

Certificate of Recognition (COR™) Pre-Qualification Bid Requirements

The number of firms registered in the COR™ program clearly demonstrates the strong support it has from the construction, transportation, and electrical utilities industries. Now, more buyers of construction are also publicly supporting COR™ by requiring it during their pre-qualification bid processes. They recognize COR™ as a reliable indicator of a company's health and safety performance and see it as the best way to protect workers on the job.

Below is a summary of some organizations that have announced COR™ as a requirement for bidding on large infrastructure projects. The information outlined below is effective as of November 2016. Based on current discussions with multiple buyers of construction across Ontario, we expect this list to grow significantly over the next 12 to 24 months. We'll update this list regularly, so please check back.

- Toronto Transit Commission
- City of Toronto
- Greater Toronto Airport Authority
- Metrolinx
- Infrastructure Ontario

Toronto Transit Commission (TTC)

The TTC began requiring COR™ on July 1, 2014 on projects that were more than \$25M. Since then, the TTC has continued to implement the COR™ requirement with a phased approach to ensure that the number of certified contractors is sufficient to allow for competitive bidding.

The revised target implementation dates for mandatory COR™ for TTC construction contracts are as follows:

- July 1, 2016 for contracts estimated at greater than \$5M - Contractors must be COR™ registered.
- January 1, 2017 for contracts estimated at greater than \$5M - Contractors must be COR™ certified.
- January 1, 2018 for all contracts, irrespective of value - Contractors must be COR™ certified.

Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA)

To ensure that all work is performed in accordance with safety requirements, applicable legislation, and good industry practices, the GTAA will require all contractors working on GTAA projects to be COR™ certified by **January 2017**. However, if you have registered your company in the COR™ program by January 2017 and can demonstrate that you are actively pursuing certification, the GTAA will accept that as an alternative to full certification.

To show that your company is actively working towards COR™ certification, the GTAA will expect companies to provide evidence of consistent progression through the process (e.g., dates of completed training, audit preparation, dates of internal audits, etc.)

City of Toronto

As part of the City of Toronto's ongoing commitment to health and safety, it has endorsed and adopted the COR™ program as part of its construction contract management and construction tendering processes. The City has initiated a multi-staged implementation strategy for COR™, based upon construction contract value. This approach was developed after consultations with other organizations and jurisdictions, consideration of the broad range of contractors who would be impacted by a City-wide roll out, and the need to ensure competitive bids on City tenders. A multi-phased roll-out will provide sufficient time for all contractors to incorporate the needs of the COR™ program into their business plans and integrate the necessary elements into their existing health and safety programs.

The roll out strategy will be as follows:

- January 2017 for contracts greater than \$25M
- January 2018 for contracts from \$10M to \$25M
- January 2019 for contracts less than \$10 and for consultants (architectural, engineering)*

*It is intended that this will be selectively applied to consultants, based upon complexity and risk factors as determined by the City.

In the near term, while working on City of Toronto construction projects, sub-contractors (trades) to contractors will not be expected to hold COR™ certification, but they will be expected to meet or exceed the elements of COR™ or adhere to the certified general contractor's health and safety program.

The City will retain the authority to accept or reject a contractor's submission of an alternate, equivalent certified health and safety program to COR™ provided that it meets the tenets of COR™ certification.

Metrolinx

Metrolinx had decided to implement the Certificate of Recognition (COR™) safety program for its construction projects. All vendors bidding on Metrolinx construction projects as general contractors will need to meet the following conditions by the following dates:

- 1) **On or after October 1, 2016**—COR™ certified status with IHSA as of the date of closing for any construction procurements with an estimated value of \$10 million or more.
- 2) **On or after October 1, 2016**—COR™ registered status with IHSA as of the date of closing for any construction procurements with an estimated value under \$10 million.

- 3) **On or after January 1, 2017**—COR™ certified status with IHSA as of the date of closing for any construction procurements with an estimated value of \$5 million or more.
- 4) **On or after January 1, 2018**—COR™ certified status with IHSA as of the date of closing for any construction procurements regardless of estimated project value.

Vendors who are unable to achieve the applicable COR™ status as per the timelines noted above risk having their submissions deemed non-compliant and disqualified from the procurement process.

Infrastructure Ontario

Starting in September 2016, all construction prime team members in Infrastructure Ontario's Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) Request for Qualification (RFQ) process must show COR™ certification. The RFQ process allows Infrastructure Ontario to identify project teams that have the required construction capability, experience, and financial capacity (and in some cases design and maintenance experience) to undertake a large, complex project. COR™ certification has been recognized as an important factor for this process.

Starting in Spring 2017, Infrastructure Ontario Real Estate projects over \$10 million (Direct Delivery) will require participating companies to have registered in the COR™ program and begun the process towards successful certification.

Beginning in Spring 2018, it will be a mandatory requirement in the Direct Delivery RFPs for companies to demonstrate COR™ certification.