NEWS

Monsanto

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MONSANTO ANNOUNCES 100 PERCENT PARTICIPATION IN OSHA VPP PROGRAM AS PART OF "MONSANTO PLEDGE"

ST. LOUIS, February 4 -- Monsanto Company announced today that all of its facilities would participate in the federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration's (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The program, which goes beyond compliance with the law, sets criteria for operating facilities to become and to be recognized as among the safest in the nation.

Further, to fulfill an element of the Monsanto Pledge, Richard J. Mahoney, Monsanto's chairman and chief executive officer, announced that all of Monsanto's facilities will seek "Star" status, the highest level of recognition awarded by OSHA for outstanding safety performance, within five years. Monsanto is one of the first companies in the nation to publicly commit all of its operating facilities to this initiative.

"Safety has always been our top priority in everything we do. While we routinely seek and implement improvements in our safety programs, participation in the VPP will raise our standards and increase our vigilance that much more," Mahoney said.

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Forty-six Monsanto operating facilities in the U.S. will seek VPP certification. Although facilities in other world areas are not subject to OSHA review, they are included in the worldwide commitment and will abide by similar standards. The company's Pensacola, Fla. plant, which received its Star last year, was the first Monsanto location and first plant in the state of Florida to receive the designation.

Monsanto has also committed to meet or exceed any appropriate guidelines added to the program by OSHA concerning the safety of contract employees. "Monsanto's safety policies and practices apply not only to its employees, but also to contractors and visitors on the plant property," Mahoney said.

According to OSHA, VPP participants in general, experience improved employee motivation to work safely, improvement of already good existing programs, and 60 to 80 percent fewer lost workday injuries than would be expected of sites of the same size in the same industry.

"Monsanto employees have proven time and again that any worthwhile goal is attainable," said Mahoney. "The payoff in safety protection is great. Our goal is to create an injury-free, incident-free environment. The VPP will help that goal become reality."

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Monsanto is an international company that researches, manufactures and markets pharmaceuticals, food and food ingredients, agricultural and process control products and performance materials including man-made fibers, plastics and specialty chemicals.

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