

Smart Mark Standardized Nationwide Safety and Health Training

Smart Mark is an OSHA-approved safety training program developed by the Construction Industry Partnership (CIP), which is the Labor Management Committee for the Construction Industry. Smart Mark was created in 1996 and developed over the past two years through the CIP in Washington, DC. This standardized and intensive modular training curriculum prepares construction workers to recognize hazards and avoid accidents at job sites. Smart Mark training materials were developed by a labor-management committee of experts in safety and health, industrial hygiene, education, and evaluation.

The 10-module training course, taught by OSHA certified instructors, is being incorporated into the apprenticeship and journey-level training systems of the 15 unions affiliated with the Building and Construction Trades Department, AFL-CIO. Smart Mark represents a unique union-management, collaborative effort by the unions, and 7 national constructor trade associations. Prior to Smart Mark, each building trades union had its own safety course. Information wasn't standardized and workers were only taught about safety hazards in their own craft. The first 10 classes cover the following subjects: Introduction to OSHA, Stairways and Ladders, Electrical Safety, Hazard Communication, Fall Protection, Confined Spaces, Materials Handling, Scaffold Safety, Tool Safety, and Personal Protective Equipment. Additional modules are under development to eventually expand Smart Mark into a 30-hour program. All graduates of the 10 hour course receive special Smart Mark certification cards.

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