



## NEWS RELEASE

---

**FOR RELEASE:**       **October 1, 2019**  
**CONTACT:**           Jay Withrow  
                              Director of Legal Support, VPP, ORA, OPPI, and OWP  
                              804-786-9873  
                              [jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:jay.withrow@doli.virginia.gov)

### **SYSCO NORTHEAST REDISTRIBUTION CENTER IN FRONT ROYAL, VIRGINIA, RECEIVES ITS SECOND “VIRGINIA STAR” DESIGNATION UNDER THE VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRY’S VOLUNTARY PROTECTION PROGRAMS**

**RICHMOND, VA** – Commissioner C. Ray Davenport announced today that the Sysco Northeast Redistribution Center (NE-RDC) in Front Royal, Virginia, has been reapproved as a Virginia STAR Worksite under Virginia’s Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), the program’s highest level of recognition. The facility was honored with its first recertification since being originally certified on January 4, 2016.

“This outstanding achievement in occupational safety and health has come through the dedication and hard work of Sysco Northeast Redistribution Center management and employees. I commend Sysco NE-RDC for embracing the cooperative spirit of VPP, and congratulate them on their hard earned recertification as a Virginia STAR Worksite”, said Commissioner Davenport.

Sysco Northeast Redistribution Center’s commitment to providing a safe and healthy workplace for its employees is demonstrated by its low injury and illness rates. The Sysco Northeast Redistribution Center facility has a total three-year average for the TCIR (Total Case Incident Rate for injuries and illnesses) of 2.7 compared with a Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) national rate of 4.6 for this industry, representing a TCIR rate 41% 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 2.0, compared with the 3.5 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 Virginia VPP “STAR Worksite” flag. The Sysco NE-RDC facility is the first of two Sysco VPP STAR sites in Virginia and is one of four Sysco VPP STAR sites currently in the United States. VPP includes two levels of participation, Merit and STAR, with Virginia STAR being the highest. Similar voluntary protection programs are conducted in other states across the country.

The process for reaching Virginia STAR status is extensive to ensure that only the very best programs qualify. Since the inception of Virginia’s VPP in 1996, only 68 STAR worksites have been recognized, and only 37 Virginia companies currently retain the STAR/Merit designation. Sysco NE-RDC has set a standard of excellence second to none.

In Virginia VPP, a cooperative relationship is formed between the VOSH program, the employer, and the 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.

Virginia 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. Virginia 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), 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, the [Virginia Voluntary Protection Program](#) (VVPP) generally for larger

employers and the [Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#) (SHARP) for businesses of 250 employees or fewer. Additional information can be obtained by contacting the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's office closest to you at [www.doli.virginia.gov](http://www.doli.virginia.gov) or for VPP - contact Milford Stern, VPP Program Manager, at (540) 562-3580, Ext. 123, or [Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Milford.Stern@doli.virginia.gov) , and for SHARP – contact Jennifer Rose, CSP, Director of Cooperative Programs, at (804) 786-7776, or [Jennifer.Rose@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Rose@doli.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Department of Labor and Industry also offers free [On-Site Consultation Services](#) to help employers better understand and voluntarily comply with VOSH standards. Priority is given to high hazard workplaces with 250 or fewer employees and all services are offered to employers at no cost. On-Site Consultation Services helps employers identify and correct potential safety and health hazards by conducting walk-through surveys (without citations or penalties), abatement advice, on-site training, and program assistance to develop safety and health programs. Additional information about On-Site Consultation Services can be obtained by contacting the Virginia Department of Labor and Industry's office closest to you at [www.doli.virginia.gov](http://www.doli.virginia.gov) or by contacting contact Jennifer Rose, CSP, Director of Cooperative Programs, at (804) 786-7776, or [Jennifer.Rose@doli.virginia.gov](mailto:Jennifer.Rose@doli.virginia.gov).

The Virginia Occupational Safety and Health (VOSH) program is financed with 50% state funds and 50% federal funds in the form of a grant from the U. S. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA), under §23(g) of the Occupational Safety and Health Act of 1970. The Virginia State Plan, at the time of initial publication of this document on **October 1, 2019**, is funded by a grant of \$3,921,300 federal funds, which constitutes 48% of the State Plan budget. Zero percent, or \$0.00 of the State Plan budget, is financed through non-governmental sources.

###