Questions About VPP

★ What is VPP and where did the idea come from?

★ What is required to participate in the VPP?

★ What is the VPP process?

★ What resources are available to sites interested in applying for VPP status?
The VPP is...

- A program that leads to enhanced worker safety and health protection
- The opportunity to develop a cooperative relationship between management, labor, and the government
- A program designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management
- Not just an award, a continual process to achieve excellence
The VPP History

1979: The CAL/OSHA-Bechtel experiment
1982: OSHA announces VPP
1982: First site joins VPP
1983: 11 Sites in VPP
1992: 100th Site Joins VPP
1994: DOE initiates VPP
1998: Federal worksites eligible for VPP
2010: Reached 2000 sites in 2010
Number of VPP Sites

as of 02/14/2012

Nationwide – 2404

Region I – 85
VPP in New England

84 Star

1 Merit
Who Does the VPP Include?

VPP participants are a select group of facilities that have implemented outstanding health and safety programs-approved by OSHA.
Types of VPP Sites

- Petrochemical
- Plastic
- Forest Products
- Utility
- Healthcare
- Cosmetics
- Textiles
- Defense sites
- Office Buildings
- Electronics
- Maintenance
- Food Manf./Packaging
- Construction
- Telecommunications
- Oil Refining
- Municipalities
- Printers
- Shipbuilding
- Research Laboratories
- Cabinetry
- Pharmaceutical
- Aerospace
WHY VPP??

- Safety & Health Excellence
- National Recognition
- Increased Employee Morale
- Improves Quality and Productivity
- Lower Injury/Illness Rates
  - 52% below national average for industry
- Partnership With OSHA
Benefits of VPP

- Improved safety performance
  - *Decline in injury, illness, and lost work day rates*

- Creates economic benefits
  - *Reduced absenteeism rates, insurance premiums, and workers compensation costs*
Benefits of VPP

✓ Enhanced public recognition and outreach
  ✓ Improved relationship with OSHA and surrounding community

✓ Increased Employee Benefits
  ✓ Higher morale, feeling of ownership among employees

✓ Leveraged governmental resources
  ✓ Assists OSHA with developing standards and training programs
The Three VPP

- STAR
- MERIT
- DEMONSTRATION
VPP Star

- Highest level of participation
- Successful safety and health program
- 3-year injury/illness rates below BLS industry rate
- Re-evaluated every 3-5 years
VPP Merit

- Stepping stone to Star
- Still requires high level of commitment to safety and health program
- Applicants must agree to specific goals to reach Star within 3 years
- Re-evaluated every 12-18 months
VPP Demonstration Site

★ Requires the same level of excellence as the Star program.

★ Reserved for “special circumstance”
  – Short-term Construction
  – Mobile Workforce

★ Re-evaluation every 12 months
Overview of the VPP Process

- Application information package
- Submit a written application to OSHA
- Application reviewed by OSHA
- OSHA on-site review performed
- Site is approved as Star or Merit by the Assistant Secretary for OSHA
Application Process

- Applications Workshops
- VPPPA Mentor
- OSHA Outreach Manager
The On-site Review

- On-site team; 4-8 people
- On-site length; typically 5 days
- On-site consists of:
  - Opening conference
  - Walkaround
  - Documentation review
  - Employee interviews
  - Closing conference
**Major Elements of VPP**

1. Management Leadership and Employee Involvement
2. Worksite Analysis
3. Hazard Prevention and Control
4. Safety and Health Training
Management Leadership

- Management Commitment
- Visible Leadership
- Responsibility, Authority and Accountability
- Employee Involvement
- Contract Worker Coverage
- Annual review of Program Operations
Worksite Analysis

⭐ Comprehensive baseline survey
⭐ Change analysis of planned and new facilities, processes, materials and equipment
⭐ Routine job hazard analysis
⭐ Conduct periodic safety and health inspections
Hazard Prevention and Control

- Engineering controls
- Safe work practices
- Personal Protective Equipment
- Systems to track hazard correction
- Preventive Maintenance Systems
- Emergency Preparation
- Medical programs
Safety & Health Training

- Employees
- Supervisors
- Managers
- New hires
- Contract workers
How can you join the 2000 plus companies in the United States that are experiencing over 50% fewer injuries and illnesses at their worksites?
Resources

- OSHA Home Page – VPP
- OSHA Instruction TED 8.4 found on OSHA Home Page
- Nearby Sites – OSHA Home Page
- OSHA eTool – Safety & Health Management Systems
- VPPPA
- Compliance Assistance Specialists
- Regional Office VPP Staff
OSHA Web Site...

www.osha.gov
VPP Information...

www.osha.gov/oshprogs/vpp