

# ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

## On The Level - May 2015

### Upcoming Events & Deadlines:

#### [National Conference Registration](#)

*Regular Rate ends July 15*

#### [National VPPPA Congressional Outreach](#)

*Email by May 26*

#### [Board Nominations Open](#)

*Apply by June 15*

#### [VPPPA Awards & Scholarships](#)

*Apply by June 26*

#### [SGE Application Deadline](#)

*June 15*

### Safety & Health News Round-Up

#### [Final Confined Space Rule](#)

(OSHA)

#### [DOL Marks Workers' Memorial Day](#)

(DOL)

#### [Maine Public Sector State-Plan Proposal](#)

(OSHA)



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### VPP Act Introduced

The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) Act was **introduced** into the U.S. House of Representatives today. The legislation codifies the Department of Labor's premier cooperative program, granting it a dedicated source of funding.

Representatives Gene Green (D-TX), Martha Roby (R-AL) and Todd Rokita (R-IN) emphasized the partnership between regulators and businesses, VPP's emphasis on innovation and cost savings for companies and taxpayers, in addition to the programs' legacy of improving safety at workplaces across America.

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### Hazard Communication Standard Enforcement

If you had a year to create, implement and comply with new Safety Data Sheets (SDS), how would you go about it? In less than two weeks,

[Transmissible Disease Toolkit for Hospitals](#)  
(OSHA)

[FACOSH Appointees Announced](#)  
(OSHA)

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Connect with VPPPA



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Registration Contest Winner

We had over 500 people register at the early bird rate for the national conference. Only one of them was lucky enough to win a \$250 gift card!

Congratulations to our registration contest winner, Dennis Pivin from Insituform Technologies.

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on June 1, 2015, employers will be required to comply with OSHA's Hazard Communication Standard 2012 (HCS 2012) (29 CFR 1910.1200), mandating that they stop sending old material safety data sheets (MDS) and send new safety data sheets (SDS). The new SDS requires employers to update their training, hazard communication and safety procedures for chemicals.

A year later, on June 1, 2016, chemical manufacturers must have responded to, and be compliant with, the updated information on hundreds of SDSs. If the SDS information is not updated and followed, an OSHA inspection and penalties, including citations, can be enforced. In addition to developing new SDSs, OSHA will check to see if manufacturers identified new risks that may have been previously known.

The new SDS includes 16 sections and highlights significant changes. To help successfully comply with the new standard, Mark A. Lies and Patrick D. Joyce of Seyfarth Shaw LLP, provide recommendations for employers:



1. Employers should review the new SDSs in a timely fashion upon receipt.
2. If the employer does not receive the SDSs in a timely fashion, it should promptly communicate with the manufacturer to obtain the SDSs.
3. Employers should evaluate the workplace using the SDSs to identify hazardous chemicals and how their employees may be exposed.
4. Employers whose employees work with or around hazardous chemicals must ensure that they review the updated SDS and assess each of the employer's underlying compliance programs that may be impacted by the SDSs.
5. Employers should ensure that employees who work with or around hazardous chemicals are trained to recognize the pictograms and hazard warnings that will be required under the new Hazard Communication Standard.
6. Employers should document this training and develop mechanisms to ensure that employees understand the hazards of working with or around hazardous chemicals.

Visit [OSHA' website](#) for more information.

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Join our National Congressional Outreach Next Month!

On June 10-11, VPP participants from across the country will meet with congressional offices in

Washington, D.C., to speak up for VPP and show that safety does not have a political party.



Don't pass up this chance to make your voice heard! We'll provide training and materials for these visits - all you need is your passion for VPP. If you are interested in taking part, contact Charlie Doss at [cdoss@vpppa.org](mailto:cdoss@vpppa.org) by **Tuesday, May 26**. Please note that these visits follow the National VPPPA Board of Directors meeting on June 9.

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## Are You Ready to be a Leader?

It's not too late to nominate yourself or a colleague to the VPPPA Board of Directors. If you have strategic ideas to advance VPPPA's mission or have suggestions for what VPPPA should focus on next year, this opportunity is for you! Step up, be a leader and make a difference in VPPPA. Nominate yourself, or a fellow safety leader, to the VPPPA National Board of Directors by June 15.



There are [seven open positions](#). To be elected to the VPPPA National Board of Directors, nominees must be from a Full or Corporate member site in good standing with the association. [Click here for a full list of requirements and responsibilities](#). Please complete and submit the following materials by June 15:

- [Nominations form and management commitment letter](#)
- [Signed election protocols](#)
- A platform statement of no more than 300 words
- Your head shot (300 DPI or higher)

Send submissions to Sarah Neely, 2015 Nominating Committee Liaison, at [sneely@vpppa.org](mailto:sneely@vpppa.org).

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[ohsonline.com](http://ohsonline.com)

## Awards and Scholarships Deadline Approaching!

Have you made exceptional contributions to the mission of the VPPPA during the last year? Maybe you've taken the initiative to learn and apply safety and health best practices. Or perhaps you just want to further safety and health education for a family member or friend. We feel you deserve to be praised for your hard-work and

determination. [VPPPA offers programs](#), including awards, scholarships and an achievement program, to recognize the member sites and individuals who make a difference in the safety and health industry.

[Apply now](#); winners will be announced at the national conference during a special reception on **Sunday, Aug. 23**.



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## It's The Law

Every worker has a voice. That's what OSHA's new "It's the Law" posters emphasize. Featuring the new reporting obligations, the poster was unveiled by OSHA on Workers' Memorial Day. The poster is free and can be downloaded online in [English](#) and [Spanish](#), with print copies to follow. Employers should display the posters in a conspicuous place where workers can easily see it. Previous versions of the poster do not need to be replaced.



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