



NEWS

Greif Macon, Ga., Specialty Plant Awarded VPP Star Status by OSHA

DELAWARE, Ohio (April 12, 2007) – Culminating a quest that took more than a year, Greif's Macon, Ga., specialty operations plant was awarded the Voluntary Protection Program's (VPP) STAR status by the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) at a ceremony April 11 in Macon.

The plant, with 22 employees, manufactures and sells component parts for the door industry and corrugated transit protection products.

During the ceremony, Greif Chairman, CEO and President Mike Gasser said, "Of 7 million businesses in the USA, less than 1,700 are OSHA VPP sites. Macon truly represents the best of the best, and is a shining example of what all our plants in the US should be aspiring to. This accomplishment took a huge amount of work by all the employees at Macon...and today their achievement demonstrates what Greif is about. There is nothing more important than the safety of all our Greif team members."

During the week of Aug. 14, 2006, the Macon plant underwent a grueling wall-to-wall OSHA inspection of the VPP elements. The process included verification of information submitted within the plant's application, assessment of management commitment, and, most importantly, a thorough evaluation of employee involvement in the health and safety program.

The OSHA VPP audit and inspections concluded with an employee meeting when the findings were announced that Macon was recommended for VPP STAR status.

"In late 2005, we decided to dramatically change our approach to Safety," said Michael Mapes, Vice President and General Manager of Specialty Operations for Greif's Paper, Packaging & Services business. "We developed a Positive Reinforcement Model and embarked on our VPP STAR journey. By proactively and positively engaging our co-workers and OSHA, we have seen a tremendous improvement in our safety performance. In addition, we have created a great deal of awareness and excitement around safety throughout PP&S. The recognition of Macon as a VPP STAR facility is without question the highlight of the year, and I am very proud of their efforts."

About the OSHA Voluntary Protection Program

The OSHA Voluntary Protection Program, better known as VPP, is a partnership in Health and Safety between businesses and the government. The OSHA VPP program began in California in 1982 and is designed to recognize and partner with worksites that implement exemplary systems to manage worker safety and health. The VPP process emphasizes holding managers accountable for worker safety and health, the continual identification and elimination of hazards, and the active involvement of employees in their own protection.

Sites qualifying for VPP status attain STAR, Merit, or Demonstration status. STAR participants meet all VPP requirements. Merit participants have demonstrated the potential and willingness to achieve STAR status, but some aspects of their program need improvement. Demonstration participants test alternative ways to achieve safety and health excellence

About Greif

Greif, Inc. is the world leader in industrial packaging products and services. The company produces steel, plastic, fibre, corrugated and multiwall containers, protective packaging and containerboard, and provides blending, packaging, warehousing and logistics services for a wide range of industries. Greif also manages timber properties in North America. The company is strategically positioned in more than 40 countries to serve global as well as regional customers. Additional information is on the company's Web site at www.greif.com.

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