

What's In It For Me?

VPP is NOT *just another safety program*, it is really a *process* that defines a single system and structured approach to help achieve the goal of working more safely.

The focus of VPP is to create successful health and safety programs by promoting active and meaningful employee involvement.

The majority of supporting activities are already in place with benefits including:

- ★ **Reduced Injuries and Lost-Work Days**
- ★ **Safety Culture Leading to Better Employee Quality of Life and Happier Work Force**
- ★ **Pride and Recognition As a Leader in Worker Health and Safety**
- ★ **Reduced Waste & Continuous Process Improvements**
- ★ **Reduced Workplace Injuries and Illnesses**

9 Meaningful Ways to Get Involved

- ★ Report safety issues and recommend solutions
- ★ Volunteer on your organization's Safety Team
- ★ Participate in safety investigations and near-miss reports and attend meetings
- ★ Write and review Job Safety Analysis (JSA's) for workstations
- ★ Develop/Participate in employee improvement suggestion program
- ★ Conduct housekeeping and safety tours in your area
- ★ Train others in safety and health
- ★ Promote Good Health through Civilian Fitness and Wellness Programs
- ★ Be a role model for others

Wright-Patterson AFB, OH.

Home of the first Active Duty
Air Force Installation

VPP STAR SITE



Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP)
An OSHA Cooperative Program

***“Together changing
the culture in
Safety and Health”***

What is VPP?

The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) is a cross functional program established by OSHA to recognize superior performance in the field of health and safety.

VPP is a partnership between employees, management and OSHA which promotes workers' safety through active and meaningful employee involvement.

VPP works in conjunction with current AF safety management systems. VPP strengthens the element of employee involvement in the process. This involvement is the critical piece to establishing a superior program.

An AFB or a company intending to participate in VPP completes an application based on its safety program and submits it to OSHA. OSHA then evaluates the AFB's or a company's program to determine whether it deserves OSHA's highest health and safety rating, which is signified by VPP Star Status.

VPP consists of the following key elements:

- Management/Union Commitment & Employee Involvement
- Worksite Analysis
- Hazard Prevention & Control
- Health & Safety Training

Where to learn more about VPP

- Call WPAFB VPP Office 937-904-0888
- Ms. Simone Koram, VPP Manager
- TSgt Robert Brock, VPP Program Assistant
- Mr. Anthony Cohn, VPP Team Member (local 1138)

Elements of VPP

Management Leadership & Employee Involvement

Managers and employees at every level are involved in the safety and health program, by helping to identify the worksite hazards and reduce the danger of injury and illness to employees.

Meaningful employee participation is essential to success. Existing organizations and activities play an important role. Employees are given the opportunity to provide valuable input into the safety and health policies and procedures that are designed to protect them.

Worksite Analysis

Work activities need to be carefully reviewed to identify potential hazards. Such reviews range from informal daily work area self-inspections to well-defined comprehensive surveys.

Hazard Prevention and Control

We protect the safety of our employees by either totally eliminating hazards or ensuring that hazards are controlled. In order of precedence, this includes consideration of process or material substitution, engineering control, administrative control, or personal protective equipment.

Safety and Health Training

Safety and health training is provided to every employee. The type of training depends on the nature of the employee's job and the hazards encountered in the employee's workplace.

AFMC VPP Implementation

AFMC has five bases that implemented OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and the rest of the AFMC bases began implementation in FY 07. This effort is one of the Defense Safety Oversight Councils initiatives to reduce injuries and illnesses DoD wide. The SECDEF's goal is to reduce injuries and illnesses by 75% by 2008 based on a 2002 baseline. The implementation of VPP has assisted many companies and federal agencies make significant reductions in their injury and illness rates. In the Air Force, our rates are below industry's, however we want to achieve world class safety and health programs, VPP will help us achieve this goal. To achieve this goal all personnel (management, union leaders, and employees) must work together to make safety and health excellence the way we do business in AFMC. Management and employees will serve an active role in the safety and health management system on their bases. Management and union leaders must work together in equal partnership for the good of all personnel. When we achieve this objective, our safety and health management system will be world class status and we will have created a culture in which safety and health are second nature. Additionally, we will have created a work environment where all employees feel safe and are excited by coming to work.