

Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program *Fact Sheet*



The Safety & Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) was designed by the U.S. Department of Labor—Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA) to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health. Employers who attain SHARP status are recognized as a model for worksite safety and health. SHARP certification exempts a small business from OSHA’s scheduled inspections for a period of up to three years.

While participating in the consultation process, employers have the opportunity to learn how to maintain a safe and healthy workplace through the development and implementation of proven and effective safety and health management systems. Assistance and training are provided by qualified professionals experienced in helping employers develop safety and health management systems.

Eligibility & Renewal

Federal SHARP is available to companies who meet these qualifiers: 1) Single, fixed work site (Mobile work sites, such as construction are not currently eligible for SHARP), 2) request a full service safety and health consultation, and 3) have at least a one year operating history. Priority for SHARP and Pre-SHARP will be given to those employers with 250 employees or less onsite.

General Requirements

- ▶ Request a consultation visit that involves a complete hazard identification survey.
- ▶ Involve employees in the consultation process.
- ▶ Correct all hazards identified by the consultant(s).
- ▶ Implement and maintain a comprehensive safety and health management system.
Reduce the occurrence of workplace injuries and illnesses to below the national average of your industry. Indicators are the Bureau of Labor Statistics DART Rate (Days Away from Work, Restricted Work Activity or Job Transfer) and Total Recordable Cases (TRC).
- ▶ Exemplify management commitment to the prevention of workplace injuries and illnesses beyond satisfying the requirements of OSHA standards.
- ▶ Consult in advance with your Consultant(s) on any changes in working conditions or work processes which might introduce new hazards into the workplace.
- ▶ After SHARP certification, submit additional injury and illness statistical information and program self-evaluation reports shall be submitted during the interim year if receiving a two or three year exemption.

OSHA Consultation

- ▶ **Safety Pays**® OSHA Consultation reviews the employer’s safety and health programs including an onsite examination of records and logs, a review of any inspection history, an inspection of site conditions at the facility and an assessment of the overall safety and health programs.
- ▶ **Safety Pays**® OSHA Consultation also conducts interviews of management and employees. The onsite portion of the review may require up to two (2) to four (4) days.

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- Each consultation by the Oklahoma Department of Labor *Safety Pays*[®] OSHA Consultation Division includes:
 - A hazard study to help identify any existing or potential safety or occupational health hazards or unsafe workplace practices.
 - Recommendations for improving plant safety.
 - Industrial Hygiene Assessment.
 - Evaluation of each facility's safety and health management plan against recognized effective principles. The evaluation identifies weaknesses and provides recommendations for improving the plan.
 - A comprehensive report detailing the findings of the consultants.
 - Training and technical assistance to help the company implement recommendations.
 - At least one follow-up visit to confirm hazard corrections and program implementation.

Pre-Sharp Deferral

If you have met the eligibility requirements, but need time to implement an effective safety and health management system, you may request a Pre-SHARP deferral of up to 18 months. During this time you will not be inspected by OSHA. Your consultant will work with you to develop an action plan and visit on an interim basis to help you qualify for SHARP.

Getting Started

To enroll in SHARP or request a consultation, contact the Oklahoma Department of Labor *Safety Pays*[®] OSHA Consultation Division:

Oklahoma City – 405-521-6141 or toll-free, statewide at 888-269-5353
www.labor.ok.gov – Oklahoma Department of Labor website

Oklahoma Department of Labor



Melissa McLawhorn Houston
Commissioner

