More than 10,000 Canadian construction companies are now COR® certified

Nobody's sure who was the 10,000th Canadian construction company to join the ranks of active Certificate of Recognition (COR®)-certified firms. But the *Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations (CFCSA)* and its members all agree that this number, achieved some time in 2023, represents a significant milestone in occupational health and safety.

The COR® program, which was devised by the Canadian construction industry, is promoted and regulated by the CFCSA and has long been recognized as a national standard for an occupational safety and health management system.

COR® certification involves rigorous evaluations of an organization's health and safety management system, encompassing hazard identification, risk assessment, and effective control measures to ensure that companies are equipped to handle the unique challenges of the construction industry.

"This is a successful pan-Canadian product that has been empirically proven to improve safety outcomes," says Mike McKenna, Executive Director of the BC Construction Safety Alliance (BCCSA). "COR® is a significant tool that supports the missions of construction safety associations across the country who exist for only one purpose — to decrease worker injury rates."

Research conducted by the UBC School of Population and Health on behalf of the BCCSA underpins the CFCSA's commitment to COR® certification. *Key findings* indicate that COR®-certified firms experience an average of 18% lower injury rates compared to firms that are not certified. The findings highlight the substantial contribution of COR® certification to the overall well-being of construction industry workers.

"This milestone underscores the remarkable progress that the Canadian construction industry has made in embracing safety as a core value," says CFCSA Chair Roy Silliker. "It emphasizes the determination of firms to prioritize the well-being of their workforce as workplaces across the country become safer, and the lives and health of workers are significantly improved."

Just as important as the number of active COR®-certified companies is the growing reach of the program.

"BC construction companies continue to embrace COR® and we're seeing a broadening interest in the program among our members," says Vernita Hsu, Director, COR® & Injury Management with the BCCSA. "We're making continued progress on promoting the program to smaller employers, who previously may not have been aware of the impact COR® certification can make on improving their company safety performance."

BC construction companies interested in exploring the benefits of COR® certification can find more information *here*.