

National and local union actions

National

1. Consider which workplace and industries pose a possible cancer risk. Remember, the existing workforce may be healthy – the cancers may only appear after they have retired.
2. Review studies or reports to identify existing evidence of possible problem workplace and industries.
3. Where problem workplaces are identified, press the company to report on possible risks and the controls in place, and where necessary to fund and cooperate with research.
4. Organise an awareness campaign, highlighting risks and prevention strategies, and urging workers with possibly work-related cancers to contact the union.

Local

1. List substances and processes in the plant that are known or suspected hazards. Locations where cancer agents may be found should be noted and exposed workers should be informed.
2. Make sure the company has informed workers who are exposed to potential cancer risks and other hazards.
3. Seek medical screening programmes for workers who have had exposure to workplace hazards, including possible cancer risks. This should include retired members, who are most likely to develop work-related cancers.
4. Negotiate strict controls, even if minimum government standards are being met. Remember, there is no safe exposure to a cancer agent.
5. Remember the basic control techniques: Substitution; process changes; enclosure; local exhaust ventilation; strict housekeeping; and protective equipment.
6. Make sure real improvements are being implemented – making the workplace safer and providing necessary support and information for workers who have been put at risk.

Further information

[CLC prevent cancer campaign](#)

