

## **N E W S   R E L E A S E**

For Release: March 2, 2015

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### **CINTAS CORPORATION'S LOCATION #385 IN CULPEPER, VA, RECEIVES ITS FIRST "STAR" DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY'S VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAM**

**RICHMOND, VA** – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that Cintas Corporation's Location #385 in Culpeper has been approved 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 first Certificate of Recognition issued on February 25, 2015.

"The Cintas Culpeper location is an exceptional organization as evidenced by outstanding occupational safety and health programs which include extensive management and employee involvement," said Commissioner Davenport. "The management and leadership at the Cintas Culpeper location have demonstrated a tremendous passion for the safety and health of its employee/partners."

Cintas Corporation's Location #385's commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its very low injury and illness rates. Cintas Corporation's Location #385 has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 2.83 compared with a 2012 Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 6.0 for this industry, representing a TCIR rate 53% lower than the national average for the industry. The site's three-year average DART rate (Days Away, Restricted, or Transferred injury and illness cases) is 2.50, compared with the 4.3 national rate, which is 42% below the national average for the industry.

As part of the recognition for achieving STAR status under VPP, the worksite is entitled to fly the VPP "STAR Worksite" flag. The Cintas Corporation's Location #385 is the third Cintas VPP STAR site in Virginia and currently one of thirty-two for Cintas 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 64 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 44 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR designation. Cintas Corporation's Location #385 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 exceptional safety and health management systems that meet 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 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 (an average of over 60% below the respective industry average), 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) and Jennifer 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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