481—208.1(88) Purpose and scope. This chapter contains procedures for the division of labor services, bureau of consultation and education, to provide consultative services to private and public employers.

208.1(1) Services are available at no cost to employers to assist employers in establishing an effective occupational safety and health management system in order to provide employment and a place of employment that are safe and healthful. The goal is to prevent injuries and illnesses that may result from exposure to hazardous work practices and conditions. The principal assistance will be provided at the employer's work site, but off-site assistance may also be provided. Within the scope of the employer's request, the consultant will evaluate the employer's program for providing employment and a place of employment that are safe and healthful; identify specific hazards in the workplace; and provide appropriate advice and assistance in establishing or improving the employer's safety and health management system and in correcting any hazardous conditions identified. Assistance may include education and training of the employer, the employer's supervisors, and the employer's other employees to make the employer self-sufficient in ensuring safe and healthful work and working conditions.

208.1(2) Consultation is independent of Iowa OSHA enforcement, and the discovery of hazards will not mandate citations or penalties. However, the employer has a statutory obligation to protect employees, and, in certain instances, the employer will be required to take necessary protective action. An employer that corrects the hazards identified by the consultant during a comprehensive workplace survey, implements certain core elements of an effective safety and health management system, and commits to complete other core elements of an effective safety and health program may qualify for exemption from certain enforcement activities.

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