



Indiana

Department of Labor

Advancing the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace

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NEWS RELEASE

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

South Bend Forging Facility Recertified As VPP ‘STAR’

INDIANAPOLIS (August 9, 2016) – Eaton’s Vehicle Group North America, South Bend facility of South Bend, Indiana, achieved recertification in the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as a ‘STAR’ worksite for excellence in workplace safety and health.

Eaton’s South Bend facility employs approximately 100 workers who manufacture about several million forgings annually covering several hundred part numbers. The site designs the forging and related tooling, manufactures the tooling, forges, cleans, packages, and ships parts. The South Bend worksite is one of two iron and steel forging operations certified in the VPP in the United States.

“There’s a reason this facility continues to be recognized as one of the safest employers in the state of Indiana,” said Indiana Department of Labor Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “Everyone at this facility treats workplace safety and health as a priority, and the benefits really shine through. The Indiana Department of Labor congratulates the management, employees, and staff of Eaton’s Vehicle Group South Bend facility on this significant accomplishment,” Ruble added.

Management and staff at the facility demonstrate a commitment to the VPP by maintaining several preventative and education programs at the worksite, including monthly inspections; participating in regular safety committee meetings; developing a culture of safety reports among staff; promoting easy access to safety and health expert staff; and investing in an onsite ergonomic team to investigate any concerns at the facility. The facility’s average occupational injury and illness rate for the past three years is 2.7 per 100 workers, considerably below the industry average of 7.3.

About the Indiana Department of Labor:

The mission of the Indiana Department of Labor is to advance the safety, health and prosperity of Hoosiers in the workplace. In order to make significant strides, we emphasize both enforcement and voluntary compliance by employers. Follow the Indiana Department of Labor on Twitter: [@INDeptofLabor](https://twitter.com/INDeptofLabor) and Like on Facebook: facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor.

About VPP:

The Voluntary Protection Program provides recognition to Hoosier employers that operate exemplary safety and health management systems. Certification in VPP is an achievement of status that will single employers out among their business peers as a model worksite for Hoosier workplace safety and health.

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