

## City of Toronto to Make COR™ Certification Mandatory

[MISSISSAUGA]—The Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) is pleased to see the Certificate of Recognition program reach yet another milestone in Ontario. The City of Toronto has announced it will be rolling out a plan to require contractors to prequalify by achieving COR™ certification.

According to the City of Toronto, the plan will apply to larger projects valued greater than \$25 million as of January 2017, projects greater than \$10 million as of 2018, and projects less than \$10 million as of 2019.

This requirement means that hundreds of contractors would have to achieve and maintain their COR™ certification in order to qualify to bid on these types of large projects. COR™ certification allows contractors to demonstrate to buyers of construction that their health and safety management system has been developed, implemented, and evaluated on an annual basis through comprehensive internal and external audits. This way, they can be more confident in the contractor's health and safety performance.

“We are pleased to see yet another large buyer of construction lead Ontario’s contractors toward a common practice of identifying, assessing, and controlling risks to workers in all workplaces through the Certificate of Recognition program,” says IHSA Acting CEO Enzo Garritano.

“This is another demonstration of the support COR™ is now getting in Ontario and how seriously organizations are taking their commitment to health and safety.”

Firms that are registered in the COR™ program may qualify ahead of others for certain jobs. Currently, there are more than 100 firms that have achieved their Certificate of Recognition. With large buyers of construction such as the City of Toronto, the Greater Toronto Airport Authority (GTAA), Metrolinx, Infrastructure Ontario, and the Toronto Transit Commission now requesting COR™, more firms will need this certification to bid on jobs.

The City of Toronto has issued the following statement:

We are pleased to announce that the Certificate of Recognition Program (COR™) has been officially adopted and endorsed by the City of Toronto.

The City of Toronto has been reviewing and considering COR™ as a potential part of our construction contract management and construction tendering process for some time now. The City completed consultations with Divisions across the City of Toronto responsible for construction projects; other municipalities, various organizations, and IHSA about the merits of COR™ in reaffirming and demonstrating the City's commitment to safety and the provision of safe working environments for contractors, employees and residents.

The City of Toronto believes that it is a smart and responsible position to take a multi staged approach. We understand that achieving COR™ is an in-depth process and that a high-level of commitment is required by companies who undertake this initiative. Developing a multi-staged approach incorporating both time and dollar values will ensure that the City receives competitive and balanced bids for future projects. We recognized that many of the larger companies are either COR™ certified or well on their way to certification; hence the earlier phase-in for large contracts.

The City further believes that introducing COR™ as a new component in the City's construction procurement process and contractor management program will have a positive and significant impact on the safe delivery of construction activities for both the City and the contractors retained to deliver capital projects.

We would encourage companies interested in obtaining their COR™ certification to start the process of registration now. By contacting IHSA, they can gain more information around the best plan and approach to achieving certification in a timely manner.

### **About IHSA**

IHSA is a leader in health and safety education. Through skills-based training, auditing, and evaluation, we provide safety solutions to those who perform high-risk activities like working at heights, working on energized high-voltage power systems, driving motor vehicles, transporting dangerous goods, working on suspended access equipment, and utility line clearing.

As part of Ontario's health and safety system, we are recognized by the Ministry of Labour, the Ministry of Transportation, the Ministry of Training, Colleges and Universities, and the Workplace Safety and Insurance Board as designated trainers and consultants. So, you can be sure the training you get from IHSA meets regulatory requirements and compliance standards.

You are automatically a member of IHSA if you pay premiums to the WSIB in one of the 28 rate groups in the industries that we serve:

- construction
- electrical & utilities
- transportation
- aggregates
- natural gas
- ready-mix concrete

To learn more, visit [ihsa.ca](https://www.ihsa.ca)