

July 14, 2016

Health and Safety is a Priority at Infrastructure Ontario

Infrastructure Ontario (IO) values the well-being of its employees, clients, industry partners and the general public. That is why health and safety is a priority on all of its job sites and offices across Ontario.

IO is taking steps to enhance performance requirements on all of our major infrastructure projects (Alternative Finance and Procurement) and traditionally delivered real estate projects (Direct Delivery). IO is also taking steps to ensure strong safety standards on the significant number of IO's medium-sized real estate projects and small-works construction projects in the government's real estate portfolio that are managed by outsourced service providers.

Health & Safety on Alternative Financing and Procurement (AFP) Projects

Major Projects over \$100 million usually use the AFP model, although complex projects having a lower value can also be delivered using this approach to modern project delivery. There are a number of key elements of AFP projects related to health and safety.

Certificate of Recognition (COR): The COR occupational health and safety accreditation program is being implemented for all AFP projects in Ontario. Effective September 1, 2016, COR is a mandatory requirement for general contractors/constructors participating in the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. As part of the evaluation process for the RFQ, ProjectCos are now required to submit a Certificate of Recognition (COR) to supplement other key industry safety documents such as Workplace Injury Summary Reports (WSIB-WISR) and records of their performance related to management of safety insurance claims (CAD7). At the end of the Request for Proposal (RFP), IO requests a refresh of these documents to ensure that all information is current.

Independent Third-Party Inspections: Mandatory independent safety inspections on project sites have been implemented on all AFP projects. Reports are tabled at regular meetings with contractor, IO and building owner representatives for each project (the Works Committee) as an obligation in the Project Agreement.

Demolition Standards: IO has formally adopted the Professional Engineers of Ontario "PEO Guidelines for the Demolition of Buildings and Other Structures" to supplement the Ontario Building Code (OBC) for AFP and Real Estate Direct Delivery projects. Additionally, a full-time, on-site Professional Engineer will provide supervision for certain demolition activities. Additional resources, specific to IO, will be implemented where there is significant risk to public safety involving complex structures.

Health & Safety for Real Estate Services

Direct Delivery Projects

Direct Delivery real estate projects are traditionally delivered by IO and the construction cost ranges between \$10 million and \$50 million. Health and safety is an important part of successful project delivery.

COR: IO has expanded the use of COR certification to Direct Delivery projects with a construction cost over \$10 million. This is being phased in with the intention of ensuring there is adequate time for firms bidding on Direct Delivery projects to begin and complete the application process for COR. Beginning in spring 2017, companies will be required to have applied for COR certification to be eligible to bid on IO's Direct Delivery projects. As of spring 2018, COR will become a requirement for these RFPs.

Independent Third-Party Inspections: Periodic site safety inspections on real estate Direct Delivery projects were implemented in April 2015 for all newly identified projects exceeding the \$10-million threshold for construction costs.

Real Estate - Property and Project Management

IO engages Project Management Service Providers (PMSPs) and a Property and Land Management Service Provider (PLMSP) in order to manage the government's real estate portfolio. The PMSPs manage projects in the \$100,000 to \$10 million range, while the PLMSP handles day-to-day facilities management as well as a small works team to perform minor upgrade and renovation projects within the portfolio. Responsibilities for these service providers are documented in the IO Master Service Agreements (MSAs) with each provider.

IO Oversight: IO provides due diligence in a number of ways to ensure our PMSPs and PLMSP maintain a focus on health and safety. Accountability for performance on health and safety includes recurring review meetings and checkpoints with service providers, annual audits of select properties, review of compliance wording in procurement documents and discussion around employee training schedules.

Compliance Assurance Program: To further ensure the PLMSP performs its responsibilities diligently across the IO-managed portfolio, we created the Compliance Assurance Program. It mandates quarterly reporting on health and safety requirements, programs and regulatory compliance in buildings.

Building, Energy and Regulatory Expertise: IO is focused on improvement and innovation in energy management, regulatory compliance, emergency management and security. Working alongside our service providers, IO pursues industry best practices in order to provide healthy, safe and productive workplaces across the government portfolio. This contributes to the health and safety of the work environment for people using government facilities.

Health & Safety for IO Employees

IO is dedicated to ensuring the health and safety of its employees in everything we do, and we take an approach that involves continuous improvement, information sharing and training.

On Project Sites

IO has put into practice health and safety measures to ensure the safety of its employees when on construction sites.

Project site visit forms: This form must be completed prior to accessing a project site. This form is meant to help managers and employees understand and highlight health and safety implications before visiting a project site.

Mandatory personal protective equipment: It is recognized when visiting construction sites employees may be exposed to hazardous environments and therefore personal protective equipment is available for all employees visiting a project site.

Safety training on site by ProjectCo with sign in and sign out procedures in place: IO employees visiting a site are to adhere to the safety procedures and policies established by the site's contractor as well as sign in at the site as per the site's operative policies and procedures and not enter the site without obtaining authorization from the site contractor. Additionally, IO has begun to implement internal training for employees to enable them to better identify hazards on a project site.

In the Workplace

IO promotes a safe and healthy work environment for its employees and has developed a Health and Safety Program Framework to guide internal efforts on compliance and awareness. Policy updates are planned for 2016-17 to ensure IO is current around items like Violence and Harassment and Workplace Hazardous Materials Information System (WHMIS.) Most recently, IO has adopted a practice to have safety conversations at the beginning of workplace meetings.

IO is building on the innovative work in government and business in order to be a partner in improving health and safety in Ontario. While health and safety initiatives minimize business risk, more importantly they demonstrate how IO puts people at the centre of successful delivery of infrastructure and real estate projects.

For more information:

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