

AISI Priorities on Workforce Policy

The steel industry shares the federal government's critical goal of ensuring safety and health at industrial workplaces. AISI member companies have made substantial efforts to decrease the number and frequency of workplace incidents and continue to work through AISI to share information and best practices to meet their shared goal of improving occupational safety and health. However, overly burdensome regulations may misdirect priorities and create unnecessary costs for employers that prevent optimum workplace safety and health benefits from being realized.

AISI urges the Administration and Congress to undertake the following actions to ensure a safe and healthy workforce in 2019:

- ***OSHA Data Modernization Rule*** – OSHA should implement its data modernization rule to prevent inaccurate and incomplete conclusions about safety levels in certain industries and companies. It should ensure that sensitive company- and employee-specific information does not become public. Additionally, OSHA should ensure that the beneficial employer programs for safety incentives, executive compensation, and drug testing currently utilized by employers are not negatively impacted by the rule or further guidance.
- ***Voluntary Protection Program (VPP)*** – Congress should enact the Voluntary Protection Program Act to authorize and improve the VPP, a key employer-employee-OSHA collaborative workplace safety program. The Administration should also demonstrate its commitment to continuing the work of the VPP.
- ***MSHA Workplace Examination Rule*** – MSHA should continue to ensure its workplace examination rule for metal/non-metal operations appropriately considers the anticipated increased costs of compliance.
- ***OSHA/MSHA Enforcement*** – AISI urges the Administration to continue to commit to a cooperative enforcement approach at OSHA and MSHA. The federal agencies and employers should work in partnership to advance workplace safety and health, rather than in an adversarial approach to enforcement and public shaming.
- ***Workforce Development*** – Congress and the Administration should explore the development of workplace educational programs that will prepare future generations in advanced technologies for work in industries such as steel. A well-educated workforce capable of meeting the technological challenges of advanced manufacturing is essential to our industry's competitiveness moving forward.