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Risk Reduction Program Reviews

Each fiscal year, your district's risk reduction programs are reviewed for compliance and best-practice standards. We recently revised our questions and point values for our annual program reviews to explain better why we developed these reviews for our Trust members. These programs were developed as a risk-reduction platform that helps member districts reduce risk exposure, reduce on-the-job injuries, and meet compliance requirements. These areas include safety committees, hearing protection audiograms, physical ability evaluation, return-to-work, indoor air quality, and science lab safety.

Each program has an annual or biennial (every other year) program review to inform our district partners how well they are doing and what we can do together to improve their results and reduce overall risk. We believe it is important to let our districts know when they are and are not meeting compliance standards and best practices for these programs because they're in everyone's best interest. Many programs are fully funded and managed by the Trust to reduce costs and barriers to implementation.

The following program questions briefly explain their importance and the questions/point values for each question. We have also outlined the compliance standards and best practices for each question to inform our members better.

We appreciate your continued participation and partnership. Trust programs and associated programs are part of a risk management platform focused on areas where our district members can reduce risk exposure, decrease on-the-job injuries, and contain related costs. The primary focus areas include Safety Committees, Onsite Audiograms, Physical Ability Evaluations, Science Laboratory Safety, Indoor Air Quality, and Return-to-Work.

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SCIENCE LABORATORY SAFETY PROGRAM REVIEW

Science education often includes experiments and demonstrations using highly hazardous chemicals. Hazardous chemicals need to be stored properly, and the activities surrounding their use need to be planned and executed in a safe manner. Laboratory work is regulated both at the Federal and State levels - WAC 296-828 is entitled. Hazardous Chemicals in Laboratories. To assist our districts with both safety and legal compliance, the Trust developed a proactive Science Laboratory Safety Program, which offers a model Chemical Hygiene Plan (CHP), references and checklists and free lab safety training, as well as advanced level Chemical Hygiene Officer (CHO) training. The Science Laboratory Safety Program is performed every other year, reviews the key elements of the district's science safety program and practices, and recommends corrective actions as needed.

Below are the current Science Laboratory Safety Program Review questions:

Science Lab Program Questions	Points
1. CHO: There is a designated and supported Chemical Hygiene Officer who has authority and is effective.	9
2. CHP: The Chemical Hygiene Plan is complete, specific and up to date.	9
3. Spills: There is a written Spill Plan; spill training is completed, and each room with hazchems has an appropriate spill kit.	6
4. CHP communication: CHP shared with and processed by all science staff.	6
5. Direction/Supervision: There is a system in place to direct and supervise purchases and other chemical safety-related activities.	6
6. Lab walk-through (self)assessments/inspections: documented, corrective actions taken as needed.	8
7. Safety equipment: Assessed, maintained and inspected as needed (eye washes, safety showers, general ventilation, exhaust ventilation, fume hoods, fire extinguishers, fire blankets). Documented.	6
8. Inventories: Up to date chemical inventories readily available.	6
9. Safety Data Sheets (SDS) for all hazchems readily available.	6
10. Labeling: All chemical containers are properly labeled.	6
11. Training: All science staff completed basic science safety and hazard communication training (SafeSchools or equivalent). Additional hazard specific training completed for middle and high school teachers working with hazchems.	6
12. Chemical purchase: There is a written policy / procedure regulating chemical purchases. It is regularly communicated to science staff and is consistently followed.	8
13. Waste clean out: Regular, documented waste cleanouts, no excessive hazwaste buildup.	6
14. Hazardous waste management system in place, communicated to science staff.	6
15. Consistency observed during site visits.	6

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