

OSHA FactSheet

The Three C's of VPP

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is introducing three new pilot programs – the three C's of VPP—OSHA Challenge, VPP Corporate and VPP Construction Program. The new initiatives will expand programs to promote the safety and health of thousands more workers across the nation.

The Voluntary Protection Programs promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. VPP worksites save millions each year because their injury and illness rates are more than 50 percent below the averages for their industries.

OSHA Challenge

To provide greater opportunities to eligible employers interested in working with OSHA to create safer and healthier workplaces for their employees, OSHA has created the Challenge Pilot. This pilot is designed to reach and guide employers and companies in all major industry groups who are strongly committed to improving their safety and health management systems and interested in pursuing recognition in the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP). OSHA Challenge provides participants a guide or roadmap to improve performance and ultimately to VPP Merit or Star. The Challenge program outlines the requirements needed to develop and implement effective safety and health management systems through incremental steps. At each stage, certain actions, documentation and outcomes are required in the areas covered by VPP criteria. Participants receive recognition from OSHA at the completion of each stage.

OSHA Challenge uses "qualified volunteers" to sponsor and act as Administrators for Challenge Participants. These Administrators may be corporations, Federal agencies, or nonprofit associations. Administrators will be selected by OSHA based on specific criteria. The Challenge Administrator will appoint a Coordinator(s) to manage the Challenge Participants' progress through the stages. Challenge Administrators assist, encourage, track and periodically report to OSHA on the progress made by Challenge Participants. OSHA provides Challenge Participants numerous guides and tools to successfully progress through the development and

implementation of each stage. Challenge Administrators are provided with tools by OSHA to operate, manage and track performance of their sponsored participants. Once a Challenge Participant successfully completes all the stages, they may be considered for expedited participation in the VPP Star or Merit programs.

VPP Corporate

The VPP Corporate Pilot allows corporations committed to VPP and interested in achieving VPP recognition at facilities throughout their organization with a more efficient means to accomplish this goal. Corporations with well-established, standardized safety and health management systems implemented at facilities across the organization often experience significant duplication of effort when applying for VPP participation for individual facilities. The purpose of this pilot is to meet the needs of large corporations by eliminating the redundancy in the VPP application and onsite evaluation processes while maintaining the quality and integrity of VPP. With streamlined processes designed to address these specific needs, corporations can efficiently increase their participation in VPP and obtain the many significant benefits of VPP. A corporation in the VPP Corporate can expect to experience benefits such as safer and healthier workplaces; greater protections for employees; and a strong corporate identity as a leader in the safety and health community.

Interested corporations just submit an application to OSHA describing how standardized corporate-

level policies and programs consistent with VPP criteria are applied at facilities across their organization. Following a review of the application, OSHA will conduct a comprehensive Corporate Program Evaluation at the corporate office/headquarters to verify the contents of the application. Once the Corporation is accepted into the program, all of their eligible facilities will follow streamlined application and onsite evaluation processes. The streamlined facility application requires only facility-specific information and eliminates the need to repeat information contained in the Corporate VPP Application. The streamlined facility onsite evaluation will evaluate only selected VPP elements. Once the individual facility is approved as a VPP site, all standard VPP requirements apply.

VPP Construction Program

The VPP Construction Program addresses the unique needs of the construction industry. Over the last several years, OSHA implemented two pilot/demonstration programs to evaluate alternative VPP criteria for construction employers. These programs focused on short-term construction projects and mobile workforce employers.

These pilots were evaluated and showed positive and beneficial results for participants. As a result, the design of the VPP Construction Program is being modeled closely after these pilots. The program's goal is to make VPP more accessible to construction employers, especially small construction employers. This program will maintain the high standards of VPP while expanding participation to broad categories of employers within the construction industry such as short-term projects, mobile workforces, general contractors and sub-contractors.

Contact Information

For more information on VPP, contact the VPP Manager at your OSHA Regional Office or OSHA's Office of Partnerships and Recognition at:

U.S. Department of Labor
Occupational Safety and Health Administration
Directorate of Cooperative and State Programs
Office of Partnerships and Recognition
200 Constitution Ave., NW
Washington, DC 20210

Telephone: (202) 693-2213

This is one in a series of informational fact sheets highlighting OSHA programs, policies or standards. It does not impose any new compliance requirements. For a comprehensive list of compliance requirements of OSHA standards or regulations, refer to Title 29 of the Code of Federal Regulations. This information will be made available to sensory impaired individuals upon request. The voice phone is (202) 693-1999; teletypewriter (TTY) number: (877) 889-5627.

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For more complete information:



U.S. Department of Labor

www.osha.gov

(800) 321-OSHA