

Special Star Team Member Program Policies and Procedures

North Carolina Department of Labor Josh Dobson Commissioner of Labor



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Special Star Team Member Program Policies and Procedures

1.0 North Carolina Department of Labor Special Star Team Members (SSTMs)

1.1 Executive Summary

SSTMs are to be engaged in order to leverage the North Carolina Department of Labor Division of Occupational Safety and Health's (NCDOL OSH) limited resources by utilizing qualified Star worksite employees and independent private sector safety and health professionals during Onsite Star Evaluations.

This section will address the policies and procedures for SSTM activities and provides the overall policy framework for SSTMs. Also, included in this section, are the requirements to register as an SSTM, the training to be received, how an SSTM participates in activities of the Star Programs, and clarification of terms of service for SSTMs.

NOTE: SSTMs will be able to perform as team members at worksites that are applying for Star participation or preparing for the recertification process. SSTMs can only provide input and recommendations as it pertains to the Star team's decision to recommend a new Star worksite for participation in the program. Only the Commissioner of Labor and Deputy Commissioner/Director have the authority to make final approval and removal of worksites from the NCDOL OSH programmed inspection list.

1.2 Purpose

This instruction describes and implements the policies and procedures governing the administration and operation of the SSTM activity conducted under the analysis and support of the Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau's Recognition Program Manager.

1.3 Overview

To ensure the quality of the onsite evaluations, the SSTMs will work under the direction of a trained Star Consultant (Team Leader). All applicants who meet the eligibility requirements as described in Section 4.0 of this document, and who complete the training and testing requirements will be classified as qualified SSTMs.

New applicants must submit a completed application to participate as a SSTM. Appendix B identifies documents that will be required to be submitted initially, and annually thereafter. If the deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday, applications are due on the first business day following the deadline. Late applications will be processed at the discretion of the Recognition Program Manager. All SSTM applicants must attend initial training and pass a written exam. The Recognition Program Manager will notify applicants regarding the status of their application and the date(s) and location(s) of training. The Recognition Program Manager must approve the SSTM application before the applicant may be approved to attend training. The Recognition Program Manager will send a letter to notify those applicants that did not meet the SSTM qualifications.

Initial SSTMs will be appointed to a three-year term of service. In order to continue participation, SSTMs must attend a recertification training at the end of their initial 3-year

term of service by attending a one-day training class. Thereafter, the SSTM must keep current the requirements and qualifications for continued participation. Notification of recertification requirements and training class date(s) will be sent to the SSTMs Recognition Program prior to the expiration of their service. To continue participation in the Program SSTMs must:

- 1. Maintain minimum requirements and qualifications (Appendix A); and
- 2. Update and submit notarized Conflict Disclosure Form (Appendix D) and the Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement annually (Appendix E).

NOTE: SSTMs are encouraged to participate in at least one Star evaluation during a three-year period.

2.0 Definitions

Applicants/Star Participant: Permanent, full-time employees of Star worksites.

Education, Training and Technical Assistance (ETTA) Bureau: Carolina Star/SSTM Programs are directed and maintained within this Bureau of the Department of Labor.

Carolina Star Program: The Carolina Star Program (hereafter referred to as Star Program) consists of four programs: Carolina Star, Rising Star, Public Sector Star, and Building Star. The Star Program recognizes excellence in site-specific occupational safety and health management systems

NCDOL OSH: Refers to the North Carolina Department of Labor, Occupational Safety and Health Division and its related staff members.

Recognition Program Manager: This position is responsible for managing, planning, and directing the daily operations of the Star Program throughout the entire State of North Carolina. The primary purpose of the Recognition Program Manager position is to continuously manage, monitor, and evaluate all of the goals and objectives set forth for the Star Program. The Recognition Program Manager shall be available to lead and support the Star Program staff in providing assistance to Star participants, as needed, to assure interaction with NCDOL OSH and to provide expertise. The position must coordinate with Federal OSHA in the administration of their Voluntary Protection Programs, while coordinating activities in the State of North Carolina with the appropriate Federal Area Director.

Registration Deadline: The deadline by which the SSTM registration form and application documents must be received in ETTA's Recognition Program office for processing and/or applicant participation.

Safety and Health Professional (Non-Star Worksite Participants): An individual employed in a position in which more than 50% of daily duties are dedicated to conducting or managing worksite or corporate safety or health activities.

Special Star Team Member (SSTM): A permanent, full-time employee of a Star worksite participating in the Star Program or private sector safety and health professional who meets the participation requirements and acts in the capacity of a state government volunteer while assisting in conducting Onsite Star Evaluation. SSTMs are required to receive initial training and one recertification training after three years. Additional recertification classes are not required to maintain status; however, if room is available the SSTM can attend additional recertification classes.

SSTM Forms: The forms that must be submitted to Recognition Program office in order to apply for participation as an SSTM and annual requirements to maintain qualifications:

The appendices include information and required documents to be completed for initial participation as a SSTM along with the legal documents that will be submitted initially and annually thereafter.

Appendix A – SSTM Qualifications: Specifies qualifications required to be eligible to participate.

<u>Appendix B</u> – SSTM Application and Registration: Legal document required to be submitted for review by Recognition Program Manager for SSTM training approval.

<u>Appendix C</u> – SSTM Code of Conduct: Legal document that will be submitted initially and annually thereafter.

<u>Appendix D</u> – Conflict Disclosure Form: Identifies any conflicts that would prevent a SSTM participating with specific companies.

<u>Appendix E</u> – Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement: Legal document required to be completed with Application and Registration.

Star Program Consultant (Team Leader): Star Program staff member who is responsible for providing quality occupational safety and health services to customers in an efficient, effective, and professional manner, and assisting the Recognition Program Manager. A Star Consultant will serve as the team leader for an evaluation or assist as a team member.

Term of Service: Initial SSTM training certification will be valid for three years. SSTMs must attend one recertification training after completion of the three years. The SSTM will not be required to attend another recertification training unless they no longer meet the qualifications or do not actively participate as a SSTM as opportunities are provided.

3.0 Introduction

3.1 Purpose

This instruction describes and implements the policies and procedures governing the administration and operation for SSTM activities.

3.2 Scope

Participation in this program applies to any person experienced in applying regulations, experienced in a leadership position(s) in the Star Program worksite or corporation, and

sound interpersonal and communicative skills. In addition, SSTMs may be safety and health professionals, hourly employees or individuals who have several years of experience implementing effective safety and health systems. Finally, applicants must have the physical ability to perform team member duties and obtain management or corporate support for participation as an SSTM.

3.3 References

Star Program Policies and Procedures Manual.

3.4 General Procedures

<u>Participation Requirements</u>: Applicants must complete and submit an SSTM registration form to participate as an SSTM. SSTMs must recertify at the end of their initial three-year term of service in order to continue participation.

<u>Training Registration Deadline</u>: All registration forms will be processed annually and must be received by the Recognition Program Manager no later than February 1 of each year. If the deadline falls on a weekend or a holiday, applications are due on the first business day following the deadline. Late registration forms may delay processing until the next scheduled annual training.

Training Frequencies: SSTM training (initial and recertification) are conducted annually at two separate locations. If there are fewer than ten initial trainees, training may be combined or postponed until the next scheduled training period. A total number of trainees in any one session may not exceed 20 unless approved by the Recognition Program Manager. If more than 40 applicants request training within one year, the applicants will be accommodated on a first-come, first-served basis.

Training Requirement: Recognition Program Manager must approve the SSTM registration and application requirements before an applicant may be approved to attend training and will notify successful applicants regarding the date and location of training. All new applicants must attend training and pass an exam to be certified as an SSTM.

SSTM Eligibility: Continued eligibility is contingent upon submission of annual renewal documentation, proper conduct of SSTMs, and their participation on Star evaluations.

4.0 SSTM Qualifications

4.1 Qualifications for All SSTMs

- 1. All SSTMs must have the following qualifications:
 - a. Experience applying OSHA regulations
 - b. Strong interpersonal skills
 - c. Sound reading and writing skills
 - d. Physical ability to perform team member's duties
 - e. Management or corporate support for participating as an SSTM

4.2 Qualifications for SSTM Applicants

SSTMs employed at OSH Star worksites need not be safety and health professionals. They may be hourly employees or individuals who have several years of experience implementing effective safety and health systems. Besides meeting the qualifications above, these applicants must also have the following qualifications:

- 1. Be a current employee of a Star Program worksite.
- 2. Have experience in at least three of the following activities (or their equivalent):
 - a. Chairing a worksite safety/health committee
 - b. Working directly with the Onsite Star Evaluation team during the previous onsite review
 - c. Training others in safety and health procedures
 - d. Writing and reviewing hazard analyses information (e.g., JSAs, TSA, JHA)
 - e. Coordinating accident investigations
 - f. Coordinating proactive safety and health activities such as wellness events
 - g. Leading worksite hazard inspection teams
 - h. Coordinating hazard abatement activities
 - i. Other experience that demonstrates knowledge of safety and health management systems

4.3 Qualifications for Safety and Health Professionals

Safety and health professionals must have these additional qualifications:

- 1. Have two or more years of experience in the safety and health field.
- 2. Be employed in a position in which more than 50% of daily duties are dedicated to conducting or managing worksite or corporate safety or health activities.
- 3. Be a current employee of a Star Program worksite, a current corporate office employee of a corporation that has one or more Star Program/VPP worksites, or
- 4. Former employee of a Star Program worksite who is currently employed at a non-Star Program worksite within the same corporation.

4.4 Ineligible Participants

Applicants whose employment or financial involvements may present a conflict of interest or the appearance of impropriety.

5.0 SSTM Training and Duties

5.1 Training

1. The Recognition Program Manager must send applicants written notification (via email) of SSTM certification training and location prior to the registration deadline.

- 2. SSTM training will be conducted annually or more frequently, as needed. The total number of trainees in any one session should not exceed 20.
- 3. The Recognition Program Manager has the primary responsibility for conducting this training.
- 4. The Recognition Program Manager will determine training content.

5.2 SSTM Duties

SSTM assignments may include, but are not limited to, the following activities:

- 1. Reviewing company documents that describe or verify the worksite's safety and health management system.
- 2. Conducting a walk-through of the worksite to ensure the worksite's safety and health management system is operating effectively.
- 3. Interviewing employees of the company and contractors to determine their level of involvement in and perceptions of the worksite's safety and health management system.
- 4. Assisting in the evaluation by providing feedback and input of the worksite's safety and health management system with respect to Star Program criteria.

6.0 SSTM Utilization and Reporting

6.1 Selecting an SSTM

- 1. Only certified SSTMs may participate on the Onsite Star Evaluation team.
- 2. SSTMs will be selected for participation according to their safety and health experience, background, and involvement with a Star Program worksite.

6.2 Composition of Star Evaluation Team

- A Star evaluation team will be led by one Star Consultant. The SSTM composition of a Star on-site evaluation team will be determined by the Star Consultant. An unlimited number of SSTMs can serve on a Star evaluation team as approved by the Recognition Program Manager.
- 2. The SSTM team must possess the qualifications and abilities necessary to effectively evaluate safety and occupational health aspects of systems, processes, and operations at that worksite. The type and complexity of hazards, equipment, and operation will be considered to assure that the team members possess the needed expertise to conduct the assessment.

6.3 Utilization of SSTMs

1. The Recognition Program Manager will maintain the list of certified SSTMs.

- 2. Applicants/Star Participants will be contacted and informed of the intention to utilize SSTM team member to evaluate the worksite.
- 3. Selection of SSTMs will be based upon the evaluation needs such as type of company and processes/potential hazards involved, background and area of expertise of SSTM, location of SSTM in proximity to the worksite being evaluated, and number of evaluations performed within the current year by the SSTM.

7.0 Registration Processing

- Recognition Program Manager will administer the SSTM Program and will be responsible for sending registration and application documents to SSTMs who are selected for certification training.
- 2. The Recognition Program Manager is responsible for tracking and managing each SSTM registration form from the time it is received until the SSTM has completed training. Additionally, maintaining a current list of certified SSTMs.
 - a. The registration form and application must contain the following completed information:
 - 1) Registration for SSTM Qualification Form
 - 2) Work Experience and/or résumé
 - 3) Additional legal documentation
 - b. The Recognition Program Manager must verify the work experience of the applicant and résumé as related to position-specific safety and health experience. If the résumé does not include position-specific information, the Recognition Program Manager will contact the applicant and request that they send information that satisfies this requirement.
 - c. The SSTM must sign and date the registration and application forms. Some forms will be required to be notarized.
- 3. After the registration form submission packages are received and accepted, the Recognition Program Manager will notify all applicants by e-mail with the location and dates of training.
- 4. The Recognition Program Manager will provide SSTM certificates to participants who have completed training and submitted all necessary legal paperwork.

8.0 Star Program Safety and Health Evaluation Worksheet

The *NCDOL Star Program Safety and Health Evaluation Worksheet* (reference the current *Star Program Policies and Procedures Manual)* is a worksheet to be used by the evaluation team to document and score (0 to 3) their findings. The purpose of the worksheet is to provide the technical basis and rationale that support an evaluation team's findings and the resulting Star Program participation recommendation.

The worksheet is designed in a modular format, allowing the Onsite Star Evaluation team to break up the document into separate sections to facilitate the onsite evaluation and reporting of findings. Key topic areas contain several subsections of questions that address various aspects of the general topic. Each section is clearly identified and given a letter and a number to allow for easy reference by the on-worksite evaluators. For example, the Star Program Safety and Health Evaluation Worksheet consists of the following sections:

Section A – Written Safety and Health Program

Section B - Star Program Participation Requirements

Section C - Safety Incentive/Reward Program and Activities

Section D – Management Commitment and Leadership

Section E – Planning and Evaluation

Section F – Administration and Supervision

Section G – Safety and Health Training

Section H – Hazard Identification and Evaluation/Hazard Prevention and Control

Section I – Employee Involvement and Participation

Section J – Contract Workers and/or Temporary Employees

Section K – Building Star Evaluations

Section L – Process Safety Management

SSTMs should use the same format and structure when addressing the items in each of the sections. Please remember:

- a) The team is required to complete all applicable items.
- b) Questions scoring "0" or "1" will require team members to support their responses or explain why they believe that worksite performance in a particular area is deficient or inadequate. It is important that evaluators respond to the entire item.
- c) Questions scoring "2" will require team members to support their responses so that the company will be aware of what is required for them to receive a "3".
- d) Although team members are not required to provide comments for items scoring "3", SSTM/Team Leader may wish to do so in order to highlight best business practices or document a unique or meaningful application that might benefit another worksite.

SSTMs will be requested to provide specific information regarding Area of Improvements that include systematic deficiencies (such as programs or policies) and hazards that include physical concerns located at the worksite.

9.0 Program Monitoring and Evaluation

9.1 Complaints Against SSTMs

SSTMs must perform worksite evaluations with integrity and creditability. Complaints against SSTMs may be submitted in writing to the North Carolina Department of Labor, Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau, located at 1101 Mail Service Center, Raleigh, NC 27699-1101. Address correspondence to the attention of the Recognition Program Manager. Each complaint will be reviewed, investigated, and resolved in a timely manner through a formal documented process. A valid substantiated complaint

may result in cancellation of the individual's SSTM certification by the Recognition Program Manager.

9.2 Cancellation and/or Suspension of SSTM Certification

Certification as an SSTM entails the responsibility to continually conform to the requirements of the SSTM certification program, including the SSTM Code of Conduct in Appendix C. Failure to do so will result in the cancellation of SSTM certification.

Appendix (A) SSTM Qualifications

All SSTM Applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Experience in applying OSHA regulations.
- Positive interpersonal skills.
- Sound reading and writing skills.
- Physically able to perform team member' duties.
- Management and/or corporate support for participating in the SSTM Program.

Star Participant Applicants must have the following qualifications:

- A permanent, full-time employee of a Star worksite/company.
- Experience in at least three of the following activities (or their equivalent):
 - ✓ Chair of a safety/health committee.
 - ✓ Working directly with the Onsite Star Evaluation team during the most recent onsite review of your respective worksite.
 - ✓ Training others with regard to safety and health programs, policies, procedure, and the meaning of the Star Program.
 - ✓ Writing and reviewing JSAs, monitoring and providing feedback with regard to employee safety related behaviors.
 - ✓ Coordinating accident investigations.
 - Coordinating various safety and health activities and programs to ensure a safe and healthy work environment.
 - ✓ Leading worksite hazard inspection team.
 - ✓ Identifying and recognizing hazards and developing a plan of action for correction and improvement.
 - ✓ Other experiences that demonstrate knowledge of safety and health management systems.

Safety and Health Professionals (Non-Star Worksite Participants) must meet these additional qualifications:

- Two or more years of experience in performing safety and health inspection and/or audits.
- Must score a '10' on the education and experience portion of the qualification worksheet (Refer to Appendix B - SSTM Application and Registration form).
- Must submit proof of 40-hours or more of safety and health training.
- Must submit documentation of three safety and health audits conducted within last three years.

Appendix (B) SSTM Application and Registration

(The following is a sample only, original will be provided by Recognition Program Manager)

First Name, Middle Initial:

Company/Organization Name:

Telephone: Cell:

Section I: Registration Form for NCDOL OSH SSTM Certification Training

Last Name:

Job Title:

Work Address or P.O. Box:

	City: State:	Zip:		
•	Home Address or P.O	. Box:	Telephone: Cell:	
	City: State:	Zip:		
	E-Mail Address:			
		Select your preferred log Details on the location will be provided of	cation to attend the training once your application is accepted and ap	-
	[☐ Location – Dates	☐ Location	– Dates
I.		ation Form for NCDOL OSH Worksite P	<u> </u>	
I.	Experience: (Pr	ovide details of S&H experience in Sec	tion III: Employment History)	
		an NCDOL OSH Star worksite or corporation? of years employed at the worksite or corpora		□ Yes □ No
2)	Please indicate if you h	ave safety and health experience in the follow	wing:	
a)	Experience applying	OSHA regulations		☐ Yes ☐ No
b)	-	held a leadership position(s) at an NCDOL OS .g., safety manager, committee chair, inspect		□ Yes □ No
c)	Chair of safety/healt	n committee		□ Yes □ No
d)	Working directly with evaluation	n NCDOL OSH Star onsite evaluation team du	ring most recent NCDOL OSH Star	□ Yes □ No
e)	Training others with	regard to safety and health programs		□ Yes □ No
f)	Writing and reviewin	g JSAs		□ Yes □ No
g)	Monitoring and prov	iding feedback with regard to employee safet	ty-related behaviors	□ Yes □ No
h)	Coordinating acciden	t investigations		□ Yes □ No

i)	Coordinat	☐ Yes ☐ No			
j)	Leading worksite hazard inspection team				□ Yes □ No
k)	Identifying and recognizing hazards, and developing a plan of action			□ Yes □ No	
I)	Please list	t other experiences that demons	strate knowledge of safe	ty and health management s	systems:
		•			
II.		ion (Please specify – Secondary	school or equivalent (i.e	., GED), Associate Degree,	
		's Degree, or Higher): oma/Degree Earned	School (na	me, city, state):	Date Graduated:
1.	Dibio	ma/ Degree Larrieu	JUIOUI (III.a	me, city, state,	Date Graduated.
2.					
III.	Safety	& Health Certification	S (If Applicable):		
May	include: CIF	H, CSP, PE in Safety Engineering,	MESH, ASP, other PE, Ce	rtified Auditor	
		Certification Claimed:	1	rtificate #:	Date:
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2.					
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-End of Document-

Appendix (C) SSTM Code of Conduct

(The following is a sample only, original will be provided by Recognition Program Manager)

Witnessed	 Date
Signature	Date
I understand that failure to abide by all of the aborancellation of SSTM certification.	ove may result in the suspension and/or
 Not serve as a SSTM of a primary compet by which I am employed, including previously arrangement in effect. 	itor of any company, division, or business units employed, or with which I have a consulting
 Not misrepresent my own or any other inexperience, nor undertake auditing work beyo 	·
 Not intentionally communicate false or m integrity of any evaluation and the Star certific 	isleading information that may compromise the ration process.
 Not discuss or disclose any information re in writing by the organization being evaluated 	elating to a worksite evaluation unless authorized
 Not represent conflicting or competing in employer any relationships that may influence 	•
 Assist others in developing their manager profession. 	ment and auditing skills specific to their
□ Strive to increase the competence and pre	estige of the safety and health profession.
 Not accept any products/gifts from comp 	any who is being evaluated.
While promoting a high standard of ethical conduct of conduct myself professionally, and in an unand responsibility.	uct, I shall: unbiased manner, with truth, accuracy, fairness,
I,, pledge to upho principles in the fulfillment of my responsibilities Carolina.	old proper safety and health professional of evaluating worksites in the state of North

Appendix (D) Conflict Disclosure Form

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COMPAN	IY NAME:						
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MAILING	ADDRESS:						
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		Mobile: ()	_		-	
EMAIL AD	DDRESS:						
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•		Occupatio					·
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¹ "Immediate Family" includes your spouse (unless legally separated) and members of your extended family (your and your spouse's children, grandchildren, parents, grandparents, and siblings, and the spouses of each of those persons) that reside in your household.

	•		•	l interests valued at \$10,000		
•	• • •	•	_	sts in partnerships, limited		
	res, limited liability compa		liability partner	ships, and closely held		
orporations)?	No If so, please list bel	low.				
wner of Interest:						
lame of Company or B						
pecify If the Owner is a						
Member or Manager	tner of the Company, or					
ompany.	or a climited clability					
<u>ompany.</u>						
2(h). For each of those r	on-publicly-owned comp	anies or busir	ess entities ide	ntified in question 3(a) (the		
				the primary company owns		
	nterests valued at over \$10			1		
Publicly-O	wned Company	Other C	ompanies In V	Vhich the Primary		
(The Prima	ry Company)	Compa	Company Owns Securities or Equity Interests			
III. LIABILITIES						
1. Do you, your spouse,	or members of your imme	ediate family h	nave a liability (debt) of \$10,000 or more,		
excluding the indebt	edness on your primary pe	ersonal reside	nce? 🗌 Yes 🗌	No If yes, please list		
below.						
				11.		
Name of Debtor	Type of Creditor	LA	Name of Cre	editor		
(e.g., you, spouse)	(e.g., credit union, ban	ik)				
_						
IV OTHER DISCLE	SCUPEC					
IV. OTHER DISCLO	JSUKES					
1 List the manner of each		- +l				
	n source of income of more mediately family during cu		, ,			
-	esponse to questions 1-4.					
	noraria, interest, dividends					
•	<u>not</u> include income receiv			•		
► Capital Gains		rea monn the i	onowing source	C3.		
► Military Retir						
•	ernment Retirement					
► Social Securi						
. 555/6/ 5554//	·, ····-					
Recipient of Income	Name of Source E	Business or Ir	dustry Type	e of Income		

as a director, officer, go lobbyist of a company, Carolina? If so, please	non-profit corporation	on, or other orga	•	ntractor, or registered ting in the State of North
Identify Person	Position Held	Nan	ne of Entity	Nature of Business
	urposes of your parti C. Department of Lab Assistance Bureau?	cipation in the S	pecial Star Tear nal Safety and H	rmining when a conflict of m Member (SSTM) program lealth Division, Education,
and that the information complete to the best of will not transfer, any ass while retaining an equitor of the potential conflict potential conflict /	, under penalty of pread this Statement provided on the Statement provided on the Statement provided and the statement provided p	nt of Economic Statement and d belief. I also co perty for the pu I AM UNDER A ES THAT MAY	ner penalties end a any attachment in the interest and a any attachment in the interest of concession of concession of contession of contessio	any attachments thereto, nts is true, correct, and ave not transferred, and realing it from disclosure
Signature of Person Filing	Month Day	Year		
Sworn to and subscribed	before me, this the _	day of		·
Notary Public		My Commissio	on Expires:	

2. Within the past 5 years, have you, your spouse, or other members of your immediately family, served

-End of Document-

Appendix (E) Release and Waiver of Liability Agreement

(The following is a sample only, original will be provided by Recognition Program Manager)

NAME:				
	First	Middle		Last
COMPANY NAME:				
MAILING ADDRESS:				
	Street Address			
	City		State	Zip Code
PHONE NUMBER:	() -		() -	
	Home		Work	

- 1. I, the undersigned, have voluntarily elected to participate in the Special Star Team Member (SSTM) program administered by the N.C. Department of Labor Occupational Safety and Health Division, Education, Training and Technical Assistance Bureau ("Bureau").
- 2. I understand that my participation in the SSTM program will require me to, among other things, conduct on-site walkthroughs of industrial facilities to ensure the site's safety and health management system is operating effectively.
- 3. I understand, comprehend and appreciate the foreseeable, unforeseeable and inherent dangers and risks of harm involved in on-site walkthroughs of industrial facilities, and I understand and comprehend that I agree to assume all such risks and dangers during my visit/trip. I understand and acknowledge that said dangers and risks of harm inherent in on-site walkthroughs of industrial facilities have the potential to result in serious or fatal harm to me.
- 4. I understand that I am required to wear appropriate personal protective equipment ("PPE") when needed, and that the Bureau is not required to provide such PPE.
- 5. I understand and agree that the Bureau, its principals, officers, agents and employees, by allowing me to accompany them on on-site walkthroughs of industrial facilities, does not assume any responsibility or liability for my safety whatsoever for the duration of my visit/trip, as noted above, whether alone or in groups.
- 6. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY ASSUMES FULL RESPONSIBILITY FOR AND RISK OF BODILY INJURY, DEATH OR PROPERTY DAMAGE due to the negligence, or otherwise, of the N.C. Department of Labor, the Bureau, its principals, officers, agents and employees, during my visit/trip.
- 7. THE UNDERSIGNED HEREBY RELEASES, DISCHARGES AND HOLDS HARMLESS the N.C. Department of Labor, the Bureau, its principals, officers, agents and employees from and against any and all claims, liability and/or causes of actions for death, wrongful death, personal injury (whether physical, emotional and/or psychiatric or any combination thereof), loss of consortium, property damage and/or breach of contract made by or on behalf of the undersigned, the undersigned's spouse, children and heirs, occasioned by, arising out of or incidental to my visit/trip, WHETHER OR NOT RESULTING FROM OR CAUSED BY NEGLIGENCE by, of and/or on the part of the Bureau, its principles, officers, agents and employees.

- 8. I understand that my participation in the SSTM program is voluntary, and is done without promise, expectation or receipt of compensation for services rendered. Furthermore, I understand that my participation in the SSTM program does not create an employment relationship between the Bureau and myself. As a result, I understand that I am not subject to the Fair Labor Standards Act, and hereby agree to waive any and all claims against the State of North Carolina, the N.C. Department of Labor, and the Bureau for salary, wages, leave accrual or other benefits on account of services performed.
- 9. THE UNDERSIGNED FURTHER EXPRESSLY AGREES THAT THE FOREGOING RELEASE AND WAIVER IS INTENDED TO BE AS BROAD AND INCLUSIVE AS IS PERMITTED BY LAW AND THAT IF ANY PORTION THEREOF IS HELD INVALID, IT IS AGREED THAT THE BALANCE SHALL, NOT WITHSTANDING, CONTINUE IN FULL LEGAL FORCE AND EFFECT.
- 10. THE UNDERSIGNED HAS READ AND VOLUNTARILY SIGNED THE RELEASE AND WAIVER OF LIABILITY AGREEMENT, and further agrees that no oral representations, statements or inducements apart from the foregoing written agreement have been made.

		/	/	
Signature	Month	Day	Year	
Sworn to and subscribed before me, this the day of		·		
Notary Public				
My Commission Expires:				

-End of Document-