

IRELAND AND NORTHERN IRELAND TO PILOT OSHA'S VPP Results could be Test Bed for Adoption by Rest of EU

Washington, DC -- A Delegation from Ireland and Northern Ireland participated in a study tour March 22-30, 2004 in Washington, D.C. to learn about the Voluntary Protection Programs (VPP), OSHA's premier recognition program. Both Ireland and Northern Ireland have agreed to work with their government, business and labor partners to pilot the VPP for the purpose of recognizing employers and workers in their respective countries for excellence in worker safety and health.

As part of the study tour, the Delegation was provided with an introduction and overview of VPP policies and guidelines, they participated as observers on an OSHA VPP onsite review; visited a VPP site; met with the VPP Participants' Association (VPPPA), and also met with Assistant Secretary John Henshaw.

Members of the Northern Ireland Delegation included Dermot Breen, Deputy Chief Executive, and Cyril Anderson, Head, Business Advisory Service, in the Health and Safety Executive. Mary Dorgan, Assistant Chief Executive, Health and Safety Authority, was the delegate from Ireland.

Successful implementation of VPP in Ireland and Northern Ireland could act as a pilot program and test bed for the other 24 member countries of the European Union (EU) <http://europa.eu.int/> It is believed that this successful study tour provided a good foundation for future U.S.-EU cooperation. See OSHA article at: http://www.osha.gov/dcsp/vpp/newsrelease/vpp_04-01.html