

# ON THE LEVEL

BALANCING INDUSTRY & ASSOCIATION NEWS

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### Congratulations VPP Star Sites

Cintas Corporation announced that its location in Lake Charles, LA, received VPP Star certification from the Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration. VPP Star is their highest recognition for the practice of, and commitment to, exemplary occupational safety and health. In addition, Labor and Workforce Development Commissioner, Heidi Drygas, re-approved UniSea, Inc. in Dutch Harbor, AK, at the Star level, to signify a tremendous achievement in occupational safety and health.

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### Maryland Codifies VPP

Embracing workplace safety, Maryland's General Assembly unanimously passed a bill to codify its Voluntary Protection Program. Governor Larry Hogan signed the bill into law on May 4. With this action, Maryland follows Indiana, Virginia and Arizona in passing legislation embracing voluntary compliance as a permanent part of its workplace safety picture. In addition, North Carolina's House of Representatives has passed a VPP Act, which is heading to its Senate.

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## The "Dirty Dozen 2017" Report

The "Dirty Dozen 2017" report was released on April 26, in observance of Workers' Memorial Week, which honors workers who have lost their lives on the job and their families. The list was created by the National Council for Occupational Safety and Health and serves to highlight 12 companies that put workers and communities at risk due to unsafe practices. The criteria for inclusion on the list includes the severity of injuries to workers, exposure to unnecessary and preventable risk, repeat citations and the actions of workers to improve their safety and health conditions. However, the report also notes that since the establishment of OSHA in 1970, the number of fatal workplace injuries continues to fall. You can read the full "Dirty Dozen" list [here](#).

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## R. Alexander Acosta Named New Secretary of Labor

The Senate confirmed R. Alexander Acosta on April 27, in a bipartisan vote of 60-38, and he was sworn in on April 28. Secretary Acosta has served in three presidentially-appointed, Senate-confirmed positions. In 2002, he was appointed to serve as a member of the National Labor Relations Board. In 2003, he was appointed Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division of the U.S. Department of Justice and from 2005 to 2009 he served as the U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Florida. "Good jobs should also be safe jobs," Acosta said. "Congress has enacted workplace safety laws. The Department of Labor enforces these, and if confirmed, I will work to enforce the laws under the department's jurisdiction fully and fairly. As a former prosecutor, I will always be on the side of the law and not any particular constituency."

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## VPPPA Contests

### **#HowISafety Contest:**

Want the chance to attend Safety+ for free? It's as easy as snapping a picture. Submit a photo of yourself representing how you are promoting/practicing safety in the workplace or at home. Examples: Wearing your PPE, teaching a safety class, attending training, following safety procedures, etc. You can find more information about the contest rules [here](#). You can also check out the great submissions we have already received on our [Facebook page](#). The contest deadline is **June 1, 2017**.

### **Roster Contest:**

To enter our roster contest, update the roster that was included in your membership mailing. Once we receive the updated version, the prime contact will be automatically entered into a drawing to win a gift card. **Sites that have returned their rosters are already entered into the contest.** Return your updated roster by fax at (703) 761-1148 or email it to [membership@vpppa.org](mailto:membership@vpppa.org) by **July 1, 2017**. If you need an additional copy of your roster, please contact our Membership Department via the email address above or call (703) 761-1146.

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## Have You Registered for the Annual Symposium?

Have you registered for the 33rd Annual National VPPPA Safety & Health Conference, now called Safety+, yet? Taking place in New Orleans, LA, and in conjunction with the Louisiana Governor's Safety & Health Conference, this event should not be missed. You can earn CEUs, attend workshops and hear from inspirational speakers at the premier safety and health event of the year. You can learn more [here](#) and register [here](#).

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Stay Connected



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