

Consultation Services, Oregon Occupational Safety and Health Division 2014-2018

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The mission of Oregon's Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) is "to advance and improve workplace safety and health for all working Oregonians." To meet this goal, the Consultative Services Section of Oregon OSHA provides professional workplace consultations to Oregon employers.

The consultation program is a confidential, non-regulatory service available to all Oregon employers. The overall goal of the consultation program is to help employers implement and maintain an effective safety and health management system and to ultimately become self-sufficient in managing their program. Consultants help identify hazards and work practices that could lead to injuries or illnesses by conducting on-site evaluations and reviewing written programs. These services are provided at no cost to

employers and do not automatically result in inspections or any other enforcement activity by Oregon OSHA.

Employers who receive a consultation also receive a 60-day exemption from a regularly scheduled enforcement visit (30 days for mobile sites and agricultural labor housing consultations). The purpose of the exemption is to give employers time to implement the consultant's recommendations.

Consultations by calendar year, Oregon OSHA, 2014-2018

Calendar year	Total consultations*	Total employees affected
2014	2,638	106,361
2015	2,534	97,753
2016	2,603	102,569
2017	2,465	80,349
2018	2,508	92,815
AVERAGE	2,550	95,969

*Based on the date the consultation was opened.

Consultations by industry, Oregon OSHA, calendar year 2014-2018

Industry (NAICS)	Total	Percent
Private-sector total	11,332	88.9
<i>Agriculture, forestry, fishing (NAICS 11)</i>	1,014	8.0
<i>Construction (NAICS 23)</i>	2,581	20.2
<i>Manufacturing (NAICS 31-33)</i>	2,862	22.5
<i>Wholesale trade (NAICS 42)</i>	427	3.3
<i>Retail trade (NAICS 44-45)</i>	618	4.8
<i>Transportation and warehousing (NAICS 48-49)</i>	299	2.3
<i>Professional and technical services (NAICS 54)</i>	208	1.6
<i>Administrative and waste services (NAICS 56)</i>	241	1.9
<i>Health care and social assistance (NAICS 62)</i>	1,182	9.3
<i>Accommodation and food services (NAICS 72)</i>	287	2.3
<i>Other services (NAICS 81)</i>	696	5.5
<i>All other private sector</i>	917	7.2
Federal government (OWN 10)	7	0.1
State government (OWN 20)	233	1.8
Local government (OWN 30)	1,168	9.2
Tribal government	8	0.1
TOTAL CONSULTATIONS	12,748	100.0

Total percent will not sum to 100 due to subgrouping.

*All other private sector includes mining; utilities; information; finance and insurance; real estate, renting, and leasing; management of companies; educational services; and arts, entertainment, and recreation.

Industry is classified according to the North American Industrial Classification System (NAICS), 2007 edition.

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Consultations by type of service requested, Oregon OSHA, 2014-2018

Service requested	Calendar year					Five-year total	
	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Total	Percent
Safety	1,834	1,722	1,775	1,680	1,667	8,678	68.1
Health	671	671	695	676	728	3,441	27.0
Ergonomic	124	136	128	108	109	605	4.7
PSM (process safety management)	9	5	5	1	4	24	0.2
TOTAL CONSULTATIONS	2,638	2,534	2,603	2,465	2,508	12,748	100.0

From 2014 to 2018, Oregon OSHA staff conducted 12,748 consultations, reaching an average 95,969 Oregon employees each year. Because consultation services are voluntary, the annual workload is driven by employer demand. Private-sector employers requested nearly 89 percent of the opened consultations.

At the employer's request, a consultation may be comprehensive or address only a specific issue. The Consultative Services Section also offers a variety of services. Safety consultations are the most commonly requested service, accounting for 68.1 percent of opened consultations. During a safety consultation, the consultant addresses physical worksite hazards, such as those associated with machinery, industrial vehicles, electrical devices, material handling equipment, walking/working surfaces, and personal protective equipment. Health consultations, also known as industrial hygiene consultations, address employee exposure to health hazards, such as noise, respiratory hazards, and hazardous chemicals. Ergonomic consultations help employers evaluate the work environment and develop effective practical ways to prevent cumulative trauma injuries, such as carpal tunnel syndrome and lower back strains. Process Safety Management (PSM) consultations evaluate

an employer's development of prevention plans. PSM consultations are required for worksites where certain hazardous chemicals are used.

Customer service

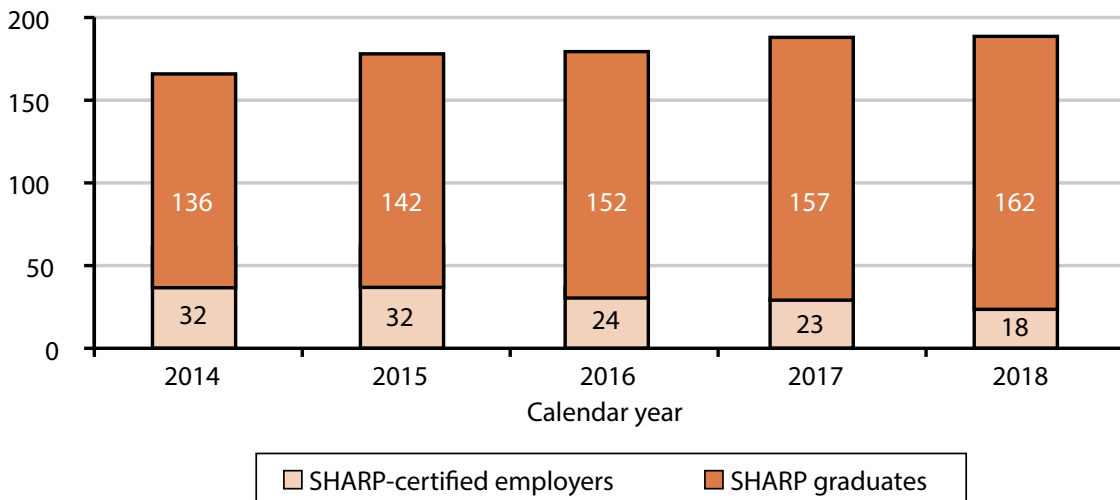
Oregon OSHA's consultants received high marks in customer service. Among employers surveyed in calendar year 2018, nearly all (98 percent) rated their consultant as good or excellent in helpfulness, completeness, expertise, accuracy, availability of information, and overall service.

SHARP

The Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) recognizes employers that reach specific benchmarks in managing their occupational safety and health program. SHARP provides employers assistance and tools for effectively managing workplace safety, focusing on management commitment and employee participation. Companies using SHARP to implement a safety and health management system often experience a reduction in injuries and illnesses and, in turn, reduce their workers' compensation insurance premiums. SHARP was implemented in 1996 with four employers certified. By the end of 2018, the program had grown to 180 employers: 18

current participants and 162 who "graduated" from the program after five successful years of participation.

Figure 1. SHARP certified employers, Oregon, 2014-2018

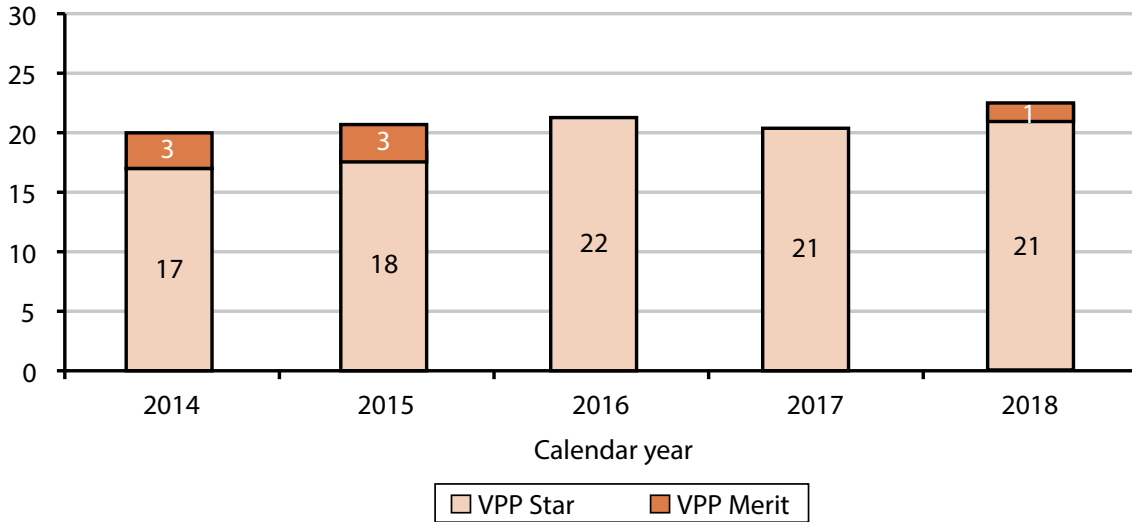


VPP

Federal OSHA developed the Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as a way to recognize employers that demonstrate excellence in safety and health management. To be considered for VPP recognition, a company's safety and health management system must excel in all areas,

including management leadership, employee involvement, worksite analysis, hazard prevention and control, and safety and health training. VPP worksites must also have a three-year average injury and illness rate at or below the rates of other employers in the same industry. At the end of 2018, there were 22 Oregon worksites recognized in the Voluntary Protection Program.

Figure 2. VPP employers, Oregon, 2014-2018



Oregon OSHA Consultation Services



What are Oregon OSHA consultation services?

Oregon OSHA consultation provides many no-cost, confidential services, including:

- Safety, health, and ergonomic hazard assessments
- Recommendations to control and eliminate hazards
- Written program evaluation
- Industrial hygiene services, such as noise monitoring
- Hands-on training on health and safety topics
- Safety and health program assistance

Oregon OSHA Consultants WILL NOT:

- Issue citations for violations of OSHA standards
- Provide other businesses with information about your Oregon OSHA participation, hazards, or business processes
- Guarantee that your workplace will “pass” an Oregon OSHA inspection

What will the consultant want to see?

- If you request a *comprehensive* consultation, the consultant will conduct an evaluation of the physical worksite, then review your records, written programs, and your safety and health management plan.
- If you request a *specific* consultation, the consultant can focus on a specific operation, machine, or process at your worksite. You are in charge!

What are my obligations if I request an Oregon OSHA consultation?

When you request an Oregon OSHA consultation, you will receive a report listing the hazards identified along with our recommendations for corrections. Oregon OSHA encourages you to correct the hazards to make your worksite a safe place for your employees. However, if a consultant identifies an “imminent danger” situation, the employer must take immediate action to protect all employees.

The Benefits for You

Improving your safety and health program can result in fewer accidents, lower injury and illness rates, decreased workers’ compensation costs, increased employee morale, and lower product losses. A consultation will include:

- Personal, professional, and relevant assistance specific to your business
- Guidance on effective safety meetings and safety committees
- Answers to questions about Oregon OSHA standards
- A 30- or 60-day exemption from a standard inspection

How can your organization learn more?

Oregon OSHA consultants are available to present program information at safety-related forums such as meetings, trainings, business seminars, or safety/health conferences. Schedule a consultation or contact us for more information by:

- Visiting our Web site, osha.oregon.gov, **Consultation link**
- Calling our toll-free number 800-922-2689

What other services does Oregon OSHA provide?

Do you have a safety or health question?

Ask our technical experts:
Phone: 503-378-3272 or 800-922-2689
tech.web@oregon.gov

Educational workshops and other training:

Phone: 503-947-7443 or 888-292-5247, Option 2
ed.web@oregon.gov

Resource Center and AV Library:

Phone: 503-947-7453 or 800-922-2689
tech.web@oregon.gov

Upcoming conferences information:

Phone: 503-378-3272 or 888-292-5247, Option 1
oregon.conferences@oregon.gov

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