

CONSTRUCTING SAFETY LEADERSHIP: COR® AND SECOR® CERTIFICATION

BY COLLIN PULLAR, PRESIDENT OF THE SASKATCHEWAN CONSTRUCTION SAFETY ASSOCIATION



What is COR®, what is SECOR® and what is the difference between them?

The Certificate of Recognition (COR®) program is an occupational health and safety program designation verifying that a company has a fully-implemented health and safety program that meets national standards. It is nationally trademarked and is endorsed by participating members of the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations, including the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA). COR® is the national standard in safety recognition and is now frequently required as a pre-qualification and/or condition of contract by public and private buyers of construction across Canada.

The Small Employer Certificate of Recognition (SECOR®) program is a process whereby a company with (9) or less employees (including sub-contractors) develops and maintains an effective health and safety management system.

What is the ultimate goal of the program?

To provide companies, small and large, with the knowledge and tools to develop effective health and safety management systems to identify weaknesses that can lead to costly workplace injuries and incidents.

What are the main benefits of being certified?

- Injury prevention and cost savings: COR® and SECOR® certified companies can experience reduced financial costs associated with injuries and incidents. A good safety record will enhance an organization's reputation in the industry.
- Pre-bid qualification: COR® and SECOR® certification is a pre-bid qualification requirement for many buyers of construction in Saskatchewan.
- Due diligence: the documentation and general safety awareness produced by the COR® and SECOR® process may also provide evidence of due diligence if a company is charged with a OHS offence. Through the process of training, program development, and implementation, companies build a more effective organization.

Why should a buyer of construction services look for a company with COR® or SECOR® certification?

- Companies that are carefully methodical in their management of safety are more likely to be carefully methodical about other aspects of their business management - marketing, financial management, operations, human resources, communications, ethical awareness, environmental, risk management and quality.
- Safety and methodical safety management can be a powerful asset to a company – a contributor to its performance and a proxy of good management. Many of Saskatchewan's leading businesses have made significant advances in safety as a principal risk-mitigation tool to control avoidable losses in regard to production (down-time), environmental impact, human (injuries and fatalities), financial, and company reputation.
- Firms can face hefty fines, criminal charges, and jail time for failing to fulfill their legislative obligation to ensure the safety of their workers



The SCSA is an industry-funded, membership-based, non-profit organization that provides cost-effective, accessible safety training and advice to employers and employees in the construction industry throughout the province to reduce the human and financial losses associated with injuries. Registered March 20, 1995 the SCSA is, and has been since inception, committed to injury prevention. Serving almost 10,000-member companies, with business offices in both Regina and Saskatoon, the mission of the SCSA is constructing safety leadership in Saskatchewan and the vision is to create the safest construction environment in Canada. For more information visit, www.scsaonline.ca



RNF VENTURES LTD: SAFETY RULES ARE THEIR BEST TOOLS



More than twenty years ago, RNF Ventures Ltd. saw the value in becoming Certificate of Recognition (COR®) Certified. The company decided to pursue the certification in 1996, and became certified in February 1997. RNF wanted to reduce work-related injuries and improve their WCB rating, and a program was needed to achieve these goals. They felt they owed it to their employees to make a genuine commitment to safety, and wanted to find a system that would put them on the leading edge. They determined that it was COR® that would take them there.

Everyone at RNF Ventures plays a part in safety. Their shareholders, senior management, project managers, site supervisors and onsite employees all participate in the COR® program. The program covers many safety issues, including developing safe work practices, conducting onsite hazard assessments and having consistent toolbox meetings. And, the staff participation is the key to making the program work, and work well. Today, the COR® program is second nature to everyone in the company.

COR® has helped the company track trends which have identified areas that may need attention within the program. RNF has also found the audits very helpful to see how they are doing, and where they can make improvements. The benefits of COR® have been easy to find since implementation two decades ago. Expectations around safety have increased, and there is no longer a need to enforce safety on job sites. Safe working is the norm within the team and around sites.

The commitment to safety plays a vital part of RNF Ventures' success. Keith Bird, RNF Ventures' Internal Operations Manager has much to say about COR® and the vital role it plays in the organization. "We know that the Saskatchewan Construction Safety Association (SCSA) has worked hard to make safety an important part of the criteria for awarding government tenders," says Bird. "We were awarded a job from the Government of Saskatchewan's Central Services, despite being the 3rd lowest bid. When Central Services applied their Best Value Procurement Criteria which awards points for COR®, we got the job over the two non-COR® companies with lower bids." Bird, and RNF Ventures, are pleased to see that buyers of construction services recognize the value of safety and certifications like COR®. "Hats off to the SCSA for the work they have done to make safety a priority," says Bird.

RNF Ventures Ltd.
811 Central Avenue
Prince Albert
rnfventures.com
(306) 763-3700