

## Unión Portuario de Chile denounces lack of supervision and “precarious working conditions”

**LOCAL** [Charlene Local](#) August 21, 2023



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The **Port Union of Chile (UPCh)** expressed his discontent and sorrow for the death of **Marcelo Tapia** Worker of **Ultraport** in it **port of arica** which is why he denounced the lack of control and prevention by port authorities and companies in the country’s port areas, in addition to “precarious working conditions.”

In this context, the UPCh indicated through a statement that “we express deep indignation and sadness at the death of an Ultraport worker in the Arica port terminal, on the third shift on August 21 during the work of the MN Maersk Everglades. We join the pain of his family and co-workers. We demand justice for this and all the workers killed this year and before.”

“As part of our commitment to the life and health of port workers, we denounce the precarious working conditions they face daily in ports. We denounce the lack of supervision and prevention on the part of the authorities and the port companies, the same faults that caused the death of 2 colleagues in Puerto de Coronel on August 7 in the unloading of coal in the MN Sakizaya Miracle, negligent actions that put the physical and psychological integrity of workers at risk. We denounce the impunity and indolence with which victims of work accidents and their families are treated”, he added.

To date, a total of 4 port workers have lost their lives during 2023 in the development of their jobs. In addition to the accidents that occurred in Arica and Coronel, we must add the tragic accident that occurred on July 1 in the **terminal 2** of the **Port of Valparaiso**.

“We believe that the death of a port worker is a preventable death, which could have been prevented with adequate and real security and protection measures. Worked together with the Joint Hygiene and Safety Committees (CPHS) of each terminal, a committee whose objective is to work, monitor and manage safety improvements as ordered by Law 16.74”, the UPCh letter limited.

“For this reason, we demand that the causes of the accident that occurred in Arica be investigated and those responsible be punished. We demand compliance with legal regulations and international conventions on occupational safety. We demand that the right to life and health of port workers be guaranteed,” he added.

Likewise, the Port Union, an organization that has a presence in 25 ports in Chile and groups 6,000 members, called on the executive, through President Gabriel Boric, to “enforce the commitment acquired with the UPCh to address the changes necessary in the law and once and for all to legislate on the different matters pending with the port sector, which include urgent relevant issues such as the safety of port workers in Chile”.

“We hope that this type of incident will not happen again and that the life and dignity of port workers will be respected. As the Chilean Port Union we are available to support the family of the deceased worker and his colleagues”, he concluded.