



International
LONGSHORE & WAREHOUSE
UNION

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LOCAL 500 BULLETIN

Mould Warnings on Despatch Slips

It has been pointed out that some of the employer companies have on occasion refused to supply masks when the despatch slip warns of mould.

It has been noted in the past that mould in the ship's hatch does not always rise to the top and in fact may be closer to the bottom where it can be disturbed by moving cargo and falling dunnage thereby making it airborne, circulating through the air of the hatch.

Mould spores can be spread by air currents. Thousands of mould species exist worldwide and can be found anywhere, anytime of the year, indoors or out.

Health Effects

The presence of mould does not always mean health problems will occur. However, for some people, inhalation or contact with mould, fragments of mould or mould spores can lead to health problems or worsen existing ones.

In addition, many of these moulds produce mycotoxins, which are metabolites or by-products determined to be toxic to humans. These toxins can weaken the immune system and lead to allergic reactions and respiratory problems.

If you, in good faith, believe that your health or safety will be endangered because your employer is not supplying the appropriate personal protective equipment (PPE) then you have the right, under Article 7.03 of the Collective Agreement, to refuse such work until the employer or employers agent supplies you with the necessary PPE (in this case, a mask, goggles, head covers, booties, disposable coveralls, gloves, etc.) that will allow you to work in a safe manner.

In the event that you are denied such PPE please call the On Duty Business Agent @ 604-254-7131 to have the issue properly dealt with.

Mike Rondpre
Vice President