

**MICHIGAN
STAR
WORKSITE**



MVPP

Partnering with MIOSHA



Introduction

The Michigan Voluntary Protection Program (MVPP) — MIOSHA's premiere recognition program — is modeled closely after the federal OSHA VPP. Like its federal counterpart, the MVPP encourages companies to exceed minimum safety requirements by emphasizing the importance of effective safety and health management systems in the prevention and control of workplace injuries and illnesses.

The MVPP concept recognizes that enforcement of safety regulations alone can never fully achieve the objectives of the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act.



Good safety management programs that go beyond MIOSHA standards can protect employees more effectively than simple compliance.



How it Works

Through the MVPP, MIOSHA, management, and labor establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that have implemented a comprehensive safety and health management system. Entrance into the MVPP is MIOSHA's official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health.

The MVPP is based on a cooperative relationship between management, labor and MIOSHA and requires active employee involvement, management commitment and the continual identification and elimination of hazards.

MVPP is designed to:



Recognize the outstanding achievements of participating employers who have successfully incorporated comprehensive safety and health management programs into their total management system.



Motivate other employers to achieve excellent safety and health performance in the same manner.



Enable employers to establish a cooperative relationship with MIOSHA.

MIOSHA approves qualified sites to one of four programs:

STAR: Recognition for employers and employees who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards the development, implementation and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.

Rising Star: Recognition for employers and employees who have developed and implemented good safety and health management systems but who must take additional steps to reach STAR quality.

Construction (MVPP/C): Recognition for employers and employees in the construction industry who operate effective safety and health management systems.

Demonstration: Recognition for employers who have successfully completed MSHARP but who must take additional steps to reach STAR quality.

MVPP participants are exempt from MIOSHA programmed inspections for as long as they maintain their MVPP status. Although MVPP sites are exempt from programmed inspections, employers and employees retain their rights and responsibilities under the Michigan Occupational Safety and Health Act.

Accidents, employee complaints, and chemical spills are handled according to established enforcement procedures and policies.

Qualifications

To qualify, employers and sites must meet set performance-based criteria for a managed safety and health system. MIOSHA invites sites to apply, and then assesses applicants against these criteria. The verification process includes an application review and a rigorous onsite evaluation.

Injury and illness rates (TCIR and DART) must be below national Bureau of Labor Statistics averages for the respective industry for each of the last three years (Rising Star – two out of the three years).

Union support is required for applicants represented by a bargaining unit and signed statements from all collective bargaining agents indicating their support are required.

MVPP participants are re-evaluated at least every five years (construction operations every 12-18 months). Rising Star sites are evaluated every 18-24 months and must achieve STAR status within three years.

All elements of each prospective applicant's safety and health management system must be in place and have been implemented for at least one year. The

system must include a process for annually evaluating all elements of the system.

STAR sites are not expected to be perfect, but they are expected to effectively protect their workers from the hazards of the workplace through their safety and health systems. A STAR site is one that has proven it is able to function independently of MIOSHA and is self-sufficient in its ability to control hazards at the worksite.

Expectations

- Management agrees to lead an effective program that meets established criteria.
- Employees agree to participate in the program and work with management to assure a safe and healthful workplace.
- Injury/illness rates maintained at or below industry average.
- Continuous improvement.
- Annual self-evaluations.
- Participate in onsite re-evaluations.

Improvements in Safety and Health

Evidence of the MVPP's success is impressive. The MVPP worksites maintain their injury/illness rates at or below the industry average, with many sites having rates 50% or more below the average for their industry.

Sites typically do not start out with such low rates. Reductions in injuries and illnesses begin when the site commits to the MVPP approach to safety and health management and the challenging MVPP application process.



Differences

The MVPP closely mirrors the federal Voluntary Protection Programs. However, there are some differences, such as the requirement for a year-by-year comparison of injury/illness data to industry averages (OSHA allows for a three-year average). In addition, Michigan-specific injury/illness data is used for comparison whenever possible.

Recognition

A certificate of recognition is awarded to Rising Star and STAR participants. STAR sites also receive a flag that can be flown at the site.

MVPP sites are also permitted to use the MVPP logo on their correspondence and company documents.

How to Apply

Complete and submit an application at **Michigan.gov/MVPP**

These programs are available to Michigan employers and employees and are provided free of charge.

Benefits

For employers:

- Fewer injuries and illnesses
- Greater profits (as workers' compensation premiums and other costs are reduced)
- Models of excellence and influence industry-wide
- Improved quality and productivity
- Improve employee morale
- Recognition

For MIOSHA:

- MIOSHA gains a corps of ambassadors enthusiastically spreading the message of safety and health system management.
- MVPP partners provide MIOSHA with valuable input and augment its limited resources.

Additional Information



Michigan.gov/MVPP



517-284-7720

