

# UNION FACT SHEET 4 - NSW

## Occupational Health & Safety



### OHS Committees and Representatives

#### What is the Purpose of OHS Committees and OHS Representatives?

- An OHS committee provides a consultation mechanism between employers and employees on matters that affect
- occupational health and safety (OHS) in the workplace.
- An OHS committee is an advisory body and does not make decisions about OHS issues but assists the employer to
- make more informed decisions.
- OHS representatives are an option for consultation in both small and large workplaces. The functions of an OHS
- representative are the same as for a committee.
- Under the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Act 2000* (the Act) the functions of OHS committees
- and representatives are to:
  - review health, safety and welfare measures in their workplace
  - investigate risks to health and safety in the workplace
  - attempt to resolve health and safety issues or refer the matter to WorkCover NSW

#### The Regulation

Under the provisions of the *Occupational Health and Safety Regulation 2001* (the Regulation), OHS committees

and OHS representatives have the following functions:

- request to accompany an inspector as an observer on an inspection that affects the workgroup that they represent
- observe any formal report by an inspector to the employer in connection with any OHS matter concerning the represented workgroup
- accompany an employee of the represented workgroup, at the employee's request, during any interview by the employer on any OHS issue
- observe any formal in-house investigation of an accident or other occurrence at the relevant place of work
- assist in the development of arrangements for recording workplace hazards and accidents and promote improved workplace health and safety
- make recommendations for OHS training for the OHS committee, representatives and employees.

For further information call WorkCover NSW on 13 10 50.

**Contact us on 1800 060 556 Free call**

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