

## IndustrySafe Safety Software and Achieving VPP Compliance

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### Introduction

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) of the Occupational Health and Safety Administration (OSHA) partners with businesses and worksites to achieve excellence in occupational safety and health. Sites are committed to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards. VPP participants develop and implement systems to effectively identify, evaluate, prevent, and control occupational hazards to prevent employee injuries and illnesses.

While a software system is not required to comply with the health and safety system requirements of the VPP program, software can greatly benefit VPP participants. This white paper reviews the way in which the IndustrySafe Safety Software program in particular can assist VPP participants in achieving VPP compliance.

IndustrySafe Safety Software is a web-based safety data management solution developed by TRA so organizations can track incidents, corrective actions, OSHA reporting, training, claims, inspections, hazards, behavioral based safety, and more. IndustrySafe clients include leaders in manufacturing, construction, government, and transportation, as well as numerous VPP participants. TRA is proud to be a Voluntary Protection Program Participants Association (VPPPA) affiliate member and participates in VPPPA conferences and exhibits.

### Overview of VPP

VPP participants are committed to effective employee protection beyond the requirements of OSHA standards. VPP participants develop and implement systems to effectively identify, evaluate, prevent, and control occupational hazards to prevent employee injuries and illnesses. The VPP Program aims to: hold managers accountable for worker safety and health; continually identify and eliminate hazards; and actively involve employees in their own protection. The VPP Program is also based on cooperation and trust, between OSHA and the work site, and between management and employees.

As part of VPP, sites invite a government regulator into their workplace for reviews and audits. In return, OSHA removes site from programmed inspection lists and does not issue them citations for standards violations that are promptly corrected.

Since beginning in 1982, VPP has achieved tremendous success in improving safety and increasing participation in the program. The average VPP worksite has had an incidence rate for days away from

work, restricted work activity, and/or job transfer that is at least 50 percent below the average for its industry.

In January of 2009, OSHA updated VPP to include Mobile, or Corporate work places in addition to the existing worksites.

VPP is based on four tenants: Management and Employee Involvement; Worksite Analysis; Hazard Prevention and Control ; and Safety and Health Training.

## Benefits of Safety Software for VPP Compliance

Using Safety Software to assist with VPP Compliance has several benefits that result in successful VPP worksites and participation.

- **Reduction of Administrative Overhead.** Achieving VPP success requires data collection and administrative reports from the worksites. Safety Software can automatically generate required reports and collect data more quickly and easily than a manual process.
- **Increase Employee Involvement.** One of the central tenants of the VPP program is actively involving employees in their own protection. Safety Software can provide a self service portal that allows employees to report hazards and incidents, view their training records, and view follow up for safety action items.
- **Transparency to Employees and Management.** Safety Software can provide an accessible tool for both employees and management to view safety issues and the resolution of these issues.
- **Increase Efficiency and Accuracy.** Safety Software can help ensure that appropriate data is collected in a streamlined process.
- **Standardize Procedures and Processes.** For large worksites, corporate sites, or mobile workforces, safety software can promote consistency in recordkeeping and reporting. The forms for reporting incidents, hazards, corrective actions, etc. can be standardized for the entire organization. All groups within the organization can report on common data elements and common safety metrics can be developed for the entire organization.

## Specific Compliance Assistance with IndustrySafe Software

In general to the larger benefits described above, IndustrySafe Safety Management Software can provide direct and tangible benefits for specific components of VPP requirements. Specific components of VPP are detailed below, as well as the way in which IndustrySafe can assist in achieving compliance with those components. The tables below also include references to the specific modules of IndustrySafe that assist in achieving compliance for each component. Each module of IndustrySafe is easy to use, can be configured for your organization, and includes additional features such as supporting documentation, automatic email notifications, and detailed reports and analysis.

## Injury and Illness Rates

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
Star Status: Achieve Injury/Illness Rates Below National Average	IndustrySafe Software calculates TCIR, DART rates including 3 year averages.  <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software> Incidents >Injury Incident Rate Reports
Merit Status: Achieve Injury/Illness Rates Below National Average in 3 years	

## Management and Employee Involvement

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
Safety and health management system goals and results-oriented objectives for meeting those goals.	Dashboard provides graphic display of key safety indicators and goals.  <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Dashboards

## Worksite Analysis

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
Self-inspections, conducted by trained staff with written documentation and hazard correction tracking, that cover the entire site at least quarterly (weekly for construction).	Inspection module provides inspection checklists and corrective action tracking and follow up.  <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Inspections <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Corrective Actions
A written hazard reporting system that enables employees to report their observations or concerns to management without fear of reprisal and to receive timely responses	Hazard Module allows for employees to report hazards (anonymously if desired)  <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Hazards <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Hazard Public Web Form
Accident/incident investigations conducted by trained staff. Written findings that aim to identify all contributing factors.	Incident Module includes investigation form; including root cause analysis.  <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software>Incidents>Incident Investigation Form

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
<p>A system that analyzes injury, illness, and related data—including inspection results, observations, near-miss and incident reporting, first aid, and injury and illness records—to identify common causes and needed corrections in procedures, equipment, or programs.</p>	<p>Dashboard, Incidents, Inspections, Observations, and Corrective Actions Modules provide this system</p> <p><b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Dashboards <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Incidents <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Inspections <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Observations <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Corrective Actions</p>

## Hazard Prevention and Control

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
<p>An effective system for eliminating or controlling hazards.</p>	<p>Allows for tracking, documenting, and developing hazard controls including corrective actions for hazard correction</p> <p><b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Hazards <b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Corrective Actions</p>
<p>A system for tracking hazard correction.</p>	

## Safety and Health Training

Selected VPP Components	IndustrySafe Can Help:
<p>Safety and Hazard Training for managers, supervisors, and employees</p>	<p>Documents, tracks, notifies, training activity throughout organization</p> <p><b>Go to:</b> IndustrySafe Safety Software&gt;Training</p>
<p>Documentation of all training that individual employees receive</p>	

## Conclusion

IndustrySafe Safety Software can assist organizations in achieving compliance with VPP, by providing easy to use tools for tracking, notifying and reporting on key safety data. More information is available on the IndustrySafe website at [www.industrysafe.com](http://www.industrysafe.com) or by contacting TRA directly by phone: 215-546-9110 or via email at [industrysafe@traonline.com](mailto:industrysafe@traonline.com) .