

Worksite Analysis

Worksite analysis is one of the four elements of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP). This element is necessary to establish processes aimed at identifying safety and health hazards in the workplace and analyzing their risk.

An effective safety management system identifies safety and health hazards through proactive analysis of the workplace, using both lagging and leading data indicators, to identify and implement controls to reduce or eliminate hazards.

Traditionally, safety data analyses tended to focus on the site's mishap experience. In VPP, this focus expands to include identification and analysis of all hazards, so they can be eliminated or controlled before a mishap or injury occurs.

Worksite analysis ensures the identification of safety and health hazards through:

- Baseline safety and health hazard analyses of all work areas by safety and occupational health professionals
- Effective safety and industrial hygiene programs aimed at the prevention of hazards
- Frequent hazard analyses of routine and non-routine jobs, tasks, or processes
- Hazard analyses of significant changes, including reviews for purchases of new materials or equipment, introduction of new processes or modification of existing ones, and facility changes as the result of renovation or construction
- Routine self-inspections, ensuring every workspace is inspected at least quarterly by supervisors and employees
- A hazard reporting system, including an anonymous reporting component
- A hazard tracking system, to track identified hazards to abatement
- Investigation of all mishaps, including near-misses, to determine root causes and contributing factors
- Comprehensive trend analysis going beyond injuries and illnesses to establish a more proactive approach in identifying the causes of safety and health hazards (e.g., near-misses, inspections, accident investigations, employee hazard reports)

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