

Will my program qualify?

A self-assessment checklist is included in the **VOLUNTEER STAR** information kit. Use the checklist to see if your program meets **VOLUNTEER STAR** criteria.

How do I join?

You must submit a written application to TOSHA. The application guideline is included in the **VOLUNTEER STAR** information kit. After your written application has been reviewed by TOSHA, an onsite review will be scheduled. "What Happens When TOSHA Comes Onsite," found in the VPP information kit, describes the onsite review.

Where can I get more information?

Contact TOSHA for help with any questions you might have.

1-800-325-9901



TDD Line for the hearing impaired
(615) 532-2879



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An Overview of Volunteer Star

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1-800-325-9901
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What is VOLUNTEER STAR?

Tennessee's Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), **VOLUNTEER STAR**, is designed to recognize and promote effective safety and health management.

In the **VOLUNTEER STAR** program, management, labor, and TOSHA establish a cooperative relationship at a workplace that has implemented a strong safety and health program:

- Management agrees to operate an effective program that meets an established set of criteria.

- Employees and management develop a cooperative effort to participate in the program to assure a safe and healthful workplace.

- TOSHA initially verifies that the program meets **VOLUNTEER STAR** criteria. We then publicly recognize the site's exemplary program and remove the site from routine scheduled inspection lists. (TOSHA may still investigate major accidents, valid formal employee complaints, and chemical spills.)

- TOSHA also reassesses periodically to confirm that the site continues to meet **VOLUNTEER STAR** criteria (every three years).

The **VOLUNTEER STAR** concept recognizes that compliance enforcement alone can never fully achieve the objectives of the Occupational Safety and Health Act. Good safety management programs that go beyond TOSHA standards can protect workers more effectively than simple compliance.

VOLUNTEER STAR participants are a select group of facilities that have designed and implemented outstanding health and safety programs.

What are the benefits?

The following benefits have been cited by current Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) participants:

- Improve employee motivation to work safely, leading to higher morale, better quality, and higher productivity.

- Reduce workers' compensation costs.

- Establish recognition in the community.

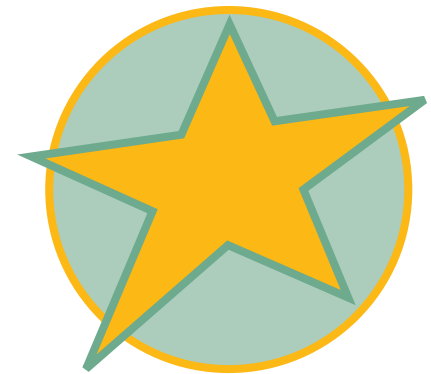
- Improve programs that are already good through the internal and external review that's part of the **VOLUNTEER STAR** application process.

- Decrease lost-workday injuries (generally from 60 to 80 percent fewer lost-workday injuries than would be expected of an "average" site of the same size and industry).

Won't this just make me do a lot of paperwork without making my program better?

The **VOLUNTEER STAR** application process is designed to be rigorous, to assure that only the best programs qualify. But **VOLUNTEER STAR** reviewers don't look for a single correct way to meet **VOLUNTEER STAR** requirements; they want to see a system that works for you. Some successful programs involve a lot of written documentation, while others do not.

There is some paperwork required in the application process, but we encourage you to use as much existing material as possible. The TOSHA staff can help you with questions about what might be required.



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