

New Drug Free Safety Program Begins July 1, 2010

Beginning July 1, 2010, the Ohio Bureau of Workers Compensation will phase out the current Drug Free Workplace Program and replace it with a new discount program, the Drug Free Safety Program (DFSP). The new DFSP will have many of the same requirements as the current Drug Free program and add some safety components to help employers better prevent injuries in the workplace.

The new program features two levels, Basic and Advanced, both of which offer a participating employer discounts of between 3%-7%. Group Rated Employers may participate in the Advanced Level of the program and employers which have exhausted their five years of participation in the current DFWP may also apply. Employers can participate in the DFSP for an unlimited number of years and opt in and out of the program to accommodate their own company needs.

Entry into the program will not be automatic for current participants. Employers with a July 1 start date must apply to the new program by June 30, 2010 and have all components in place by October 30, 2010. Employers with a January 1 start date will remain in the current program until January 1, 2011. January 1 employers must continue to comply with the current DFWP requirements until that time and will continue to receive discounts associated with their current level. Applications for a January 1 start date are due before October 30th.

Employers will notice that the required training time is only one hour for employees and two hours for supervisors in the first year, with one hour annually thereafter. An Accident Analysis training is required for first year supervisors and an easy online safety review must also be completed. Advanced level employers will continue to complete an action plan as has been required in Level 2 and 3 of the old program.

To be eligible for the Drug Free Safety Program, employers must be current on their workers compensation premium and be participating in the Group Rating or Small Deductible program. Employers participating in the Experience Modifier Cap, \$15,000 medical only, Large Deductible, One Claim or Retrospective rating are not eligible.

As with any program, it's important to investigate the costs versus savings before applying. To get the process started, please call our offices.

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