

6 things you can do right now to protect yourself on the job



Here is a checklist of 6 things you can do right now to protect yourself on the job:

- Demand consultation on every single issue that affects safety:** Employers are obliged under health and safety laws to consult workers, and their representatives, about any issues that affect health and safety. Are the bosses at your company consulting properly? MUA members have seen first-hand the tragic consequences. We must insist on genuine consultation on every issue.
- Inspect every ship:** Go over them with a fine-tooth comb. Are there health and safety issues? Does it comply with Marine Order 32? If safety is not up to scratch, now is the time to act. Contact your branch and inform your HSR if you think a vessel is unsafe. They can assist in escalating your concern if your employer doesn't listen to you.
- Use PIN notices to help resolve issues:** Trained HSRs can issue 'PIN notices' - a legally binding direction requiring an employer to fix a health and safety breach. Raise the issue first. If the company fails to consult or refuses to address a legitimate issue, use a PIN notice to get their attention. Make sure you get collective support or pass a resolution from members in your workplace.
- Never hesitate to stop work when there is a serious health and safety issue:** All workers have the right to stop work when there is a *serious risk* that is *immediate or imminent*. This right is protected in legislation. Just make sure you inform your immediate supervisor of the serious issue and make yourself available for alternate duties.
- Invigorate your health and safety structures:** Do you have a strong HSR structure? Does your health and safety committee meet regularly? Let's get more health and safety reps elected and trained in every terminal and every port. Once reps are trained, they can access rights and powers. Ask your branch for support to do this.
- Adopt a collective approach to health and safety:** We are always at our best when we act together. Safety is no different. HSRs and delegates must work together. If employers want to bomb safety on the waterfront, we've got to be extra vigilant and protect our lives. We need to fight for NSCOP. We need to look after our mates and comrades, and at all times act in the safest manner. We need to fight and act together to survive! For more information please contact your branch.