



Free assistance for small businesses

Workplace Safety Consultation (WSC) provides free voluntary and confidential workplace safety and health assistance to Minnesota businesses, with a priority for small businesses.

WSC provides a wide variety of free services, including on-site consultation, training, education and outreach in general industry and in construction settings. Services are provided by safety and health experts who are highly qualified occupational safety and health professionals.

WSC is the consultation arm of Minnesota OSHA, yet its services are completely separate from MNOSHA Compliance. No citations or fines are issued, provided the employer agrees to correct all serious hazards identified by Workplace Safety Consultation.

WSC presents training seminars throughout the state about workplace safety topics and hosts construction seminars that feature a presentation about a specific construction safety or health topic. Businesses can request training or construction seminars by contacting WSC at (651) 284-5060, 1-800-657-3776 or osha.consultation@state.mn.us.

Overview of the Workplace Safety Consultation process

Request for services

Employers may submit a consultation request online or complete a request form available at www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp. After WSC receives the request, a visit is scheduled for a mutually agreeable time. The scope of the project is determined by the employer and can encompass the entire site, a piece of machinery or a specific work operation.

Opening conference

When the WSC consultant arrives on site, he or she will meet with a company representative to discuss the consultation process and the employer's obligations. At that time, the consultant may also review the employer's written safety and health programs and OSHA injury and illness logs.

Facility walk-through inspection

Together, the employer representative and the WSC consultant will do a "walk-through" of the facility to examine the occupational safety and health conditions of the workplace and evaluate the current safety management system. WSC encourages employee participation in the walk-through and reserves the right to confer with employees.



Closing conference

Upon completion of the facility walk-through inspection, the consultant will review the findings with the employer representative in a closing conference. During this time, the consultant will notify the employer representative of any hazards identified and discuss possible solutions and a correction schedule.

Correction and follow up

WSC will provide the employer with a detailed written report of the consultation findings, including a list of the identified hazards, technical guidance for correction and corresponding correction schedules.

During the correction period, the consultant may follow up with the employer to check on the correction process. The employer may also contact the consultant at any time for technical assistance or guidance with hazard corrections.



Programs and services

Safety Grants Program – matching awards up to \$10,000 for employers seeking to reduce illnesses and injuries

Labor-Management Safety Committee Program – expert assistance with safety and health committees

Ergonomics assistance – on-site identification and resources to eliminate workplace risk factors that contribute to injuries and illnesses related to musculoskeletal disorders

Minnesota Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (MNSHARP) – incentive and support for smaller high-hazard Minnesota employers to develop programs and improve safety and health management effectiveness

Minnesota STAR (MNSTAR) Program – voluntary protection program that relies on employer self-assessment to demonstrate effective safety and health management

LogSafe Program – logging industry safety training seminars and on-site consultation assistance

Workplace violence prevention services – technical assistance and training about workplace violence prevention

This material can be provided in alternative formats (Braille, large print, audio) by calling (651) 284-5060, toll-free 1-800-342-5354 or TTY (651) 297-4198.

OSHA

WORKPLACE SAFETY CONSULTATION

Benefits of using WSC services

WSC exists to help employers:

- lower worker injury and illness rates;
- decrease workers' compensation costs;
- reduce lost workdays;
- improve employee morale;
- limit equipment damage and product loss; and
- comply with state and federal regulations.

Key services of WSC

- Helps recognize hazards in your workplace
- Suggests approaches or options for solving a safety or health problem
- Identifies sources of available help for any further assistance needed
- Provides a written report summarizing the consultant's findings
- Assists in developing or maintaining an effective safety and health program
- Offers training and education for you and your employees at or away from the worksite
- Recommends participation in MNOSHA's safety and health achievement programs

Contact information

MNOSHA Workplace Safety Consultation
443 Lafayette Road N.
St. Paul, MN 55155
Phone: (651) 284-5060 or 1-800-657-3776
Email: osha.consultation@state.mn.us
Website: www.dli.mn.gov/Wsc.asp



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PARTNERS IN SAFETY AND HEALTH

