take paid time-off from their normal job, and provide facilities and assistance to help them do the job effectively.

Being a health & safety representative is one of the most powerful and useful trade union jobs you can do. You don't have to be an expert, just enthusiastic for improving the working environment. So if you'd like to help us protect and improve the quality of working life for our members, come and join us. We'll ensure you get training, information and support.

Your union needs you. Be part of the UCU team.

For more information, or to volunteer, contact: