

Developing an OSHA VPP Letter of Intent

The Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) requires federal worksites to notify the Designated Agency Safety and Health Official (DASHO) prior to applying for Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) recognition. You can create your letter of intent to file a VPP application using any method you like; however, the tips in this handout may be useful to draft your own letter. An example is provided at the end of this one pager.

If you are a federal worksite applying for OSHA VPP Star recognition, you must prepare and submit a letter of intent to your DASHO prior to submitting your application. Be sure to include a copy of this letter along with your OSHA VPP application.

IDENTIFY YOUR DASHO AND THEIR CONTACT INFORMATION

Each Department of Defense Service and Agency has a DASHO. The DASHO is higher in the chain of command and is appointed to manage and administer occupational safety and health policies within your Service or Agency. Reach out to your SMCX contact if you do not know your DASHO's contact information.

CLEARLY STATE YOUR SITE'S INTENTIONS

Clearly state your site's intentions to help the DASHO understand why they are receiving the letter. Identify your site name, location, and the goal to submit your OSHA VPP application. If you have a specific timeframe planned to submit your application, you should state it in your letter so the DASHO can anticipate when the submittal will occur. Your base can submit the letter for you, which shows commitment from everyone at your location, and not just within your organization.

IDENTIFY IF OTHER ORGANIZATIONS AT YOUR BASE HAVE APPLIED FOR OSHA VPP

Implementing OSHA VPP criteria is a milestone for any organization. Let your DASHO know if you are the first, second, or even tenth, organization at your base to apply for OSHA VPP recognition. This information helps the DASHO understand your base's safety culture.

DESCRIBE THE COMPOSITION OF YOUR WORKSITE

DASHOs may want to know the size and composition of your organization. Describe the number of government civilians, military personnel, contractors, and volunteers at your organization.

DESCRIBE YOUR ORGANIZATION'S INJURY AND ILLNESS RATES

OSHA requires organizations to have injury and illness incidence rates (e.g., total case incidence and days away, restricted, and transferred) below the industry average to apply for OSHA VPP recognition. Provide your rates in your letter to show the DASHO your site meets these qualifications.

INCLUDE CONTACT INFORMATION

Inform the DASHO of whom to contact if there are questions regarding your intentions to submit an OSHA VPP application. Generally, this person is someone designated to head VPP implementation efforts at an organization (e.g., VPP Coordinator, VPP Program Manager). Be sure to list an email, address, and a phone number.

SIGN THE LETTER OF INTENT

Your senior leader must sign the letter to acknowledge your site's intentions of applying for OSHA VPP recognition and inviting OSHA to your worksite to conduct a safety management system evaluation. While your senior leader is required to sign this letter, consider having your base leadership and site union representative also sign your letter to show commitment from all on-site groups.

SUBMIT THE LETTER OF INTENT TO YOUR DASHO

Use the chain of command to submit your letter to the DASHO so all levels of leadership get a look before it moves forward. Submit your letter electronically or through the mail, depending on your chain of command's preference.

Reach out to your SMCX contact if you need help submitting your letter. The SMCX knows who to copy on your email communications to ensure you notify all proper communication lines in the chain of command, outside of the DASHO.

INCLUDE A COPY OF YOUR INTENT LETTER WITH YOUR OSHA VPP APPLICATION

When you are ready to submit your OSHA VPP application, attach a copy of your letter of intent to your application. It is not only a VPP requirement, but shows you notified the appropriate personnel within your organization and Service or Agency of these intentions.

For additional information on the SMCX's services, please visit the SMCX-hosted website at: <https://www.smscx.org/>.



The image shows Concurrent Technologies Corporation President and CEO, Ed Sheehan, Jr., participating in a VPP signing event.

Letter of Intent to File a VPP Application Template

FROM: *Organization Name*
 Address
 City, State Zip

TO: *DASHO Name*
 DASHO Title
 Address
 City, State Zip

SUBJECT: Intent to File a Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) Application to the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) Region *Number*

1. On behalf of the *Organization Name*, *Base Name* will be submitting an application to OSHA Region *Number* in the *near future*.
2. The *Organization Name* is the *number* organization to submit an OSHA VPP application at *Base Name* and request an OSHA on-site safety management system evaluation.
3. The *Organization Name* has an organization composed of *number* civilians, *number* military, *number* contractors, and *number* volunteers.
4. Our injury and illness incidence rates are *below/equal to/above* the industry average for the past three calendar years.
5. Please refer any questions to the *VPP Coordinator Job Title*, *VPP Coordinator Name*, at *(XXX) XXX-XXXX* or *email*.

Senior Leader Name (for organization)
Senior Leader Title
Rank, Service

Date

Senior Leader Name (for base)
Senior Leader Title
Rank, Service

Date

Union Representative Name (for organization)
Union Representative Title

Date