

# VPP Works & Saves

The Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP) safeguard the health of nearly one million employees at 2,200 worksites across America with innovative and adaptable safety and health management systems. VPP is administered federally by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). The Department of Energy (DOE) has its own VPP for more than 50,000 employees at sites it oversees. Additionally, all 22 OSH Act state plans have chosen to create their own programs.

## Safer Workplaces, Driving Innovation

**50%  
Reduction**

Injury and illness rates at VPP sites are 50% below industry averages



Improved employee morale, attendance, and productivity

**Taxpayer  
ROI**

Savings through reduced workers' comp and insurance costs



Industry-leading best practices and innovation

## Employees Protected by VPP

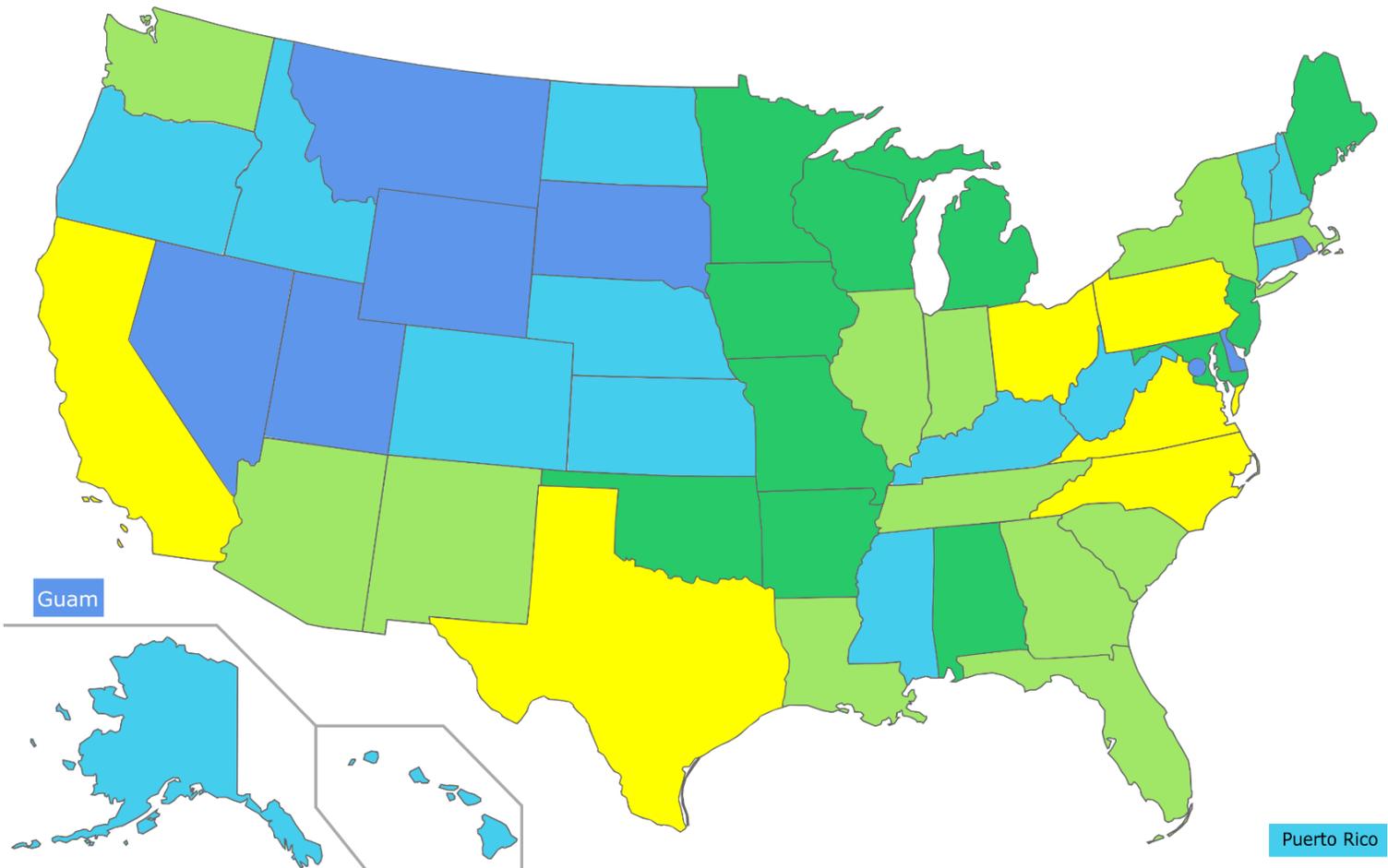
> 40,000

40,000 – 20,001

20,000 – 10,001

10,000 – 2,500

2,500 >



## The VPP Process

VPP applicants must have injury and illness rates below the average for their industry and undergo an exhaustive review of their safety and health management systems. After approval, a site submits annual reports to OSHA and hosts an onsite review to continue its participation in the program every three to five years.

Sites are required to thoroughly address all potential hazards facing employees. This involves creating new and innovative solutions for hazards unaddressed by existing standards. As VPP participants are required to conduct safety and health outreach, sites share these innovations, propagating a culture of safety and health excellence among their partners, suppliers, peers and competitors.

## Innovation through Cooperation

VPP is built on the principle of cooperation between labor, management and regulators. Safety and health programs at VPP sites must be employee-driven, requiring the support of every union at a worksite. This involvement explains why union employees represent 25% of employees at VPP sites, more than double the national rate.

OSHA refers to VPP sites as its "ambassadors," not only for the example they set, but also their enthusiastic outreach through mentoring and education. Employees at VPP sites augment OSHA's expertise and oversight by volunteering as Special Government Employees (SGE). SGE employers pay the full cost of employee participation on VPP audits, providing OSHA with nearly \$3.7 million in resources per year. Additionally, the Department of Defense (DoD) has recognized VPP's proven ability to reduce injury rates. It views workplace safety as a manpower readiness issue and boasts 55 worksites participating in the program through OSHA with an additional 30 attaining Army or Navy SOH Star status.

## The VPP Act (HR.2500)

The VPP Act grants VPP its own line item in OSHA's budget. Currently, the programs are funded through "Compliance Assistance – Federal," alongside other cooperative initiatives. This legislation maintains the existing VPP process and ensures its continued success by codifying it and letting Congress control its funding directly. Earlier this year, the Virginia General Assembly unanimously passed similar legislation for its state-plan VPP.

VPP  
**ROI**

**\$257  
Million**

Private Sector Savings  
in 2012

**\$32  
Million**

Taxpayer  
Savings in 2012

**\$30  
Million**

Dept. of Energy  
Savings in 2014

**55  
DoD Sites**  
Participating

**\$3.7  
Million**

Private Sector VPP  
SGE Spending  
per Year

**\$3.5  
Million**

OSHA VPP  
Spending per Year

For more information on VPP:



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**OSHA:** [www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/](http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/)  
**DOE:** [energy.gov/ehss/voluntary-protection-program](http://energy.gov/ehss/voluntary-protection-program)