



OMCSA WORKER SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD

1. INTRODUCTION

The OMCSA has been meeting an average of four times per year since the 1960s. Committed to sharing of ideas and experiences, always with the intention of improving workplace health and safety of member workers, the safe work association undertook a new dimension of activities in recent years, culminating in the announcement of a new type of safety award in December, 2003.

It is intended, among other things, to signal the OMCSA's determination to become more pro-active by looking at an achievement-based award in addition to those based on statistics. It is taken for granted that innovations are by nature pro-active and achievement oriented.

Following a hectic year of presentations, workshops and general brainstorming in 2003, the organization undertook to make 2004 YEAR 1 for the OMCSA WORKER SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD.

2. THE OMCSA WORKER SAFETY INNOVATION AWARD

The premise was simple: there are plenty of good ideas on safety out there that come from workers, let's give them a structure and a forum in which to bring them to the fore. There are obvious benefits to be gained from such experiences, not the least of which would be a wealth of new ideas- not all necessarily earth shattering, but which came from the guys at the face. In addition to the sharing of these ideas among member companies, there is the additional benefit of a sense of contribution to be had from safety ideas generated in the workplace, and shared for the benefit of all.

The program works at two levels:

- (a) at the level of the individual member company that wishes to participate and...
- (b) at the level of the Association, where recognition would take two forms: A certificate of achievement for all contributions by all workers deemed to qualify, and the big one at the end of the year: The OMCSA WORKER INNOVATION AWARD.

A) Individual member company recognition

Where member companies are concerned, the matter is relatively simple: they set up an internal Innovation program with internal incentives to encourage workers to come on board by bringing forth their ideas. An entry form is available from the Association.

B) Association recognition: Certificate of Achievement and Year - End Award

All entries judged acceptable at the company level are then passed on to the OMCSA where the president fills out a **Certificate of Achievement** for each contributor, and returns it to the company for presentation to the worker(s) concerned. In turn, these ideas (which member companies are encouraged but not obliged to share) are discussed at regular Association meetings under the Proactive Awards segment: it's all about networking and sharing safety ideas!



Finally, the **Year End Award**: On an annual basis, participating member companies submit their top innovations and an annual OMCSA WORKER INNOVATION AWARD is presented at an appropriate public forum such as the MASHA annual convention. The winner is judged according to the guidelines proposed below which have been agreed upon by the OMCSA Board of Directors and members at the September 2004 meetings of the Association, held in Chelmsford, Ontario.

3. CRITERIA FOR THE YEAR-END AWARD

1. Member companies submit their best innovations on an annual basis (maximum 3)
2. Each idea will be judged on the basis of the rating system described here:

YEAR-END AWARD RATING SYSTEM

A) Evaluation of Risk/hazard eliminated:

(Use LOSS POTENTIAL rating scheme)

"A" Maximum severity, frequent probability of reoccurrence = 50

"B" Maximum severity, occasional probability = 45

C= 40 d= 35 e= 30 etc.....

L : minor severity, probability rare = 5 points

50

EXPLANATION: Since the basic idea is to develop as many ideas as possible that can contribute to recognizing and reducing workplace risks, the "loss potential" rating scheme, long utilized in Accident - Incident analysis is the criteria that has the highest rating. Judges will apply the loss potential rating scheme to each entry, and agree on a consensus score. Their work will be to locate the Innovation on the scale of risk potential as well as frequency. MAXIMUM 50 points!

B) Practicality: Does it work?

Applicants will describe their company's experience with this innovation on a separate sheet. Be specific, use examples and be precise.

20

EXPLANATION: It is to be expected that member entries will have been tested and found successful, before becoming candidates for the year end award. Is it practical, does it work? Judges will want an explanation of companies experience with the innovation, and they will judge. MAXIMUM: 20 points!



- C) **Originality:** Judges will determine whether the innovation is original: 10 point max;
An improvement on an already existing idea: 5 points max.

10

EXPLANATION: The more original the better. Judges will have an idea, if they think it's the first ever, you qualify for the MAXIMUM: 10 points.

- D) **IRS Compatibility:** Explain how this innovation is compatible with the requirements of the Internal Responsibility System.

10

EXPLANATION: How well does it fit in with the IRS dictum that the workplace is the place where the parties best get together to solve problems. How about getting together to bring innovative ideas to the fore? Talk about your IRS angle where this innovation is concerned: how does it reflect the best the IRS has to offer. If the judges agree, it could be worth MAXIMUM 10 points.

- E) **Population benefit:** less than 10% of our employees : 2 pts
10-50% : 5 pts
50% + : 10 pts

10

EXPLANATION: How many in your company stand to benefit: The more the merrier, up to a MAXIMUM 10 points if you convince the judges!

OVERALL TOTAL :

100

3. There will be a minimum of three judges: One from MASHA, one from the WSIB, one from the mining (non-contractor) community
4. All entries must be submitted before or at the first OMCSA meeting, usually in March of the new year.
Example: March 2007 for 2006 entries.
5. All companies that submit for the year-end prizes agree to share their winning idea(s). Companies that are not willing to share their idea, as is their right, may not participate with that entry in the year-end award contest.
6. Early Entries must be submitted to the attention of the MASHA field representative responsible for the contactors, at the following address: Box 2050, Station Main, North Bay, Ontario P1B 9P1.
7. Judges will meet at the first OMCSA meeting of the new year, retire to another locale, assess the entries and present the winner later at the meeting.



8. Presentation of the entry: The standard OMCSA application form must be utilized, but additional details must be typewritten on 8 ½" x 11" paper. Items 2, 4 and 5 from the rating system described above will need elaboration: Practicality, IRS Compatibility and Population benefit.

Judges, will judge your entry as they see fit, allocating points by consensus as they make their way through the criteria. Photos, drawings, illustrations: all must be scaled down to the 8 ½ by 11" format to be deemed acceptable.

9. Prizes : First Prize: Moran trophy plus 1 keeper plaque plus The trip to convention for the winner and spouse will be paid by his company.

10. MASHA involvement: The OMCSA hopes that MASHA will participate by allowing the presentation of the trophy to take place at their annual Mining Health and Safety Conference in the spring.

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Glenn Morton, Director, OMCSA