



COR™ certification a symbol of safety, badge of honour



Maple Leaf Construction Photo



For Jared Griffiths, the COR™ logo is more a symbol that identifies a safe and healthy workplace. It is also a badge of honour.

Jared is the safety and health coordinator for Maple Leaf Construction, a WORKSAFELY COR™ certified company, meaning the company has implemented a comprehensive safety and health program that meets nationally recognized standards set by members of the Canadian Federation of Construction Safety Associations, including the Manitoba Heavy Construction Association (MHCA).

"We are proud to showcase the COR™ banner," Griffiths says. "It means something to us and to the heavy construction industry. It is proof we are dedicated to the safety of our people and the public."

The company and Griffiths' commitment to providing an effective safety and health management program for employees hasn't gone unnoticed. Griffiths is the recipient of the MHCA WORKSAFELY™ 2021 Safety Leader Award.

Safety is the most important part of the work the industry does, and improving worksite safety is a daily process for all heavy construction companies. The Safety Leader Award recognizes individuals who demonstrate outstanding achievement and commitment to the pursuit of safety in the heavy construction industry.

Griffiths' determination in pursuing knowledge, increasing awareness of hazards and the implementation of proper controls has created a strong safety culture within Maple Leaf Construction. His dedication to safety and his willingness to contribute has made Griffiths a key resource and asset to the heavy construction industry.

Griffiths says Maple Leaf Construction's safety efforts have been shaped largely by working with MHCA's WORKSAFELY™ program, as part of COR™.

One of the primary benefits of being COR™ certified, he says, is that it allows Maple Leaf Construction to remain competitive

in an increasingly competitive marketplace.

"Our customers expect it because they want proof of a safety program."

COR™ certification is valid for a three-year period. To remain certified, a company must conduct an annual internal audit. It must also take part in an independent audit every three years and demonstrate specific training elements have been maintained during that time.

Griffiths says Maple Leaf Construction's safety and health team sees the auditing process as an opportunity rather than a problem.

"The audit process is what we use as a quality control process. It is a process that allows us to identify opportunities to improve."

Another benefit of being part of WORKSAFELY's COR™ program is that it provides companies with access to a wealth of valuable resources. For example, being a part of the WORKSAFELY COR™ program allows Maple Leaf Construction to access training such as traffic control coordinator.

"What participation in this program is intended to do is provide them with an industry-accepted, minimum approach to maintaining and promoting safety in their workplaces," says Don Hurst, director of WORKSAFELY™ education and training for the MHCA. "They have an approach that is proven, if demonstrated and operated successfully, to protect people in the workplace — to minimize injuries and reduce costs."

Hurst explains that WORKSAFELY™ training — like the accreditations it makes possible — is an ongoing, collaborative process, and those who sign on are taking an important first step towards protecting their organizations' greatest assets.

"It's a statement that they're committed," says Hurst. "It's not just as simple as taking out a membership and all of a sudden you're certified. It takes the training of your workforce, the implementation of effective safe practices, and it takes work."

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