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## **Rail and Maritime Transport Workers Call For Asbestos Ban**

Workersø Memorial Day is the perfect time to consider an asbestos ban says Rail and Maritime Transport Union (RMTU) General Secretary Wayne Butson.

öThe RMTU and its members are joining unions around the world to remember and mourn those who have lost their lives in the workplaceö.

April 28 is International Workersø Memorial Day.

öThe RMTU and its members are committed to removing hazardous substances from the workplace and we are calling on the government to make a similar commitmentö says Wayne Butson.

öOur theme for this yearø memorial day is an asbestos banö.

öA [recent report](#) urged the government to consider banning the importation and use of asbestos in New Zealand. Almost every week RMTU members find new containments of asbestos in their workplacesö says Wayne Butson.

öThis has to stop, but it cannot while the government continues to allow the importation of products containing asbestosö.

öWorkers should not have to work in buildings and vehicles that contain asbestos. Itø 2015 ó much of the developed world has removed this risk by banning asbestosö says Wayne Butson.

öRMTU members feel very strongly about this issue and Workersø Memorial Day because our union has suffered a terrible losses of life within the rail and port industries.ö

**Actions across the country:** the RMTU will hold large ceremonies at noon at the Dunedin, Napier, Christchurch and Lower Hutt rail workshops. All trains will be stopping for one minute at midday with suitable public announcements being made on passenger trains to explain the train stoppings.

**For comment contact General Secretary of the Rail and Maritime Transport Union Wayne Butson at 027 496 2461**

**ENDS**