



What is a Partnerships in Health and Safety program?

First established in 1989, the Partnerships in Health and Safety (Partnerships) program is a voluntary process where government works in partnership with employers and worker representatives to promote a strong workplace safety culture for Alberta businesses.

- The Partnerships program is based on the premise that when employers and workers build effective health and safety management systems in their own workplaces, the social and financial costs of workplace injury and illness will be reduced.
- The Partnerships program is built on the belief that more can be achieved through a co-operative, collaborative approach than by a regulatory, interventionist approach alone.
- Effective health and safety management systems have been shown to have an impact by reducing workplace injury and illness, helping eliminate their social and financial effects, and strengthening the business success of participating employers.
- The Partnerships program adopts a business-like approach to health and safety issues; empowering corporate leaders in the province to take a pro-active role in creating a climate where employers and workers become partners in ensuring a healthier and safer work culture, ultimately leading to greater industry self-reliance and less government intervention.
- Alberta Employment, Immigration and Industry, Workplace Partnerships (AEII) enters into partnership with organizations that commit to taking a pro-active, leadership role in workplace health and safety. With AEII everyone plays a part: industry associations, safety associations, large corporations, educational institutes, business groups, labour organizations, and others all take on a leadership role to improve health and safety at Alberta workplaces.

What is the “mission” and “vision” of the Partnerships program?

The mission of the Partnerships program is:

“to work with stakeholders to encourage employers and workers to build effective health and safety management systems.”

The vision of the Partnerships program is:

“a culture where effective health and safety is an integral part of every workplace.”

What is a health and safety management system?

A health and safety management system is a process put in place by an employer to minimize the incidence of injury and illness to workers involved in the operations carried out by the employer. This is accomplished through identifying and assessing workplace hazards, then controlling risks and potential risks to workers in all workplace operations. The scope and complexity of a health and safety management system will vary according to the type of workplace and the nature of operations carried out.

To be effective, the following components are considered essential and form the basis of the health and safety management system:

- Clearly stated employer policy and management commitment.
- Identification and analysis of health and safety hazards at the workplace.
- Control measures to eliminate or reduce the risks to workers from identified hazards.
- Worker competency and training.
- Inspection program.
- Incident reporting and investigation.
- Emergency response planning.
- Program administration.

How is a health and safety management system evaluated?

A comprehensive review of an employer’s health and safety management system is carried out through an audit. AEI recognizes the efforts of an employer who meets Partnerships standards for its health and safety management system by issuing a Certificate of Recognition (COR).

To qualify for a COR, an audit must be carried out by a certified auditor. The certified auditor must use an audit instrument that is approved for the Partnerships program and is acceptable to a Certifying Partner. The audit will typically cover the basic elements of a health and safety management system (listed in the previous question) and will include personnel interviews, documentation review and workplace observation by the certified auditor.

Where can I access training to help me achieve a COR?

Most Certifying Partners offer advice and training in how to develop, implement and audit a health and safety management system to the standard required to achieve a COR.

Health and safety consultants also offer a variety of services to an employer wishing to achieve a COR. An employer should check with their Certifying Partner to ensure that the Certifying Partner will in turn recognize any services provided by a consultant.

What is a Certifying Partner?

A Certifying Partner is an organization that has committed to working in partnership with AEI towards improving health and safety for Alberta workers. Certifying Partners provide training, review audits and issue CORs to employers whose audits meet quality assurance standards.

A list of Certifying Partners appears below or visit our website at: www.whs.gov.ab.ca/partners/certpartners.htm.

Who are the Certifying Partners?

Alberta Association for Safety Partnerships

(403) 223-9008 Taber
1-866-223-9008

Alberta Construction Safety Association

(780) 453-3311 Edmonton
(403) 291-3710 Calgary

Alberta Food Processors Association

(403) 201-3657 Calgary
(ext 28)

Alberta Forest Products Association

(780) 452-2841 Edmonton

Alberta Hotel Safety Association

(780) 436-6112 Edmonton

Continuing Care Safety Association

(780) 433-5330 Edmonton

Alberta Motor Transport Association

(403) 243-4161 Calgary
1-800-267-1003

Alberta Municipal Health & Safety Association

(780) 417-3900 Nisku
1-800-267-9764

Alberta Personnel Administration Office

(780) 408-8438 Edmonton

Alberta Safety Council

(780) 462-7300 Edmonton
1-800-301-6407

Manufacturers’ Health and Safety Association

(780) 428-1006 Edmonton
(403) 279-5555 Calgary

Enform

(403) 250-0888 Calgary
1-800-667-5557

Textile Rental Industry Association

(780) 472-6513 Edmonton

Western Wood Truss Association of Alberta

(403) 203-0982 Calgary

To obtain the most current information, contact the Workplace Health and Safety Contact Centre (780) 415-8690 (toll free 1-866-415-8690) or visit our website at industry.alberta.ca/whs-partnerships