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**U.S. WORKERS TAKING CHANCES WITH SAFETY BY NOT WEARING PPE,
ACCORDING TO SURVEY OF SAFETY PROFESSIONALS**

*Survey Also Probes Economy's Impact on Safety,
Concerns about Environmental Sustainability and Worker Health and Safety*

ROSWELL, Ga. (November 17, 2008) – U.S. workers are risking workplace injuries by not complying with important safety procedures, according to a survey released today by Kimberly-Clark Professional.

The survey found that 89 percent of safety professionals polled at the 2008 National Safety Council (NSC) Congress have observed workers failing to wear personal protective equipment (PPE) when they should have been.

“We find it disheartening that people continue to put themselves at risk by failing to wear PPE when undertaking hazardous tasks,” said Randy Kates, general manager of the safety business for Kimberly-Clark Professional. “Despite the importance of PPE, there is still an unacceptably high rate of noncompliance in the workplace.”

This is the third consecutive year that the Kimberly-Clark survey has revealed a high rate of PPE noncompliance. In 2007, 87 percent of respondents said they had observed PPE noncompliance in the workplace, while 85 percent answered yes to this question in 2006.

Given the high rate of noncompliance over the past three years, it is not surprising that when asked to name the top workplace safety issue in their facilities one third of respondents cited worker compliance with safety protocols. Next was insufficient management support and/or resources for health and safety functions (27 percent). Under-reporting of workplace injuries and illnesses was third (14 percent), followed by training a multilingual, multicultural workforce (7 percent) and escalating worker compensation costs (5 percent).

Is the Economy a Factor?

One potential explanation for continuing problems with compliance could be the economy. Thirty-four percent of respondents said the economy had affected worker safety

training programs or resources. Fifty-nine percent said it had not. Of those who said the economy had impacted safety training or resources, the survey found that:

- 63 percent said it had led to less money for education and training.
- 42 percent said it had resulted in reduced personnel to handle safety training tasks.
- 33 percent said the faltering economy had led to business concerns taking precedence over safety concerns.

This year's survey also polled safety professionals about the steps they have taken or intend to take to encourage greater PPE compliance. The top response was "improving existing education and training programs," followed by "purchasing more comfortable PPE." Increased monitoring of employees was third, followed by tying compliance to individual performance evaluations and purchasing more stylish PPE.

"Work-related injuries in the U.S. cost more than \$50 billion a year¹," said Kates. "Our research has shown that comfort and style are major drivers for compliance with PPE protocols. In the current economic climate it is more important than ever to invest in PPE that workers will *want* to wear."

Focus on Environmental Sustainability

The environment was another topic covered in this year's survey. Fifty-nine percent of respondents reported that their companies had formal corporate sustainability goals, while 22 percent said they did not. (Twenty percent said they did not know the answer to this question.) Respondents from companies with corporate sustainability goals were asked what their facilities were doing to become more environmentally responsible. The top choice was reducing the waste generated by a facility's processes. It was followed by:

- Reducing energy consumption.
- Reducing the waste associated with supplies and other items that they purchased.
- Reducing water consumption.

All respondents were asked what their facilities had done to encourage or require suppliers to assist them in becoming more environmentally responsible. The top selection was increasing the amount of recycled content in the products supplied to them (39 percent). Tied for second place were: reducing packaging materials for the products supplied to them and having suppliers "demonstrate or state/warrant that they have environmentally responsible business practices" (29 percent). Close behind was delivering more products at one time to reduce fuel usage (27 percent). Only 6 percent of respondents said environmental responsibility was not a major concern for their organizations. (For this question, respondents were allowed to select more than one answer.)

¹ Source: Liberty Mutual

Health Concerns

When asked if they were concerned about the potential health and safety issues for their workers posed by oil, grease, heavy metal residues or toxic elements on re-usable rental shop towels, 63 percent of respondents answered yes. This compares with 73 percent of respondents answering yes to the same question in 2007.

When asked what might encourage them to switch from re-usable rental shop towels to disposable wipers, the survey found:

- 35 percent of respondents cited concerns about the health and safety issues mentioned above.
- 28 percent chose a closed loop solution for disposable wipers, in which used wipers are recycled or converted to energy and diverted from landfills.
- 10 percent were concerned about water pollution from laundering re-usable rental shop towels.
- 29 percent said they did not use rental shop towels.

Safety Philosophy

This year respondents were asked to describe their personal safety philosophy from a list of choices. Two responses tied for first place: "Safety doesn't cost it pays" and "Organizations must create safety based cultures" (43 percent each). Only 10 percent selected the statement "Safety begins and ends at the top" and just two percent chose "Safety is a pain, but so is my boss."

"These results did not surprise us," said Scott Gaddis, global safety leader for Kimberly-Clark Professional. "Workplace safety must be managed like every other strategic business objective that is important to an organization's success."

Survey Methodology

The survey was undertaken at the NSC Congress in Anaheim, Calif., on September 23, 2008. The survey questionnaires were filled out by 153 safety professionals who reported being responsible for purchasing, selecting or influencing the purchase or selection of, or compliance with, PPE. The respondents included safety directors and managers, industrial hygienists, environmental managers and purchasing professionals. For full survey results, visit www.kcprofessional.com/us/mkt/2008nscpressrelease .

About Kimberly-Clark Professional

Kimberly-Clark Professional is an indispensable business partner, delivering leading-edge health, hygiene and productivity solutions that provide tangible value every day, everywhere. Known for innovative, quality solutions for away-from-home washrooms, "clean" and "industrial" manufacturing environments, and DIY settings, the global brands of Kimberly-Clark Professional include Kleenex, Scott, Kimcare, WypAll, KleenGuard, and Kimtech. Kimberly-Clark Professional, located in Roswell, Ga., is one of Kimberly-Clark Corporation's four business segments and can be visited on the web at www.kcprofessional.com.

About Kimberly-Clark

Kimberly-Clark and its well-known global brands are an indispensable part of life for people in more than 150 countries. Every day, 1.3 billion people - almost a quarter of the world's population - trust K-C brands and the solutions they provide to enhance their health, hygiene and well being. With brands such as Kleenex, Scott, Huggies, Pull-Ups, Kotex and Depend, Kimberly-Clark holds the No. 1 or No. 2 share position in more than 80 countries.

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SURVEY RESULTS

Kimberly-Clark Professional Safety Survey

Conducted at NSC Congress

September 23, 2008

Questions 1– 6, 8-12 and 14-15: 153 Respondents

Question 7: 52 Respondents

Question 13: 90 Respondents

1. *Are you responsible for purchasing, selecting, influencing the purchase or selection of, or compliance with, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)?*

	<u>Total</u>
Yes	100%

2. *What is your title? (Select ONE answer.)*

Safety Director/Manager	54%
Purchasing	09%
Industrial Hygienist	03%
Environmental Manager	03%
Other	32%

3. *Have you ever observed anyone in your organization failing to wear proper PPE in a situation when they should have been wearing it? (Select one answer)*

Yes (Subnet)	89%
Yes, this has happened on numerous occasions	45%
Yes, this has happened infrequently	44%
No, this has not happened	08%
Don't know	03%

4. *Which of the following measures have you taken – or intend to take – to encourage greater PPE compliance in your facility? (Select as many as apply.)*

Improve existing education and training programs	70%
Purchase more comfortable PPE	69%
Increase monitoring of employees	42%
Tie compliance to individual performance evaluations	32%
Purchase more stylish PPE	31%
Develop incentive programs	24%
Don't know/None of these	02%

5. *When you consider PPE innovations, or changes, in your organization, how do you prepare your organization for change? (Select one answer)*

Safety team provides education to employees on changes and why	53%
Management introduces and explains the reasons behind the change	18%
Vendor introduces and provides hands-on training	39%
You provide written notification to employees	05%
Not considering/Haven't considered PPE innovations or changes	01%
Don't know/None of the above	09%

6. Has the economy affected your worker safety training programs or resources? (Select one answer)

Yes (Subnet)	34%
Yes, it has <i>absolutely</i> reduced worker safety training and resources	11%
Yes, it has <i>somewhat</i> reduced training programs and resources	23%
No, it has <i>not</i> affected worker safety training programs or resources	59%
Don't know/None of these	07%

7. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, HOW have worker safety training programs or resources been affected by the economy? (Select as many as apply.)

Less money available for education and training	63%
Reduced personnel to handle these tasks	42%
Business concerns are taking precedence over safety concerns	33%
Don't know/None of these	19%

8. Which of the following do you consider to be the TOP workplace safety issue in your facility? (Select one answer.)

Worker compliance with safety protocols	33%
Insufficient management support and/or resources for health and safety functions	27%
Under-reporting of workplace injuries and illnesses	14%
Training a multilingual, multicultural workforce	07%
Escalating worker compensation costs	05%
Substance abuse among workers	*
Don't know/none of these	13%

9. Which of the following statements BEST describes your personal safety philosophy? (Select one answer.)

Safety doesn't cost, it pays	43%
Organizations must create safety-based cultures	43%
Safety begins and ends at the top	10%
Safety is a pain but so is my boss	02%
Don't know/none of these	01%

10. Which of the following would be MOST likely to encourage you to switch from re-usable rental shop towels to disposable wipers? (Select as many as apply.)

Concerns about potential health and safety issues for your workers by oil, grease, heavy metal residues or toxic elements on re-usable rental shop towels	35%
A closed loop solution for disposable wipers, so that used wipers are recycled or converted to energy, and not sent to landfill	28%
Concerns about water pollution from laundering re-usable rental shop towels	10%
Your facility does not use rental shop towels or rags	29%
Don't know/None of these	16%

11. Are you concerned about the potential health and safety issues for your workers posed by oil, grease, heavy metal residues or toxic elements on re-usable rental shop towels? (Select one answer.)

Yes (subnet)	63%
Yes, you are very concerned	34%
Yes, you are somewhat concerned	29%
No, you are not very concerned	16%
No, you are not concerned at all	11%
Don't know	12%

12. Does your company currently have written Corporate Sustainability goals? (Select one answer.)

Yes	59%
No	22%
Don't know	20%

13. If you answered "Yes" to the previous question, which of the following is your facility doing to become MORE environmentally responsible? (If you answered "No" to the previous question, please skip this question. Select as many as apply.)

Reducing the waste your processes generate	69%
Reducing energy consumption	68%
Reducing the waste associated with supplies and other items that you purchase	57%
Reducing water consumption	51%
Your facility isn't doing much to become more environmentally responsible	03%
Don't know/None of these	07%

14. Which of the following have you asked or required suppliers to do to help your facility become more environmentally responsible? (Select as many as apply.)

Increase the amount of recycled content in the products they supply to you	39%
Reduce packaging materials for the products they supply to you	29%
Demonstrate or state/warrant that they have environmentally responsible business practices	29%
Delivering more products at one time to reduce fuel usage	27%
Environmental responsibility is not a major concern for your organization	06%
Don't know/None of these	24%

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