



1455 F Street, NW  
Suite 225  
Washington, DC 20005  
Tel: 202-347-5462 • Fax: 202-347-5464

## **SCA Shipbuilders Council of America**

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July 6, 2004

OSHA Docket Office  
Docket No. C-08  
Room N2625  
US Department of Labor  
200 Constitution Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20210  
Docket No. C-8

RE: SITE-SPECIFIC TARGETING PROGRAM

To Whom It May Concern:

The Shipbuilders Council of America (SCA) submits these comments in response to the May 6, Request for Public Comment on OSHA's nationwide Site-Specific Targeting (SST) inspection program.

SCA was established in 1920 as the national non-profit trade association dedicated to representing the interests of the competitive shipbuilding and ship repair industry. SCA members build, repair and service America's fleet of commercial and small/mid-sized government vessels. The Council represents 52 companies that own and operate over 120 shipyards in 23 states, with facilities on all three U.S. coasts, the Great Lakes and the inland waterways system. SCA also represents 28 affiliate members that provide goods and services to the shipyard industry.

SCA has developed an extensive history with OSHA in order to promote a safer work environment in the shipbuilding and ship repair industry. On January 31, 2003, SCA and OSHA signed a National Alliance to promote safe and healthful working conditions for shipyard employees. SCA and OSHA have entered into Strategic Partnership and Regional Alliances designed to reach specific safety and health goals. The Council has also received three Susan B. Harwood Training Grants, through which Shipyard General Safety, Crane Safety and Shipyard Ergonomics Training videos were developed.

SCA shares OSHA's goal of promoting safety and health excellence in the workplace and commends the Agency for its continued effort to work with industry groups to ensure balance and stewardship in the rulemaking process. As an association whose membership has been inspected under the SST program, the Council offers these comments on OSHA's published questions.

**Are the LWDII/DART rate and the DAFWII case rate appropriate measurement tools for the SST?**

No. The LWDII/DART rate and the DAFWII case rate are not appropriate measurement tools for the SST program. The Council believes that those rates do not accurately reflect an establishment's injury and illness level and other indicators should be measured to determine SST inclusion. The Council is willing to work with OSHA in determining a more suitable method for SST program measurement.

**Should OSHA consider other measures for injuries and illnesses at individual establishments? If yes, what measures should be considered?**

Yes. SCA believes the LWDII/DART rate and the DAFWII case rate are not appropriate measurement tools for the SST program and the Council would be willing to work with OSHA in order to develop a more accurate measuring system.

**Should OSHA be looking at injury and illness data over multiple years rather than a single year?**

Yes. Just as the Department of Labor uses a 4-week moving average to iron out fluctuations in the country's unemployment rate, OSHA should consider injury and illness data over multiple years rather than a single year. This move would more accurately reflect a site's injury and illness level.

**Should an establishment's priority for inspection take into account whether the establishment is in an industry with a high rate or low rate of citations?**

No. The most frequently cited OSHA standards have little correlation with actual injuries and illnesses occurring in the maritime workplace. Ways to mitigate the lack of correlation between cited standards and workplace injuries and illnesses have been discussed at numerous Maritime Advisory Committee on Occupational Safety and Health (MACOSH) meetings. However, a plan addressing this dilemma has not been implemented.

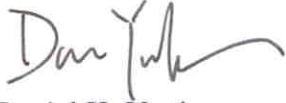
**Should the SST include additional focuses such as specific industries, or past citation history?**

No. The Council believes that OSHA should consider multi-year injury and illness rates in order to accurately determine establishment priority for inspection. Additional consideration should be given to establishments participating in OSHA's voluntary safety and health excellence program (i.e. VPP, SHARP). Through these voluntary programs, participating establishments prove their commitment to excel in workplace safety and health and epitomize OSHA's mission to assure the safety and health of America's workers.

**Are there particular areas/hazards OSHA should be focusing its enforcement efforts on?**

Yes. Now that causal information is available through the 300 logs and 301 forms, OSHA should analyze this data in order to determine the best allocation of resources to ensure workplace injury and illness reduction.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Youhas". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Daniel K. Youhas  
Manager, Government Affairs  
Shipbuilders Council of America