

ECRI Institute

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July 1, 2011

Dear Outreach Trainer,

Mid Atlantic OTI Education Center would like to acknowledge your efforts in providing outreach training for workers and employers on the recognition, avoidance, abatement, and prevention of safety and health hazards in the workplace. Your efforts have helped to ensure that workers are more knowledgeable about workplace hazards and their rights.

We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of a key change to the policy for processing card requests as well as the development of a new web-based portal to support our Outreach Trainers.

OSHA began the OSHA Training Institute (OTI) Education Center Program in 1992. Since that time, the OSHA Outreach Training Program has grown exponentially, from 51,000 student trained in 1992 to 781,000 student trained in 2010. In 2003 OSHA began requiring its OTI Education Centers to process trainer card requests. While this alleviated the burden for OSHA, it proved to have a significant impact on the administrative work load for the OTI Education Centers. In the past two years, OTI Education Centers have processed over 1.3 million student course completion cards. While the number of workers trained continues to increase, so does the administrative burden for the OTI Education Centers.

In addition to the work it takes to receive, review, process, and distribute each card request in a timely manner, the OTI Education Centers are also responsible for maintaining recordkeeping, reporting, and filing systems required to service trainers and to provide the controls that OSHA deems necessary. Recently, OSHA has stipulated that all OTI Education Centers increase their program monitoring activity, including in-person training observations, to improve quality and limit fraud. This additional oversight required by OSHA has further added to the OTI Education Centers' cost of administering the program.

It has always been OSHA's position that because the OTI Education Centers receive no funding from OSHA, they have the authority to charge fees to cover the costs involved in issuing student course completion cards. Although the OTI Education Centers have long sought to avoid implementing such a fee, the costs currently associated managing the program necessitate this action. As such, beginning October 1, 2011, the OTI Education Centers will begin charging a \$5.00 processing fee for each student course completion card issued.

We recognize the effect this key change will have on our OSHA Authorized Outreach Trainers, so to assist you with this process, we are working to implement a new web-based system that will enable us to provide you with your cards printed with the student names. We hope to have this available in August 2011 at no charge. Additional information will be forthcoming over the next month.

Again, thank you for your participation and support as we continue toward our mutual goal of educating this nation's workers so they may go home safely each night.

Sincerely,



Luke Petosa
Director
Mid Atlantic OTI Education Center/ECRI Institute