

3A Composites USA, a manufacturer of product lines for graphic display, building cladding, furniture, home construction and the transportation industries, Friday received an award for its Glasgow facility taking extraordinary measures to ensure the safety and health of its employees.

A plaque signifying the company's certification under the Safety and Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) was presented to the employees of 3A Composites' Glasgow facility by Kentucky Labor Cabinet Secretary Mark Brown

who said "SHARP recognizes employers who operate exemplary safety and health management systems and are committed to making safety for employees a priority

The Glasgow facility is implementing injury prevention, safety and health awareness programs to become the 17th company in Kentucky to attain SHARP certification.

The U.S. Department of Labor designed SHARP to encourage and recognize excellence in occupational safety and health among employers and to create a proactive partnership with its Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA). Although companies must meet federal standards for the program, the Kentucky Labor Cabinet presents the award since Kentucky has operated its own federally approved occupational safety and health program for over 35 years.

To qualify for SHARP, companies must undergo a comprehensive evaluation and a series of audits; correct any identified hazards; demonstrate that effective safety and health programs are in place; and maintain injury rates below the national average for their industry for the last three years.

Companies must have a safety and health program that involves all employees in finding and correcting existing or possible future hazards as they develop. SHARP's certification is good for two years and then can be renewed. A company is exempted from scheduled compliance inspections during the certification period but partners with the state to improve its safety program.

LOCAL INDUSTRY HONORED WITH SAFETY AND HEALTH AWARD

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Additional information on SHARP and Kentucky's health and safety standards and programs can be found at <http://www.labor.ky.gov/Pages/LaborHome.aspx>