

## Safety Corner

### **PPE Hazard Assessments**

OSHA requires that each workplace conduct and certify a PPE Hazard Assessment that identifies sources of hazards and means of reducing their exposure. The following is a simple and effective method for meeting this requirement.

A form for documenting this assessment is available on our website (<http://www.aquionix.com>) by clicking on the tools button in the lower left-hand corner.

#### **- Survey the Workplace -**

Walk through your entire facility, observing equipment and tasks being performed looking for hazards, such as:

- Equipment motion;
- Temperature extremes;
- Chemical exposures and harmful dust;
- Light radiation;
- Electrical hazards;
- Falling objects;
- Sharp objects; and
- Rolling or pinching objects;

Be sure to think about secondary tasks and those tasks which were not being performed during your walk-through. Also, talk with employees and review injury and near miss records looking for hazards that may have already resulted in an injury.

#### **- Analyze Data -**

Organize hazard information gathered during the walk-through and determine the likelihood of occurrence and potential consequence of injuries that may result from each hazard.

#### **- Take Action -**

Hazards that may result in significant injuries must be controlled. Remember that controls should be implemented in the following order:

- Engineering Controls (*guarding, ventilation, etc.*);
- Administrative Controls (*policies, rules, training, etc.*);
- Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) Controls.

See next month's newsletter for guidance on selecting PPE.

### **EPA Performance Track**

EPA's Performance Track Program was developed to reward public and private facilities that have a history of regulatory compliance and community outreach, and consistently seek to improve their environmental performance.

#### ***Benefits***

The benefits of membership in the Performance Track Program are growing and currently include:

- Local and National Public Recognition including listing on EPA's website and inclusion in trade journal articles;
- Low priority for routine EPA inspections;
- Regulatory incentives such as:
  - Longer hazardous waste accumulation period;
  - Less frequent air monitoring requirements;
  - More flexible permitting particularly in the air and hazardous waste arenas; and
  - Faster agency turnaround and a designated agency contact;
- Networking opportunities for exchange of best practices; and
- Improved relationship with EPA and better access to senior EPA officials.

#### ***Requirements***

The primary requirement of EPA's Performance Track Program is maintenance of an independently assessed Environmental Management System that has been in place for at least one-year. Additionally, facilities must be able demonstrate a history of:

- Sustained compliance;
- Past environmental achievement;
- Commitment to continuous environmental improvement; and
- Community outreach.

### **How Do You Compare...**

**National Injury and Illness Rate for Private Industry in 2003 = 5.0 recordable injuries & illnesses per 100 full time employees.**