



UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS  ARLINGTON

OSHCN Overview:

Where to Go for Free Help with OSHA Compliance

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Helping You Create Safe Workplaces



SEPTEMBER 13 - 14, 2018

Texas OSHCON: Occupational Safety and Health Consultation Program

The program is:

- a free and confidential Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) compliance assistance program available for small and medium-sized* private-sector Texas employers;
- designed to help employers understand their roles and responsibilities and become more compliant with OSHA standards; and
- funded primarily by federal OSHA.

*Typically no more than 500 employees in total and 250 or fewer per site



OSHCON Consultants

OSHCON consultants:

- are employees of the Texas Division of Workers' Compensation (DWC), not Federal OSHA;
- carry out OSHCON consultation activities confidentially;
- do not issue citations; and
- do not assess fines.



How OSHCON Consultants Can Help

OSHCON consultants can help employers:

- understand safety and health regulations;
- stay informed of and be more compliant with OSHA requirements;
- recognize and remove hazards from the worksite;
- avoid fines for safety and health violations;
- develop and maintain successful safety and health programs; and
- lower worker injury and illness rates.



OSHCAN Services

- On-site safety and health hazard identification
- Written program evaluation
- Hands-on training
- Air sampling
- Noise monitoring
- Technical updates on OSHA standards
- Help with OSHA 300/300A and injury/illness recordkeeping logs



Examples of OSHCON Clients

- Agriculture
 - Grain storage
 - Nurseries
- Construction
 - Commercial
 - Residential
- Forestry
 - Logging
 - Sawmills
- Health care
 - Medical and dental clinics
 - Nursing and residential care facilities
- Mining
 - Oil and gas
- Manufacturing
 - Wood
 - Primary metals
 - Bottling
 - Meat processing
 - Food products
 - Concrete
- Service industries
 - Part and body shops
 - Mechanic shops
 - Landscaping
- Veterinary clinics
- Warehousing



OSHCON

On-Site Consultation Visit



Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation



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OSHCAN On-Site Consultation Visit

- Voluntary
- Confidential
- Requested by the employer
- Free to the employer



OSHCAN On-Site Consultation Visit

- The employer determines the scope of the visit, which might:
 - be comprehensive; or
 - address specific issues.
- The employer may, at any time during the visit:
 - expand,
 - limit (exclude the consultant from any area), or
 - end the consultation.



Steps in the Consultation Process

1. Request a consultation
2. Visit the site
3. Evaluate and report
4. Meet employer obligations and correct hazards



Step 1: Request

Contact OSHCON to request a consultation.

- Go to txoshcon.com for the direct office number or email address of a consultant in your area.
- Call 800-252-7031, option 2.
- Email oshcon@tdi.texas.gov.



Step 2: Visit the Site

In the **opening conference**, the consultant will explain:

- his or her role;
- the employer's obligations and agreement; and
- the scope of the visit.



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

In the **opening conference**, items discussed may include:

- accident investigation procedures;
- emergency action plans – including alarm systems, evacuation, and emergency response;
- fire prevention plans – identification of fire hazards and ignition sources, and prevention of flammable and combustible waste buildup;
- hazard communication;
- recordkeeping – the need for OSHA 300 log data to calculate numbers of illnesses and injuries;



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

In the **opening conference**, items discussed may include:

- lockout/tagout;
- forklifts (powered industrial trucks);
- confined and permit-required confined spaces;
- hearing conservation;
- respirators; and
- multiple-employer responsibilities.



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

During the **walkthrough**, the consultant will:

- examine conditions in the workplace; and
- evaluate
 - potential hazards,
 - workplace practices, and
 - safety and health programs.



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

During the **walkthrough**, the consultant will:

- wear any personal protective equipment the employer requires;
- take a comprehensive look at all areas, including offices and outdoor areas; and
- interview employees to assess programs' effectiveness.



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

During the **walkthrough**, the consultant may look at:

- walking-working surfaces;
- electrical services;
- exits and emergency lighting;
- machine hazards and safeguarding;
- chemical hazards;
- storage rooms, shelves, and racks;
- forklifts;
- housekeeping and sanitation;
- potential health issues – noise, breathable dust, and vapors;
- eyewash stations, safety showers, and first-aid kits; and
- required posters.



Step 2: Visit the Site (cont.)

During the **closing conference**, the consultant can review the findings with employer, including:

- interim protections to put in place, as appropriate;
- improvements needed; and
- what the employer is doing right.



Step 3: Evaluate and Report

After the **visit**, the consultant will:

- evaluate information gathered during the visit;
- do relevant research or sample analysis; and
- prepare a detailed, written report that includes findings, list of hazards, and recommendations.



Step 4: Meet Employer Obligations and Correct Hazards

- Employer must take immediate action to protect employees from any “imminently dangerous” situation found during the visit.
- Employer must correct all identified serious hazards within the timeframe decided upon by the employer and consultant.



Step 4: Meet Employer Obligations and Correct Hazards (cont.)

- When received from the consultant, the employer must post the list of serious hazards and correction due dates for at least three days or until all hazards are corrected.
- Information on other hazards, as well as correction methods proposed, must also be made available to employees.



More Workplace Safety and Health Resources



Texas Department of Insurance
Division of Workers' Compensation



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1-800-252-7031 Option 2 | OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov
www.youtube.com/watch?v=nn7b5k90MmM

The Occupational Safety and Health Consultation (OSHCON) program (www.txoshcon.com) is a free and confidential service available to private Texas employers through the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation. Our professional safety and health consultants across the state are available to help you identify and eliminate occupational hazards in your workplace, whether or not your company carries workers' compensation insurance.

Studies have shown that thousands of Texas employers experience fewer reported injuries and illnesses following their participation in the OSHCON program each year. OSHCON helps employers understand and comply with Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) health and safety requirements, and teaches them how to maintain safe and healthy workplaces.

Useful resources

- [Request a consultation online](#)
- [SHARP - Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program](#)
- [Current SHARP award recipients](#)
- [Job opportunities](#)
- [FAQs](#)
- [Occupational driving safety programs](#)
- [Free Safety@Work newsletter](#)
Occupational safety and health matters, OSHA updates, training, and more
- [Free safety and health publications](#)
Over 200 available in English and Spanish
- [Free DVD loans](#)
4000+ DVDs to check out - only cost is return postage and package insurance
- [Safety after a storm](#)
- [OSHA 10-Hour Construction Course schedule \(English/Spanish\)](#)
- [Helpful safety and health links](#)
Free resources on other government and university web sites
- [Texas Safety Summit](#)
- [Free return to work resources](#)



Contact

To request on-site OSHA compliance assistance, or if you just have a safety or health question, contact:

OSHCON

OSHCON@tdi.texas.gov

800-252-7031, option 2

or

Richard Hensley

Richard.Hensley@tdi.texas.gov

800.252.7031, option 7, ext. 31670



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