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What is COR™?

What you need to know about the Certificate of Recognition program

So you've heard a little about COR™ but you still have questions. Or you've been asked to take part in COR™ but don't know where to start. This issue of *IHSA.ca Magazine* is dedicated to taking a bit of the mystery out of the process while showing some of successes experienced by companies who have achieved their COR™ certification.

The Certificate of Recognition (COR™) is a well-established, Canada-wide certification program that gives companies a tool for assessing and enhancing their health and safety management system. The purpose of COR™ is to encourage safer workplace behaviour and practices that also lead to improved performance.

COR™ is nationally trademarked and is endorsed by members of the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations (CFCSA), of which IHSA is a member.

COR™ is currently being used across Canada and is a pre-qualification requirement for many contractors working both in Ontario and outside the province on public-sector and private-sector projects.

The COR™ program began in Alberta more than 20 years ago. While most COR™ firms are in the construction business, the standard is also used by other major business sectors in Alberta and British Columbia.

Here in Ontario, the program consists of the following 19 elements that promote healthy and safe behaviour. The first 13 are the same mandatory elements as in all other provinces that participate in COR™. The last six are specific to this province:

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| 1. Policy Statement | 11. Emergency Preparedness |
| 2. Hazard Analysis | 12. Statistics and Records |
| 3. Safe Work Practices | 13. Legislation |
| 4. Safe Job Procedures | 14. Occupational Health |
| 5. Company Rules | 15. First Aid |
| 6. Personal Protective Equipment | 16. Health and Safety Representative/Joint Health and Safety Committee |
| 7. Preventive Maintenance | 17. Workplace Violence and Harassment |
| 8. Training and Communication | 18. Return to Work |
| 9. Workplace Inspections | 19. Management Review |
| 10. Investigations and Reporting | |



IHSA brought COR™ to Ontario in 2011 in order to raise the standards of injury and illness prevention across the province. Since then, we have seen interest in the program grow immensely, from not only large and small companies but also buyers of construction services.

Many of these buyers of construction have begun to request COR™ as a requirement for certain jobs. By making safety a priority, these buyers will become safety leaders in their industries, while construction firms that pursue COR™ certification will be leading the pack when it comes to bidding on work.

By achieving COR™ certification, construction companies are able to demonstrate to buyers of construction that their health and safety management system has been developed, put into practice, and evaluated every year through comprehensive internal and external audits.

The fact that large organizations are integrating COR™ into their bidding processes is a boost for health and safety standards in Ontario. As more buyers require COR™, more firms are likely to pursue certification in order to be eligible for those jobs. As a result, safety should improve across the province as more firms become certified. That's exactly what IHSA hoped for when it brought COR™ to Ontario.

If COR™ has the same success in Ontario as in other provinces, health and safety standards will be raised throughout the province. That means more workers will return home to their families at the end of the day, and ultimately that's what this is all about.

Protecting the health and safety of all workers at all times is the right thing to do. A health and safety management system like COR™ is a way of preventing injuries and illnesses in the workplace. Going through the COR™ audit process is also a great way to learn more about your organization's existing programs and policies.

Not only is IHSA administering the program in the province, but it too is working to achieve COR™ certification as a learning experience in order to improve its own internal systems.

In this issue of *IHSA.ca Magazine* we hope to show you why IHSA has made the COR™ program its first choice for building a stronger health and safety system in Ontario. In the following articles, we will be talking both to companies that are working towards COR™ certification and to our own IHSA staff members who are directly involved in COR™ to find out what the big questions are about the program and to offer what help we can.

Although signing up with COR™ is a commitment of time, money, resources, and staff, it is also an opportunity to create a safe workplace for employees, to be certified by a nationally recognized program, and to gain acceptance as a quality firm ready to take on any challenge.

You can learn more about COR™ and how to get involved by visiting ihsa.ca/cor

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