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Stanley Tools joins VPP safety recognition program

(Milwaukie) - The Department of Consumer and Business Services, Occupational Safety and Health Division (Oregon OSHA) today presented "VPP Merit Award" status to The Stanley Works in Milwaukie. The Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) is a workplace safety and health management program that encourages employers to voluntarily meet rigorous workplace safety standards to protect workers and reduce injuries. Currently, 13 Oregon worksites participate in VPP.

The Stanley Works employs 160 people at its Milwaukie plant, which manufactures hydraulic tools under the Stanley brand for nationwide distribution. During the past three years, the facility has maintained a workplace injuries and illness average that is 73 percent below the statewide industry average for tool manufacturers. In 2005, one injury case with time lost from work was reported during more than 300,000 hours of production at Stanley Works.

"Stanley Works has reached a level of safety and health management excellence," said Michael Wood, administrator of Oregon OSHA. "VPP demonstrates that the employer has made a commitment to becoming self-sufficient for its safety and health needs. The program provides employers with a blueprint for success by working with Oregon OSHA, and when we work together we can accomplish incredible things to make workplaces safer."

To achieve VPP status, a worksite must have a three-year average injury and illness rate at or below the rates of other employers in the same industry. The worksite undergoes an extensive Oregon OSHA review of workplace conditions, safety records, employee safety and health programs, and regulatory compliance. The review includes Oregon OSHA interviews with employees.

Evaluators review 19 program elements during the approval process, including management commitment to safety and health, employee participation in safety, workplace self-inspection, providing safety and health training, emergency programs and drills, and preventive maintenance. VPP participants are removed from Oregon OSHA's routine scheduled inspection list for the

duration of their participation. Employees do not lose any rights under the program. Oregon OSHA still investigates accidents, formal complaints, and chemical spills.

Twelve worksites are members of Oregon OSHA's Voluntary Protection Program. Additional Oregon OSHA VPP sites are AmeriTies West LLC in The Dalles, BOC Edwards Medford Electronic Materials in White City, GE Security in Tualatin, Georgia-Pacific Toledo pulp and paper mill, Georgia-Pacific Philomath mill, Georgia-Pacific Coos Bay mill, Impregilo-Healy Joint Venture in Portland, Marvin Wood Products in Baker City, Masterbrand Cabinets in Hillsboro, PW Eagle in Eugene, and Timber Products Spectrum Division in White City.

A federal facility, the United States Postal Service Evergreen DCU in Hillsboro, participates in the national Voluntary Protection Program coordinated by the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Oregon OSHA enforces the state's workplace safety and health rules and works to improve workplace safety and health for all Oregon workers by inspecting worksites for safety and health violations, investigating workplace accidents, responding to complaints, and providing consultation, training and technical services, and safety and health recognition programs.

Oregon OSHA is a division of the Department of Consumer and Business Services, Oregon's largest regulatory agency. The department administers state laws and rules, and protects consumers and workers in the areas of workers' compensation, occupational safety and health, financial services, insurance, building codes, and targeted contracting opportunities for small business. For more information, visit www.dcbs.oregon.gov.

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