



OSHA introduces new standards for VPP participants

by Lesley Guerin

OSHA revised the standards used to select Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Star participants, effective January 2001, to intensify the focus on comprehensive management systems and processes.

The new eligibility criteria mirror OSHA's voluntary "Safety and Health Program Management Guidelines," published in 1989. The familiar 19 elements were integrated into five process-oriented components of effective safety and health program management.

Marshall's Safety, Health and Environmental (SHE) Program is designed around five Core Process Requirements (CPRs). As shown in the table below, these CPRs are nearly identical to the VPP eligibility criteria categories. All workers at Marshall should find the CPRs easier to understand, remember and discuss with OSHA interviewers.

Detailed information on the SHE Program CPRs is published in MPG 8715.1A, available through the Integrated Document

Library. Employee teams are currently developing self-assessment and training materials for use by all Center organizations. These materials will highlight relationships between SHE Program elements and the VPP criteria, and assist the Marshall community in implementing leading edge worker protection programs.

Increased expectations concerning the management of safety and health protections for contractor personnel are among the most notable changes in eligibility criteria, according to OSHA. Evaluation of work-related illnesses over a three-year period, along with occupational injury experience, is another significant change. Unchanged VPP requirements include documentation of program activity, job hazard analyses, written compliance plans and procedures, adherence to applicable standards and proof that program systems function effectively to protect workers.

The writer, employed by HEI, supports Marshall's Safety Office.

MSFC Core Process Requirements	OSHA VPP Criteria
CPR 1: Management Commitment & Employee Involvement	Management Leadership & Employee Involvement
CPR 2: System & Worksite Hazard Analysis	Worksite Analysis
CPR 3: Hazard Prevention & Control	Hazard Prevention & Control
CPR 4: Safety & Health Training	Safety & Health Training
CPR 5: Environmental Compliance	OSHA Compliance