

# Steel Tank Institute Steel Plate Fabricators Association

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## NEWS

### **SPFA SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE ELEVATES THE INDUSTRY**

LAKE ZURICH – December 28, 2004 – “The Safety & Health Committee of STI/SPFA performs an essential role within the organization, promoting safety as a number one priority for companies building the highest quality products in the water, chemical, petrochemical and specialty fabrication industries”, said Wayne Geyer, Executive Vice President of STI/SPFA.

“The benefit for organizations participating in the Safety & Health Committee is twofold,” said Wilson Frazier, Chairman of the Safety & Health Committee. “The committee offers safety professionals an opportunity to network, share success stories, and learn from the experiences of colleagues. But even more importantly, this group with hundreds of years of combined experience, works closely with OSHA to update existing standards and create new standards based upon real-world data and best practices in the industry”, said Frazier.

These accomplishments directly impact the quality and productivity of organizations in many different ways. The Safety & Health Committee has long produced two safety booklets, intended as aids for use in an employee safety training program. “***Basic Safety Rules for Fabrication, Field Erection, and Warehousing***” and “***Tank Builders Scaffold Guidelines***” include pictures, charts, diagrams and a signature page for employees to verify receipt and understanding of the safety issues covered in the booklets. Available to the public through STI/SPFA, the booklets are produced in both English and Spanish versions.

**“Safety Requirements for Confined Spaces”** is a Position Statement approved by the STI/SPFA Board on February 4, 2004. Developed by the Committee in response to an interpretation of OSHA regulations potentially defining tanks and vessels under construction as confined spaces, the statement references ANSI Z117.1 as a Performance Standard. This allows engineering controls and an assessment of potential hazards to designate the vessel under construction as a non-permit confined space, which does not require an attendant or additional safeguards. The full text of this Position Paper can be found on the STI/SPFA web site at <http://www.steeltank.com/library/pubs/safety%20requirements.pdf>.

Ten companies earned the **Safety Award of Excellence** for twelve consecutive months with Zero OSHA Total Recordable Incidents, while Nine companies earned the **Safety Award of Achievement** for a minimum 10% reduction in the rate of OSHA Recordable Incidents. “We designed the STI/SPFA Safety Award Recognition Program to enable companies to formally celebrate the achievements of their employees, whose safe performance ensure the productivity and success of their organizations”, said Wilson Frazier.

The Steel Tank Institute and the Steel Plate Fabrications Association are Divisions of STI/SPFA, an association serving companies fabricating steel tanks, piping and pressure vessels for use in the petroleum, food, water and chemical processing industries. STI/SPFA provides certification and training courses, performs quality assurance inspections, develops industry standards and specifications, produces safety manuals, and serves as a liaison to regulatory and code authorities. For further information, contact Anne Kiefer at STI/SPFA, 570 Oakwood Road, Lake Zurich, IL 60047, Phone: 847/438-8265 Fax: 847/438-8766 E-mail: [ankiefer@steeltank.com](mailto:ankiefer@steeltank.com) Web: [www.steeltank.com](http://www.steeltank.com) and [www.spfa.org](http://www.spfa.org). # # #