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TTC and Infrastructure Ontario to require COR™ certification

As the Certificate of Recognition (COR™) program gains popularity among construction, transportation, and utility firms in Ontario, it is also getting attention from those who buy the services provided by those firms. Earlier this year, both the Toronto Transit Commission (TTC) and Infrastructure Ontario announced that COR™ will be a pre-qualification requirement during the bidding process.

COR™ is a well-established, Canada-wide certification program that develops and assesses a company's health and safety management system. The program looks at 19 elements that promote a safe and healthy workplace. To become certified, a firm must first pass an internal audit of its health and safety policy and program, and must then pass an external, third-party audit.

While working towards COR™ certification for its own operations, the TTC has decided to require COR™ as a safety standard from firms bidding on capital construction projects. This policy is expected to come into effect on July 1, 2014, for contracts estimated at more than \$25 million. The next target will be January 1, 2015, for construction contracts valued at over \$5 million, with full implementation of the COR™ requirement for all construction contracts regardless of value by January 1, 2016.

Similarly, Infrastructure Ontario has adopted COR™ as a pre-qualification requirement for bidders for its

major projects program. Over the past few months, Infrastructure Ontario has been working with IHSA to sort out the details of this initiative. Steve Dyck, Vice President of Communications and Stakeholder Relations at Infrastructure Ontario, says it expects to start requiring COR™ certification sometime this fall.

During the hiring process, it's not surprising that some organizations are using COR™ to help them decide which firms take health and safety seriously. When a company is COR™ certified, its commitment to health and safety is immediately demonstrated to prospective clients. COR™ certification proves that a company has an effective health and safety management system. It provides an objective way of assessing a firm's qualifications when it comes to safety.

The fact that large organizations such as the TTC and Infrastructure Ontario 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 envisioned when it brought COR™ to Ontario.

Keep your company competitive by becoming COR™ certified. Visit ihsa.ca/cor to find out how to get started.