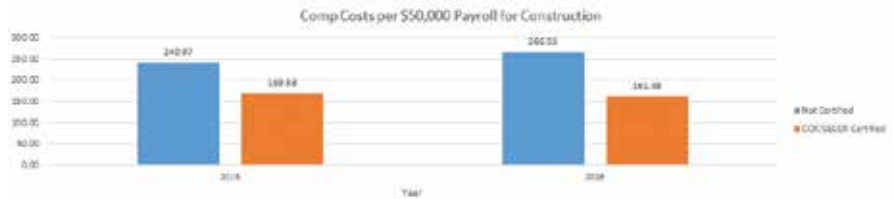


BUILDING SAFETY LEADERSHIP



By Collin Pullar, CEO, Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association

As more procurers of construction services recognize the value of safety within projects, we are beginning to see a growing trend from having safety as a “nice to have” to a “must-have” element when assessing potential contractors. Procurers, while attempting to build safety standards as non-negotiable element in their total value assessments, are looking for reliable and consistent ways to do this. Structured Safety Management Systems (SMS) that include externally audited practices give procurers greater confidence that employers have in place the tools and mechanisms to meet or exceed legal requirements as per Occupational Health and Safety Acts and Regulations.



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At the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA), we have seen this trend first-hand. The SCSA administers the Certificate of Recognition (COR®) in safety program. COR® is the national standard for safety in construction, as well as other industries in Canada. It involves a company-level system of training, education, safety manual development, and documentation. It also requires

auditing as evidence that the business has the capability to meet the requirements of OHS legislation. It is not the pinnacle of safety, but rather a significant corporate step for any business wanting to get the best safety management and performance they can. At one time, COR® was perhaps considered nice, but not necessarily crucial, to have by procurement specialists. However, as COR®



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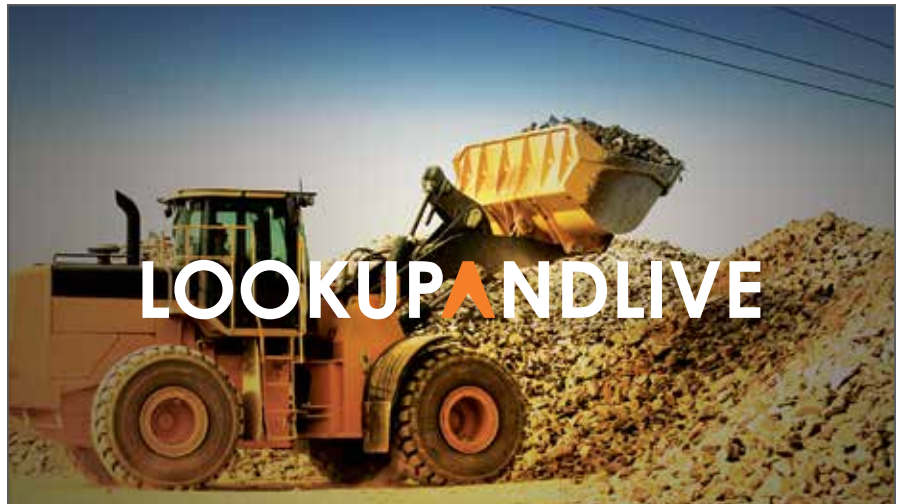


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certification has shown substantial results, such as lower injury costs and incident frequency, the value is being recognized more and more. As a result, COR® and its related program courses have moved from being nice to have, to prefer to have, to a standard expectation across the entire construction industry.

This fall, the Ministry of Central Services announced that, effective April 1, 2019, all construction projects with an estimated value of \$1 million or greater will have COR® as a mandatory element for all bidders. More municipal bodies, government, Crown and other provincial agencies are engaging your SCSA to see how they can incorporate or solidify COR® as a base standard in their procurement activities. For example, last year, the City of Saskatoon made changes to the contractor eligibility criteria bylaw for Saskatoon Lands Corporation, which now require home builders to complete mandatory builder training and safety certification in order to qualify for purchasing city-owned lots. At a minimum, SCSA's Leadership in Safety Excellence course completion is a mandatory requirement for the purchase of lots, and they will be moving toward COR® certification as a requirement over the next few years.

There is no denying that well-managed businesses with properly executed safety management systems can have an advantage in this evolving environment. It is critically important to understand that procurement managers who evaluate bidders have a higher degree of confidence in businesses that take deliberate and planned steps toward safety. It's a sign of commitment and professionalism that indicates their projects will be completed to a high standard with minimal risk of injury or undo delays due to workplace accidents. 🏗️



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