

Saputo Edmonton

“SafetyNow helps in the employee interview portion of the audit process. Staff are always commenting on how much they appreciate SafetyNow's safety talks. It helps them be more aware of the hazards around the plant. There is no doubt that implementing SafetyNow has improved company morale.”

– Terri Digness, Quality Assurance Systems Supervisor

The Challenge

“In the past, Workers' Compensation premiums were through the roof,” says Terri Digness, Quality Assurance Systems Supervisor of Saputo Edmonton. From 2003 to 2005 the facility's injury claims were 5.88% higher than the industry average.

The Edmonton facility applied for the WCB-sponsored Partners Injury Reduction (PIR) program which the Quality Systems Supervisor now oversees. The goal of the program is to help companies in Alberta reduce their injury claims and in turn have their WCB premiums reduced by as much as 20%.

Earning a Certificate of Recognition requires an external safety audit – Certifying Partners conduct them on behalf of WCB. After the first year, the company does internal audits – the Quality Systems Supervisor became certified to do audits at the Edmonton facility. It's not until the fourth year that another external audit needs to be completed.

The Solution

Saputo engaged SafetyNow as part of their solution. The more than 15,000 safety tools available were a great fit. This facility now consistently uses the safety talks included in SafetyNow.

“It has definitely saved time, and I can tell the improved meetings have impacted my employees in a positive way – our accident rate is nearly nonexistent, and any accidents we have are very minor,” adds Robin.

The wide variety of safety talks available means there is something for every department and every occasion.

The Results

Implementing SafetyNow along with the PIR program produced dramatic results. In 2006 Saputo's injury claims were 23.65% lower than the industry average. In addition, the Alberta Workers Compensation Board returned more than \$148,000 in premiums.

