

Important Information: State Safety Committee Certification

*A message from Robert ("Bob") Pierce
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Many thanks to everyone for using "Hands" and contributing to its overwhelming success since our launch in April of this year! Moving to electronic application filing and processing for workplace safety committee certification has resulted in quicker determinations, higher approval rates, and increased user satisfaction. Over the past several months, thousands of employers have successfully jumped on board with the "Hands" online system. Many have offered suggestions for improvements that we have been able to incorporate through various program enhancements. The Health and Safety Division continues to receive positive feedback from satisfied employers who have found the system to be convenient and very user friendly.

Following nine months of successful operation of the "Hands" online system, we have decided that beginning on March 1, 2008, we will only be accepting application forms submitted on the revised, initial Application for Safety Committee Certification, LIBC-372, Rev. 12-06. Please read the following announcement for details. Once again, thank you for your participation and your countless contributions.

*Sincerely,
Robert L. Pierce*

New Safety Committee Certification Application Mandatory beginning March 1, 2008!

The Health and Safety Division's (H&S) new "**Hands**" online processing system was launched in April of 2007, and the vast majority of initial and renewal workplace safety committee certification applications are being submitted via the "**Hands**" system. Employers find the system easy and convenient to use and H&S reports that application approval rates have improved to around 96% due to more accurate and timely electronic submission of data.

A revised, initial "Application for Safety Committee Certification" (LIBC-372 - 12/06 revision date) was introduced with the launch of "**Hands**" which included many suggestions for changes from employers and which also provided for the more efficient capture and reporting of data required for certification. This improved application made all prior versions of the form obsolete, but H&S has been accepting "old" applications and will continue to do so through 2007.

Beginning March 1, 2008, only the revised, initial "Application for Committee Certification rev. 12-06" will be accepted by H&S. Initial applications with revision dates before 12-06 will be returned to employers for resubmission via the "**Hands**" system or on updated initial application forms.

"**Hands**" may be accessed via the PA Home Page at www.state.pa.us PA Keyword "**Hands**." A PDF version of the application that can be completed, printed and filed with needed attachments through regular mail is also available by going to the PA Home page and entering keywords "workplace safety" and then clicking on [PA Workplace Safety Committee Certification Program](#). New applications may also be requested by contacting the Health & Safety Division at 717-772-1635 or by emailing the H&S resource account at RA-LI-BWC-SAFETY@state.pa.us.

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