

## **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

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### **FRITO-LAY, INC. - MANUFACTURING FACILITY IN LYNCHBURG, VA, RECEIVES ITS THIRD "STAR" DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY'S VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**RICHMOND, VA** – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that the Frito-Lay, Inc. - Manufacturing Facility in Lynchburg has been reapproved as a STAR Worksite under Virginia's Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP), the program's highest level of recognition. The facility was honored with their third Certificate of Recognition issued on September 17, 2014.

"I am very proud of Frito-Lay Manufacturing for embodying the VPP commitment to safety and health, day in and day out," said Commissioner Davenport. "I commend Frito-Lay Manufacturing on the occasion of their recertification as a STAR Worksite."

As part of the recognition for achieving STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the VPP "STAR Worksite" flag. The Frito-Lay, Inc. - Manufacturing Facility in Lynchburg is one of two Frito-Lay VPP STAR sites in Virginia and one of thirty-one Frito-Lay VPP sites in the United States. VPP includes two levels of participation – Merit and STAR - with STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the best programs qualify. Since the inception of Virginia's VPP in 1996, only 60 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 42 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR designation. Frito-Lay, Inc. - Manufacturing has set a standard of excellence that is second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer and employees, which include the agreement of company leaders to operate an exemplary program that meets a rigorous set of occupational safety and health criteria. Employers agree to voluntarily participate in the program and to directly involve employees in all aspects of the company's safety and health management systems. Requirements include an extensive application process, submission of written safety and health policies and procedures, demonstration of successful implementation of those programs through injury and illness rates that are below the national average for the employer's industry, and an intensive weeklong inspection by a team of VPP experts.

Businesses that participate in VPP substantially improve the safety and health protections for thousands of Virginia employees through cooperative efforts to reduce injuries, illnesses and fatal accidents. VPP STAR sites regularly report decreased bottom line costs associated with dramatically reduced injury and illness rates, and improved productivity and employee morale. Reducing private sector employer costs associated with injuries, illnesses and fatal accidents enhances a company's economic viability and competitiveness, and increases available capital for reinvestment, expansion and new hiring.

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry offers two voluntary protection recognition programs – VPP, generally for larger employers, and the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer. Virginia VPP is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor – OSHA, under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Department of Labor and Industry ([doli.virginia.gov](http://doli.virginia.gov)) office closest to you or by calling Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager at (540) 562-3580, ext. 123 or [stern.milford@dol.gov](mailto:stern.milford@dol.gov); or Jennifer L. Rose, CSP, Consultation Program Manager (for SHARP) at 804-786-8707 or [Rose.Jennifer@dol.gov](mailto:Rose.Jennifer@dol.gov).

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