

What is the role of an occupational health and safety representative?

Occupational health and safety representatives provide a link between staff members and management in matters concerning the working environment.

The principal task of health and safety representatives is to cooperate with management in improving the working environment.

Along with an appointed supervisor, the health and safety representative is part of the local health and safety group. As part of their day-to-day work, the role of the local health and safety group is to assist management in creating a healthy and positive working environment in the particular area or among the particular group of staff members who are represented by the group.

As a general rule, being a health and safety representative also includes membership of the department's/FS-unit's occupational health and safety committee; the committee is responsible for discussing the overall strategic aspects of workplace health and safety.

The role of health and safety representatives and supervisors include:

- **Continually reviewing the physical, organizational and social work environment aspects of the working environment of their area of responsibility while seeking to promote a positive health and safety culture among its members**
- **Seeking to prevent unnecessary risks by ensuring that individual staff members receive clear and adequate instruction**
- **Taking part in workplace assessments (APV)**
- **Cooperating with management in assessing and improving conditions affecting the physical, organizational and social aspects of the working environment**
- **Taking part in investigating accidents at the workplace**
- **Discussing with management any possible health and safety issues related to reorganisations, procurements, renovations, etc.**
- **Assisting management in organising work activities and ensuring that such activities can be performed safely**
- **Creating and maintaining a culture in which the responsibility of solving and preventing health and safety issues, such as stress, burnout, backaches, noise problems, poor physical, organizational and social work environment, furniture and equipment, sickness absence, etc. lies with the workplace and not with the affected staff members.**