

Notice to Construction Contractors & Consultants

PHASE 4 of OHSMS Implementation

July 2023

Effective September 1, 2023, the City will enter the 4th phase of the OHSMS implementation process.

All Contractors/Consultants must be **certified** with an approved OHSMS to be awarded projects of value greater than \$500,000 with the City.

As part of an ongoing commitment to health and safety, the City of Vaughan is introducing an Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) requirement as part of its construction procurement and contract management processes.

The City's OHSMS requirement will be a phased implementation based upon construction contract value (described below). This phased-in approach will provide contractors with sufficient time to include any necessary elements into their existing health and safety plans. The City of Vaughan will continue to work in collaboration with the construction industry on the implementation of this new requirement.

What is an OHSMS?

An OHSMS is a framework put in place by employers to manage risks, establish controls, and minimize the incidence of injury and illness to their workers. This is accomplished through identifying, assessing, and controlling risks associated with construction work.

Why is the City of Vaughan introducing the requirement for an OHSMS?

Introducing an OHSMS, validated by an external third party, will result in continued attention to occupational health and safety best practices to reduce the potential for injuries, illnesses and fatalities.

What is going to change?

The Contractor, when requested, will be required to provide the City of Vaughan with a copy of its health and safety policy and program and is required to respond promptly to requests from the City for confirmation that its methods and procedures for carrying out the work comply with the OHSMA and associated regulations.

A Contractor is already responsible for construction safety and for compliance with the rules, regulations and practices required by the Occupational Health and Safety Act (OHSA).

With the added requirement of an OHSMS, as part of the procurement process and before awarding a contract, a Contractor will be required to provide proof to the City that it has a valid OHSMS that has been certified and independently audited by a third party on programs, procedures and policies.

Which OHSMS will the City accept?

The City will currently accept any one of the following¹:

- COR™;
- ISO 45001:2018 (covering construction activities of the organization);
- CSA Z45001:19, and
- OHSAS 18001:2007.

When will the new requirement take effect?

Effective September 1, 2023, the City will enter the 4th phase of the OHSMS implementation process.

All Contractors/Consultants must be certified with an approved OHSMS to be awarded projects of value greater than \$500,000 with the City.

Is there any requirement of registration or enrolment for one of the OHSMS program for bidding on construction contracts?

While the timelines to achieve certifications are outlined above, the City's expectation effective March 30, 2020 is to receive proof of registration with one of the recognized programs in order to award construction contracts.

Will the new requirements apply to subcontractors?

While initially subcontractors (trades) to Contractors will not be expected to hold a certified OHSMS, they will be expected to adhere to the general Contractor's health and safety program. Through this process, the objective is to ensure safe work sites and promote safe work practices for everyone. The date on which subcontractors will be required to have a certified OHSMS (and subcontract value threshold) is still under review by City, in consultation with the industry experts.

What will be done to support contractors through this implementation?

The City has and will continue to work in collaboration with the construction industry on the implementation of this new requirement. This will include holding joint awareness and information sessions in the upcoming years as contractors work towards achieving their certification, and additional information is gained on health and safety requirements from the Province of Ontario.

For more information and feedback, contractors are encouraged to contact the City's

¹ This list is subject to change from time to time.



The Corporation of the City of Vaughan
Procurement Services Dept.
2141 Major Mackenzie Dr., Level 100
Vaughan, ON L6A1T1

Procurement Services department at 905-832-8555.

Notice to contractors: Bidding on City of Vaughan Construction Bids

Certificate of Recognition (COR™) requirement effective March 1, 2020

Under the City of Vaughan Council's endorsement in December 2019, and consistent with the City's COR™ roll-out strategy found on the City's website and in all tender documents, commencing March 2020, successful bidders on all City construction contracts must possess, at the minimum, registration and secure and maintain a valid COR™ or an Equivalent Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) Certification for the duration of the contract by effective dates as per various contract thresholds. The successful bidder shall be required to provide a copy of a valid COR™ or Equivalent OHS Certification to the City as a condition of award by the program implementation date.

"Certificate of Recognition (COR™)" means the nationally recognized occupational health and safety certification granted to qualifying firms by the Infrastructure Health and Safety Association (IHSA) of Ontario or its successor.

"Equivalent OHS Certification" means an occupational health and safety certification issued to qualifying firms by an independent third-party organization and accepted by the City (in the City's sole discretion) as equivalent to the COR™.

For more information and feedback, Contractors are encouraged to contact the City's Procurement Services department at 905-832-8555.