

Certificate of Recognition (COR) Program Update for 2021

Alberta Labour and Immigration, Certifying Partners (CPs) and the WCB continue to ensure Alberta's COR program remains responsive in the face of the global COVID-19 pandemic. The following measures will be implemented for 2021 to help Alberta employers maintain their CORs and auditors to maintain their auditor certification status.

- Certification/recertification audits conducted based on documentation-only by external auditors will be eligible for one-year CORs.
- Certification/recertification audits conducted based on documentation and interviews (conducted remotely) by external auditors will be eligible for three-year CORs.
- Remote interviews can be conducted using web-based platforms (Teams, Skype, WebEx, etc.), by telephone, and/or in some cases questionnaires (as allowed by the COR Standards).
- Maintenance audits conducted based on documentation-only, conducted either by the employer's internal auditor or an external auditor, will be eligible to maintain COR.
- The use of on-site interviews and observations will not be required during the pandemic. However on an individual basis, if the auditor and employer agree that on-site interviews and/or observations can be conducted safely then these may proceed. All applicable public health directives and guidelines must be strictly followed.
- To maintain auditor certification, the requirement will continue to be one completed audit over the three-year auditor certification period. The reduction (from two to one audit) was implemented when the pandemic began.
- Auditor qualification audits must include documentation and interviews (conducted remotely). The use of observations is not required.
- CPs may use their own staff auditors to conduct certification and maintenance audits to assist employers who are struggling financially during the pandemic.
- The WCB has confirmed PIR refund eligibility for the 2021 COR auditing plan.

These measures will be effective from January 1 to December 31, 2021. For additional information, please [contact your CP](#).