

Save 5% on Your Workers Compensation Premium; Increase Workplace Safety and Reduce Accidents - by Arnelia Hollinger

Did you know that your organization can receive a discount for being granted workplace safety committee certification? After initial committee certification, an employer may be entitled to additional annual premium discounts by providing annual verification by affidavit that the committee continues to be operative and continues to meet certification requirements (Pa Act 44, Pa Act 57 of 1996).

Recent articles proclaim: "Workers' compensation continues to stand out as a line in need of attention," (Mealey).



In "Delivering a 'One-Two' combination to Flatten the Cost of L.O.S.S.", Hansen premised that accidents (alone) do not drive workers compensation costs-claims do. If one does not effectively manage both the causes of accidents (things) via an effective safety program and the causes of claims (people) via

effective pre- and post-injury management practices, all one continues to achieve are lower rates and skyrocketing loss costs.

What are the minimum requirements for certification?

- Committee must be located in PA
- Committee must be operating for 6 months prior to submitting application
- Committee shall represent 51% of workforce.
- Committee membership shall represent job activities of workforce it represents
- Committee shall be composed of a minimum of 2 employer and employer representatives.
- A person may not function as both an applicant employer and an employee-representative.



References:

Hansen, L.L. "Delivering a 'One-Two' Combination to Flatten the Cost of L.O.S.S." *Occupational Hazards*, Oct. 2003:46

Mealey, D. "2004 State of the Line" Boca Raton, FL: National Council of Compensation Insurers, March, 2004

After founding and building a viable health and safety programs department at Drexel University, Arnelia Hollinger moved on to greatly enhance the environmental health and safety department at Villanova University. She then decided to fulfill a lifelong dream of establishing her own consulting business that assists small companies to meet their occupational health and safety compliance needs. Her business, Hedges Occupational Health Advisors, Inc., 609 South Devon Avenue, Wayne, Pa was formed in 1999. You can contact her at 610-687-3969, or visit her website at www.hedgeshealthandsafety.com