

Plasticolors Celebrates Induction into the Voluntary Protection Program

Ashtabula, Ohio – October 22, 2004 – Plasticolors Inc., hosted an excited and distinguished crowd at a flag raising ceremony last week to celebrate the manufacturer's acceptance into the Occupational Health and Safety Administrations (OSHA) Voluntary Protection Program (VPP). OSHA officials presented Plasticolors with a VPP plaque and flag signifying acceptance into the program.

“This is a great honor for Plasticolors,” said Rob Medlock, the Cleveland-area director of OSHA. “The company is now one of only 1,180 companies to be accepted into the program out of approximately seven million companies nationwide.”

In addition to Plasticolors' employees, a number of area delegates were present at the event, including U.S. Congressman Steve LaTourette, who also presented Plasticolors with a U.S. flag that had previously flown over the nation's Capitol. The event was attended by Julie Weis, an OSHA compliance assistance specialist and other community leaders including Ashtabula County Commissioner Joe Moroski; Joe Mayernick, executive director of the Ashtabula Growth Partnership; Marta Stone, executive director of Leadership Ashtabula County; Alicia McFarland, president of the Ashtabula Chamber of Commerce, and Ashtabula City Manager Augie Pugliese. Representatives from Kennametal and DuPont were also on hand representing area manufacturers currently in the Voluntary Protection Program.

Following their presentation, employees and guests proudly raised the flags in front of Plasticolors' manufacturing facility. “As a company, we all work to achieve a higher level in everything we do,” said Steve Walling, CEO of Plasticolors. “From exceeding customer expectations and creating new business models for growth and innovation, to producing outstanding business results, I commend all of our employees for their commitment to excellence.”

Plasticolors began pursuing acceptance into the VPP in 2002, and is the third manufacturer in the county to be accepted into the program. Designed by OSHA and based on a set of performance standards to promote outstanding health and safety management systems and to establish partnerships with the regulatory community, VPP evaluates an organization's health and safety program based on management accountability for worker health and safety, and a continuous effort to identify and eliminate workplace hazards.

After a lengthy application process and an intensive effort by Plasticolors employees, the manufacturer underwent a four-day onsite review of its facility by OSHA representatives, including an industrial hygienist and safety specialist in early 2004. The OSHA team observed working conditions, reviewed documentation, and conducted formal and informal interviews of employees at Plasticolors to determine its recommended status.

“Acceptance into OSHA's VPP is a great accomplishment,” said Ed Trenn, regulatory affairs and quality systems manager at Plasticolors. “There are many advantages to being

a VPP site, but partnering with OSHA to ensure the health and safety of our employees is the primary benefit. At the end of the day, we want our employees to return home as healthy as they were when they came to work.”

OSHA’s determination of Merit status for Plasticolors means that the company is on track to achieve Star status within the next three years. Star facilities comply with all VPP requirements prescribed by OSHA, have lower injury or illness rates than their industry’s average, and represent model health and safety programs for their industry. Plasticolors will continue to work with its mentor, Mark DePugh from DuPont’s Circleville, Ohio plant, to achieve this status.

Plasticolors, Inc., a leading supplier of pigment and chemical dispersions to the paint, coatings, caulk, sealants and thermoset plastics industries, manufactures products for customers in the automotive, appliance, equipment, electrical, consumer and construction industries. The company’s colorants can be found in a wide variety of products, including interior and exterior automotive components, epoxy flooring, electrical and appliance housings, and a myriad of paints, coatings and molded composite applications. The company is ISO 9001, ISO 14001 and ISO/TS-16949 certified.