



The VPP Program Project

What It Is....

- A way to obtain recognition for all of your efforts to make MSFC a safe place to work.
- A chance to compare our safety and health systems and processes against the national standard for minimal performance (OSHA regulations).
- A validation of our SHE Program, as a means of achieving world-class employee protection, using outside auditors who are experts in safety and health.
- A structured program for continually improving the functional effects of our SHE Program systems and processes.

What It Is Not...

- A new safety program that we will have to implement.
- A whole set of new safety rules that we will have to learn and follow (it's mostly a matter of following the ones we already have).
- Another ISO-type program. (We will only have to write or revise procedures that do not already meet or exceed OSHA standards.)
- A program that is too rigid to deal with the wide range of ever-changing work environments and processes that characterize MSFC operations.



What Does OSHA Say VPP Is?

- Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) emphasize the importance of worksite safety and health programs in meeting the goals of the Occupational Safety and Health Act, “to assure so far as possible every working man and woman in the Nation safe and healthful working conditions...”
- VPP provides official recognition of excellent safety and health programs, assistance to employers in their efforts to reach that level of excellence, and the benefits of a cooperative approach to resolve potential safety and health problems.
- Recognition in the VPP requires rigorous and detailed attention to workplace safety and health by all personnel in that workplace. Sites are approved on the basis of their written safety and health program and their performance in meeting the standards set by the program.
- The Voluntary Protection Programs are comprised of program elements that have been demonstrated to reduce the incidence and severity of workplace illnesses and injuries at worksites where these programs are an integral part of daily operations.
- The Star Program is the most highly selective program and is for applicants with occupational safety and health programs that are comprehensive and are successful in reducing workplace hazards.