

WHAT IS VPP?

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is a cooperative compliance program designed to encourage companies to exceed minimum OSHA safety requirements. VPP emphasizes the importance of excellence in occupational safety and health programs and encourages the improvement of such programs.

The VPP concept recognizes that enforcement of safety and health regulations alone can't achieve the objectives of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Good safety-and-health management programs that go beyond OR-OSHA standards can protect employees more effectively.

VPP is *not* "just another program." VPP is a "process" that helps achieve the goal of working more safely. VPP serves as a "road map," focusing on key areas necessary to comprehensive safety-and-health programs:

- Management leadership
- Employee involvement
- Worksite analysis
- Hazard prevention and control
- Safety-and-health training

VPP companies integrate these elements into their safety and health management systems.

Management, labor, and OR-OSHA establish a cooperative relationship under the VPP at a workplace that has implemented a strong safety-and-health program. Management

agrees to operate an effective program that meets an established set of criteria. Employees agree to participate in the program and work with management to ensure a safe and healthful workplace. OR-OSHA provides resources to continue to advance and improve workplace safety and health.

WHAT CAN VPP DO FOR MY FACILITY?

VPP participants experience the following benefits as participants in the VPP process:

- Improved motivation for employees to work safely, leading to higher productivity.
- Reduced workers' compensation costs. (60-80 percent fewer than average lost-workday injuries among workplaces of the same size in their industries.)
- Improved communication between labor and management.
- A positive image in the community.
- Continued improvement of programs through VPP internal and external reviews.

WON'T VPP JUST ADD PAPERWORK?

The VPP application process is rigorous to ensure that only the best programs qualify. VPP reviewers look for a system that works for your workplace. There are more ways than one to meet VPP requirements. Some

successful programs involve a lot of written documentation; others do not. Some paperwork is required as part of the application, but companies are encouraged to use existing paperwork whenever possible.

OR-OSHA verifies that the program meets the VPP criteria. We then publicly recognize the site's exemplary safety-and-health program and remove the site from routine scheduled inspection lists. OR-OSHA still investigates major accidents, valid formal employee complaints, and chemical spills.

OR-OSHA periodically reassesses VPP sites to confirm that the sites continue to meet VPP criteria.

WHAT DOES OR-OSHA GET FROM VPP?

Because the safety and health management systems of VPP companies go well beyond the requirements of the standards, OR-OSHA resources are not tied up in helping these companies become self-sufficient. OR-OSHA recognizes that applicants approved for participation in the VPP provide, at a minimum, the basic elements of ongoing, systematic protection of workers; therefore, VPP companies are removed from programmed inspection lists. This allows OR-OSHA resources to inspect more workplaces that are less likely to meet the requirements of OSHA standards.

HOW DO I APPLY?

Get the OR-OSHA VPP Guidelines and Application Packet by calling (503) 947-7437.

Submit two completed copies of your written application to OR-OSHA at the address you'll find in the packet. After your application has been reviewed and accepted, VPP staff will schedule a visit to your workplace. OR-OSHA verifies that your program meets VPP criteria, then publicly recognizes your site's exemplary safety-and-health program, and removes your site from routine scheduled inspection lists.

For more information regarding the Voluntary Protection Program, visit our Web site, www.orosha.org, and click on "Consultation," then "VPP Program."

OR-OSHA encourages prospective VPP companies to seek a SHARP consultation. Read about the consultation program on our Web site or call (503) 947-7460 or (800) 922-2689.

OR-OSHA encourages anyone considering VPP to attend the OR-OSHA training class "116 Safety and Health Program Evaluation."

**VPP —
MAKING WORKPLACES
SAFER THROUGH
COOPERATIVE EFFORTS**

440-3316 (10/05/COM)



Oregon Occupational Safety
& Health Division
350 Winter Street NE, Room 430
Salem, Oregon 97310



**THE OREGON
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