

NOVA
SCOTIA

BUILDING OUR UNION



UNIFOR

Health and Safety
Department, 2013

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HS-E-4094



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You have
the right to
**refuse
unsafe
work.**

use it!



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HOW THE RIGHT TO REFUSE WORKS

Under Section 43 of the Nova Scotia Occupational Health and Safety Act, you have the right to refuse unsafe or unhealthy work.

If you have reason to believe the work is likely to endanger you or someone else, this is what you do.

WORKER

Report the problem to your supervisor and your union health and safety committee representative. It is illegal for employers to discipline workers for refusing unsafe work (Section 45).

SUPERVISOR

Investigates and takes remedial action. If the problem is not remedied to your satisfaction, report it to the health and safety committee.

HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE

Investigates and recommends remedial action to employer.

WORKERS

If the problem is still not remedied to your satisfaction, call the Occupational Health and Safety Division. Until the officer's decision, you may be reassigned other work at no loss in pay or benefits. You have the right to participate in all investigations. No other worker may be assigned the work unless advised of your refusal, your reasons for your refusal and their right to refuse.

OFFICER

Investigates and decides whether there is or was a danger present and orders remedial action.

APPEALS

You may appeal the officer's decision to the Director of the Occupational Health and Safety Division within 14 days (Section 67). You challenge unfair discipline by putting in a grievance or making a written complaint to an officer within 30 days (Section 46).