



South Carolina
Department of Labor, Licensing and Regulation



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Division of OSHA
Office of Outreach and Education

Henry D. McMaster
Governor

Emily H. Farr
Director

Mr. Michael Walters
Plant Manager
Ascend Performance Materials
1515 Hwy 246 S.
Greenwood, South Carolina 29646

Dear Mr. Walters:

Enclosed is the final report for your continuing participation in the Palmetto Star Voluntary Protection Program. This report is based on the findings of the re-evaluation of your workplace and the systems that are in place at your facility. Thank you for your commitment to the safety and health of your associates and the Palmetto Star Program. Congratulations!

If I can be of assistance in the future you may call me at (803) 896-7787.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Sharon Dumit', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Sharon Dumit, Program Manager
Office of Outreach and Education

ASCEND PERFORMANCE MATERIALS
South Carolina
Summary

The three- year onsite re-evaluation was conducted December 1st-2nd, 2021 at Ascend located in Greenwood, South Carolina for continuing participation in the South Carolina Palmetto Star Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). The VPP team consisted of Sharon Dumit, Team Leader, Perry Barhydt, Back up Team Leader, Sarah Flake, VPP Industrial Hygienist and Keith Holsenback, VPP Safety Consultant, and Joseph Lamb, Safety Consultant.

This report is based on information provided by the company prior to the onsite evaluation, document and programs reviewed onsite and interviews with management, production and administrative and contract employees. The Palmetto Star team conducted 58 interviews during the onsite re-evaluation.

The Ascend Plant remains in the appropriate North American Industrial Classification (NAIC) 3252, nylon yarn and nylon flake manufacturing. The Ascend facility includes approximately 500,000 square feet of production and warehouse area but only utilizes 200,000 square feet. A collective bargaining agent does not represent team members.

Recordkeeping

YEAR	INCIDENTS	MANHOURS WORKED	TCIR	STATE 50% SCBLS RATE	DART	STATE 50% SCBLS RATE
2017	2 RECORDABLES 1 DART	603,887	.66	1.0	.33	.70
2018	1 RECORDABLES 0 DART	996,723	.20	1.0	0	.55
2019	3 RECORDABLES 1 DART	660,000	.90	.70	.30	.50
AVERAGE		753,536	.59	.90	.21	.58

As indicated above the Total Case Incident Rate (TCIR) and the Days, Away, Restricted, Transfer (DART) rates are below 50% of the South Carolina Bureau of Labor Statistic rates for the three years noted. The previous audit mention that moral was low due to financial instability and the possibility of the facility closing. The moral has changed drastically since the last VPP audit. New management has been brought in with a focus on safety and given the financial means for safety as well. The Safety Services Leader and the COHN/RN are responsible for maintaining the OSHA 300 logs. The OSHA 300 logs continue to be maintained accurately and information is recorded in a timely manner.

Summary

Ascend continues to provide a management supported employee driven safety and health process. Ascend utilizes various methods to conduct self- inspections both internally and externally. The safety process continues to improve with the implementation of new processes, procedures and equipment. Enhancement to the safety and health process is being accomplished by conducting New/Altered equipment reviews, chemical reviews, behavioral observations, safety device audits, and Safety Process review to name a few. Ascend, Inc. has done an excellent job of addressing trends and implementing improvements to ensure the safety process continues to improve. The Palmetto Star team received positive comments from Team Members regarding leadership and the overall safety process at the Ascend facility. Management was very cooperative with the Palmetto Star team prior to and during the onsite evaluation.

The Palmetto Star VPP team recommends that Ascend Performance Materials, located in Greenwood, South Carolina be approved to continue participation in South Carolina's Palmetto Star Voluntary Protection Program.