

**PARTNERSHIP FOR THE WISCONSIN COUNCIL OF SAFETY  
And the  
US Department of Labor  
Occupational Safety and Health Administration  
And the  
State of Wisconsin Consultation Service(s)**

**I. BACKGROUND**

The Wisconsin Council of Safety (WCS), the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), and the State of Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) continue to strive to meet customer needs by providing information, assistance and training that will enable businesses to successfully meet their unique challenges

Based on experience, OSHA recognizes that outreach activities and cooperative initiatives can have a significant impact on worker safety and health. These tools provide opportunities for employers and employees to voluntarily improve their safety and health management systems and be recognized for outstanding performance.

The Wisconsin Council of Safety has contact with thousands of Wisconsin businesses each year and compiles information and training materials on safety and health issues in every industry sector. Working together, WCS, OSHA, and the Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) can expand the information, assistance and training available to Wisconsin businesses on safety and health in the workplace. In addition, businesses can be recognized for their commitment to worker safety and health through programs such as “Safety Works”, Corporate Safety Awards, OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), or Consultation’s Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARPS).

**II. PARTNERSHIP GOALS**

The Wisconsin Council of Safety, OSHA, and the Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) will work in partnership to accomplish the following partnership goals:

- Enhance outreach activities and training programs to improve business awareness of OSHA’s regulations, safety and health management systems, and cooperative programs as well improve the awareness of Wisconsin businesses of the value of effective safety and health programs.
- Increase the use of OSHA, WCS, and Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) technical and training assistance, and participation in cooperative programs by Wisconsin businesses.
- Improve the safety and health performance of employers that receive outreach, training, and other assistance service (i.e. mentoring, on-site consultation, hazard identification).

**III. OBJECTIVES**

The WCS, OSHA, and the Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) will work in partnership to accomplish the following objectives in support of the partnership goals:

**Awareness:** Develop an efficient and effective avenue for communicating occupational safety and health information and resource options to the Wisconsin business community to:

- Develop ongoing outreach efforts to include, training, speeches, and media to reach affected businesses.
- Highlight the benefits of having a comprehensive safety and health management system.

- Increase use by Wisconsin businesses of WCS, OSHA and Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) web based resources.
- Increase the knowledge of OSHA's regulatory requirements through publications, media, and internet for those industries needing help in reducing injuries and illnesses in the workplace.

**Referrals & Assistance:** Facilitate the use of and participation in OSHA's cooperative programs to:

- Identify business owners who wish to improve their safety and health performance.
- Expedite referrals to the appropriate Consultation project to request assistance.
- Facilitate the assignment of mentors for those businesses interested in gaining recognition through the VPP and SHARP.

**Training:** Identify and target interested organizations for safety and health training on OSHA requirements in addition to the elements and benefits of effective safety and health management systems. Specifically:

- Provide training to assist businesses in complying with new OSHA standards.
- Identify Wisconsin business needs for specific safety and health training and develop and deliver courses as appropriate.
- Create and promote instruction that will address the needs of non-English speaking and other hard-to-reach employers and employees where appropriate.

**Improved Performance:** Demonstrate a positive impact on worker safety and health for businesses participating in activities provided through the partnership to:

- Reduce the number of accidents, injuries and associated costs in participating businesses; track and analyze results.
- Improve the accuracy of recordkeeping to capture the "true picture" of illnesses and injuries.
- Increase the number of Wisconsin businesses with written, comprehensive safety and health management systems.

#### **IV. PARTNER ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

WCS, OSHA, and the Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) agree to work in partnership to improve safety and health among Wisconsin businesses.

The WCS agrees to work with clients to:

- Identify issues on which OSHA should focus in order to meet the needs of the Wisconsin business community.
- Distribute safety and health information to their clients.
- Provide locations and outreach assistance for training on OSHA requirements and employee rights.
- Promote OSHA's cooperative programs among their clients and provide referrals to OSHA (e.g., consultation and mentoring requests) when authorized to do so by individual employers.
- Track activities.

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration agrees to:

- Work cooperatively with the WCS and/or its clients to provide safety and health information, training, and training materials specifically aimed at those industries identified by the Steering Committee (see Section VI) as needing outreach.

- Provide training and training materials, through the WCS, to help employers understand and comply with OSHA regulations and to implement effective safety and health management systems.
- Respond to referrals from the WCS and/or its clients providing services to Wisconsin businesses. (e.g., consultation and VPP mentoring).
- Track, analyze, and share information on activities.

The State of Wisconsin On-Site Consultation Service(s) agrees to:

- Work cooperatively with the WCS and/or its clients to provide safety and health information, training, and training materials specifically aimed at those industries identified by the Steering Committee as needing outreach.
- Respond to referrals from the WCS and/or its clients, providing OSHA consultation services to Wisconsin businesses that qualify under 1908 restrictions.
- Track, analyze, and share information on activities as allowed under 1908.

## **V. PARTNERSHIP MEASURES**

The Partnership Steering Committee will identify appropriate performance measures for the partnership within 90 days of its implementation. These measures will focus on the impact of outreach, training, assistance, and reductions in the illness and injury experience. For example, measures may include the number of training sessions held; the number of workers who received training; the number of businesses that applied for the VPP; and the number of businesses that received on-site assistance from WISCON or WCS.

## **VI. PARTNERSHIP ADMINISTRATION**

Steering Committee: A Steering Committee will be formed to manage the partnership. Representatives from each of the following will chair the Committee: The Wisconsin Council of Safety (2), OSHA's Madison Area Office (1), and the State of Wisconsin Consultation Service(s) (2). [Safety Consultation (1) and Health Consultation (1)]

The committee will determine partnership procedures, hold quarterly meetings, track, analyze and share information on partnership activities and results, and meet at least annually to evaluate the effectiveness of the partnership.

## **VII. IMPLEMENTATION**

The Steering Committee will develop and implement an action plan to address the partnership objectives.

## **VII. OSHA INSPECTIONS**

All Wisconsin businesses will remain subject to OSHA inspections and investigations in accordance with agency procedures, however the partnership will not be used as a method to target Wisconsin businesses for inspections.

## **VIII. EMPLOYEE RIGHTS/EMPLOYER RIGHTS**

The provisions of this agreement identified herein shall not modify any legal or contractual rights and remedies.

## **IX. TERMS OF AGREEMENT**

This agreement will begin 30 days from date the date of signing and run for three (3) years. The agreement will be reviewed annually in writing and at the end of the three (3) year term by the Steering Committee. The agreement may be modified at any time with the agreement of all signatory partners. The agreement may be renewed at the end of three years also with agreement from all parties.

#### **X. FUNDS**

It is not anticipated that any funding will be transferred between OSHA, the WCS and Wisconsin Consultation Services. However, OSHA will endeavor to provide the necessary training and promotional materials, subject to the availability of appropriations.

#### **XI. TERMINATION**

The partnership may be terminated for any reason 30 days following the receipt of a signed, written letter from any signatory partner.

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