

**OREGON OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH DIVISION
DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AND BUSINESS SERVICES**

PROGRAM DIRECTIVE

Program Directive: A-259
Issued: October 2006

SUBJECT: Alliance Policy

**REFERENCED STANDARDS/
DIRECTIVES:**

OSHA Instruction CSP-04-01-001, OSHA Alliance Program, 6/10/2004

PURPOSE:

This directive establishes OR-OSHA's policy for the development and approval process of individual alliances. OR-OSHA fosters alliances with employers and businesses, employees, associations, educational institutions, governmental agencies, and others. These alliances provide a mechanism to leverage resources for the promotion of workplace safety and health through training, education, outreach, and standards activities with alliance partners.

Oregon OSHA seeks alternative and innovative approaches in its efforts to engage private and public sector employers as participants in improving workplace safety and health conditions for Oregon's workforce. These approaches include rulemaking and publication advisory committees, stakeholder groups, partnership activities, Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) and Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) activities, and others.

In addition, the results of our activities with formal alliance partners can be an effective means of contributing to the achievement of OR-OSHA's annual and 5-year strategic plan goals.

BACKGROUND:

Formal alliances are a means for promoting effective partnership activity. These alliance agreements are visible to the regulated community and to other State Plan states, and available publicly on the federal OSHA Alliance website. Federal OSHA provides an Instruction (CSP-04-01-001, OSHA Alliance Program, dated 6/10/2004), which is the foundation for OR-OSHA's alliance policy.

Potential alliance partners are varied, and come from industry trade associations, private or public sector employee unions, multi-site SHARP

employers, or local academic institutions (this list is not exhaustive).

OR-OSHA requires a commitment to achieving specific and measurable goals which further the goals described in Oregon OSHA's 2006-10

Strategic Plan:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/stratplan.pdf>,

and Annual Performance Plan:

<http://www.cbs.state.or.us/external/osha/pdf/notices/2006performance.pdf>.

It can be particularly effective to dovetail alliance partner selection with industry groups targeted for inspection activities (these industry sectors are called out in the Strategic Plan or Annual Performance Plan, and selected based on a high injury and/or illness rate). In addition to providing visibility and helping promote employer self-sufficiency, successful alliances can demonstrate a model of collaborative behavior.

ACTION:

Once an alliance partner is identified and objectives established, a formal agreement is signed. Typically the agreement is of limited duration, usually 2 or 3 years. The agreement includes a termination provision allowing the agreement to be terminated by either party on 30 days' notice.

Signature authority rests with the highest-level official responsible for Oregon operations (for Oregon OSHA, the Administrator or their Designee). OR-OSHA will identify an Alliance Coordinator whose role is to convene the implementation team, track activities, measure progress toward objectives, and provide quarterly progress reports to the Policy Manager.

In keeping with the federal definition of a formal alliance, alliance objectives include two or more of the following focus areas:

- (1) Training and education on topical subjects (jointly developed with alliance partner)
- (2) Outreach and communication
- (3) Promoting the state dialogue on workplace safety and health
- (4) Standards improvement or regulatory streamlining

Yearly evaluation reports prepared by OR-OSHA will be part of the annual strategic plan report. Reporting will include a discussion of progress toward meeting objectives, and more broadly discuss contributions to OR-OSHA's 5-year and annual performance goals.

At the close of the alliance period (2 or 3 years, depending on the agreement), the OR-OSHA Alliance Coordinator will prepare a summary report in collaboration with the alliance partner, detailing the accomplishments and/or lessons learned. The agreement can be renewed for a successive 2-3 year period.

This directive does not affect enforcement or inspection activities. It defines a cooperative program meant to complement existing consultation and compliance assistance activities.

EFFECTIVE DATE:

This directive is effective upon release and will remain in effect until canceled or superseded.