

National Safety Council (NSC) Database used for this analysis has been compiled from over 230 organizations that have completed the standardized SAFETY BAROMETER survey. By broad classification of industry, the distribution of the NSC database is as follows:

general manufacturing (27%); mining (15%);
food manufacturing (14%); chemical manufacturing (10%);
electronics manufacturing (8%);
federal/state/local government (8%); public utilities (6%);
other organizations (12%)

Program Categories

Leadership Participation items describe ways in which top and middle management demonstrates their leadership and commitment to safety in the form of words, actions, organization, and control.

Supervisory Participation items consider six primary roles through which supervisors communicate their personal support for safety: leader, manager, controller, trainer, organizational representative, and advocate for workers.

Personnel Participation items specify selected actions and reactions that are critical to making a safety program work. Emphasis on personal responsibility and compliance.

Safety Support Activities items probe the presence or quality of various safety program practices. This focuses on communications, training, inspection, maintenance, and emergency response.

Safety Support Climate items ask personnel for general beliefs and impressions about leadership's commitment and underlying philosophy with regard to safety.

Definitions

Benchmarking – The process of comparing performance against the practices of other leading companies for the purpose of improving performance. Companies also benchmark internally by tracking and comparing current performance with past performance. (www.blinco.com)

Weighted Response Rate – Provide the most appropriate measure because they take sample design and probabilities of selection into account. As such, they reflect potential effects of nonsampling error and whether portions of the population are underrepresented due to nonresponse.

(Jabine 1994; Scheuren et al. 1996)

World Class Safety – is where organizational attitude determines successful safety initiatives. Safety culture predicts performance where culture is measured and managed accordingly. Nothing is more important than getting the culture right. (Don Eckenfelder)

Leadership Participation

Leadership stressing the importance of safety in communications
Leadership publishing a policy on the value of personnel safety
Leadership providing adequate safety staff
Leadership setting a positive safety example
Leadership participating in safety activities on a regular basis
Leadership including safety in job promotion reviews
Leadership setting annual safety goals

Supervisory Participation

Supervisors maintaining a high safety performance standard
Supervisors behaving in accord with safety procedures
Supervisors enforcing safe job procedures
Supervisors understanding personnel's job safety problems
Supervisors acting on personnel safety suggestions
Supervisors integrating safety into the performance of duties
Supervisors providing helpful safety training
Supervisors reducing personnel's fear of reporting safety problems
Supervisors investigating safety incidents

Personnel Participation

Personnel identifying and eliminating hazards
Personnel being involved in safety practices
Personnel believing that their actions can protect other personnel
Belief that personnel understand safety regulations
Personnel following lockout/tagout procedures
Personnel using standardized precautions for hazardous materials
Personnel take part when accident or incident investigations occur
Personnel using necessary personal protective equipment
Personnel taking part in the development of safety requirements

Safety Support Activities

Frequency of detailed and regularly scheduled inspections
Frequency of safety meeting occurrence
Presence of personnel well-trained in emergency response
Effectiveness of recognition programs in promoting safe behavior
Presence of safety training in new personnel orientation
Occurrence of emergency response procedures testing
Effectiveness of command safety officer in improving safety condition
Quality of preventative maintenance system operation
Availability of safety officer to provide assistance

Safety Support Climate

Priority of safety issues relative to performing duties
Belief that leadership shows it cares about personnel safety
Thoroughness of near miss accident/incident investigation
Belief that leadership does more than law requires
Safety standard level relative to standard duty performance level
Belief that leadership is sincere in safety efforts
Perception that the safety officer has high status
Belief that hazards not fixed right away will still be addressed
Perception that good environmental conditions are kept
Belief that leadership insists supervisors think safety