



For GMB Members in **ASDA STORES**

GMB – WORKING FOR YOU IN ASDA

AUGUST 2009 - 48

HEALTH AND SAFETY IN STORES

Dear Colleagues

At the recent National Forum meetings far greater focus has been given to Health & Safety. GMB has always been passionate about campaigning to ensure our members work in a safe and healthy environment.

Whilst there is a lot of work to be done, it seems the Company is starting to listen to GMB on safety. We are advised retail accidents are down 6% year on year.

Members may have seen some improvements in back-of-house operations and signage. The Company has also issued a risk assessment in the use of protective footwear. GMB is in the process of giving feedback on the risk assessment on protective footwear as it is still inadequate.

Whilst things are far from perfect, health and safety in stores is getting more focus from the Company. This is in large part down to the campaigning done by the Union on safety in stores. The GMB representatives who attended last year's conference will remember that the Union produced hundreds of photos which evidence failings in health and safety in stores, such as blocked fire exits and manual handling risks.

GMB Safety Representatives are making a difference. It is essential we keep campaigning to ensure that ASDA is meeting its obligations under Health and Safety Legislation.

**GARY SMITH
NATIONAL SECRETARY**

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