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:

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

As more buyers require COR™, more firms are likely to pursue certification.