



Occupational Health and Safety

Case Study

There has been a faulty power point used in the main technology department repair section for a couple of days. There is the potential for a careless worker to receive a shock, if not worse. The worker who noticed it has called in the health and safety representative.

a) What should the representative do?

A day later, the worker asks the health and safety representative what has happened, as the power point has not been replaced.

b) What procedures would the representative outline?

c) What should the worker and representative do now?

That afternoon the power point is fixed, but the worker is concerned about how long it took.

d) What should the worker do now?

e) What should the health and safety representative do?

f) What should management do?

Procedure for presenting and resolving OH&S issues:-

1. worker brings issue to attention of health and safety representative
2. worker and representative talk to supervisor
3. supervisor takes appropriate negotiated action, or refers to grievance procedures

At all times, clear communication and sharing of information should take place between employer and employee.

Issues should always be presented in writing.

Hierarchy of controls in applying OH&S requirements:-

1. **Elimination** – remove the risk
2. **Substituting** – a less risky alternative
3. **Engineering controls** – redesign area or device
4. **Administrative controls** – training, new procedures
5. **Personal protective clothing and equipment** – gloves, ear muffs, overalls, masks, etc.