



# Indiana

## Department of Labor

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

**MICHAEL R. PENCE, GOVERNOR**  
**Rick J. Ruble, Commissioner**

402 West Washington Street, Room W195  
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-2751

Phone: (317) 232-2655  
Fax: (317) 233-3790

## NEWS RELEASE

**Media Contact:** Amanda Stanley  
**Phone:** (317) 232-2379  
**Email:** [media@dol.in.gov](mailto:media@dol.in.gov)

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

### **AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., Achieves VPP “STAR” Recertification**

INDIANAPOLIS (September 18, 2015) – AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., located in Warsaw, Indiana, has achieved recertification in the Indiana Voluntary Protection Program (VPP) as a “STAR” site. Indiana VPP sites are recognized as leaders in workplace safety and health and commended for their success in proactively protecting Hoosier workers. AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., received VPP certification initially in 1999. VPP “STAR” sites are re-evaluated every three to five years.

“VPP certification is an achievement an organization and its employees work very hard to obtain,” said Indiana Department of Labor (IDOL) Commissioner Rick J. Ruble. “The fact that AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., has maintained VPP certification for 16 years underscores the organization’s commitment to worker safety and health excellence,” Ruble added.

To participate in VPP, a company must develop, implement and maintain an exemplary worker safety and health management system and complete a comprehensive workplace safety and health audit conducted by IDOL staff and safety professionals from a pool of Special Government Employees (SGEs). Additionally, the site’s workplace injury and illness rates must be below the national industry average for its respective industry. Worker injury and illness rates at AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., are more than 30 percent below the national industry average. To date, 75 Indiana workplaces have achieved VPP certification—with 73 of these sites achieving “STAR” certification.

AkzoNobel Coatings, Inc., employs 87 employees who manufacture powder coatings for the painting and coating industries. Worker involvement is critical to the success of an organization’s safety and health culture. The company implemented a safety incentive program to engage workers in safety observations. The “Safety-Gram” program provides positive reinforcement and promotes the effectiveness of the safety observation program. Outstanding observations are cited for recognition and reward each quarter.

#### **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 and find us on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor](http://www.facebook.com/IndianaDepartmentofLabor). [www.in.gov/dol](http://www.in.gov/dol)

#### **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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