CASA GRANDE — Quemetco Metals Limited Inc. has been named a Voluntary Protection Program Star Site by the state.

The honor by the Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health through the U.S. Occupational Safety and Health Administration program recognizes the conscious effort the plant has made in prioritizing safety and health concerns for its workers and the community. The plant is the 39th facility to earn the VPP Star designation in Arizona.

“This is a well-deserved recognition for our employees and contractors who put safety first every day,” said company President Larry Webb in a press release. “I’m incredibly proud of our site. Achieving this designation motivates us to continue to set an example for safe workplace behavior in our industry.”

OSHA’s Voluntary Protection Program promotes effective worksite-based safety and health. In the program, management, labor and OSHA establish cooperative relationships at workplaces that implement a comprehensive safety and health management system. Approval into the program is OSHA’s official recognition of the outstanding efforts of employers and employees who have achieved exemplary occupational safety and health. OSHA approves qualified sites with one of three designations — the Star, the Merit or the Demonstration level, with Star being the highest ranking.

“Quemetco Metals Limited is certainly deserving of the Star designation by the Arizona Department of Occupational Safety and Health,” said Jessie Atencio, ADOSH assistant director. “This company is a model that shows a high level of understanding that the health and safety of its employees and the community are paramount while it also conducts its business operations. We are proud to partner with Quemetco.”

The honor is a recognition for employers and employees who demonstrate exemplary achievement in the prevention and control of occupational safety and health hazards, and the development, implementation and continuous improvement of their safety and health management system.

“The VPP team here at Quemetco Metals Limited has worked tirelessly in recent years to take the lead to produce a culture of health and safety in our plant,” said Damon Kimball, company safety manager. “Our employees perform operations inspections daily and communicate regularly about health and safety issues. As a result, our safety performance is remarkable. Our consistent goal is to have no injuries or illnesses.”

Quemetco Metals has been in operation in Casa Grande since 2008. The site produces lead anodes and employs approximately 20 workers.