



Manufacturing A Culture of Safety

CoR Rebates are Happening!

Ross Machine Shop and **Armour Steel Fabricators** are the first firms to be awarded a CoR rebate by the Safety Association of Saskatchewan Manufacturers (SASM). The rebates are earned only by those firms that have improved their workplace safety management systems (SMS) to a level that is beyond compliance with legislation. In this case, Ross Machine and Armour Steel have workplace management systems that are approaching “best in province”.

SASM audits manufacturing firm’s SMS against one of three levels of standards: Bronze, Silver or Gold. The audit verification methods (documentation, observation and worker interviews) assess the SMS to ensure that it is complete, appropriate to control the workplace hazards, understood by the workforce, and an active part of the workplace’s everyday activities.

Ross Machine Shop and Armour Steel Fabricators passed SASM’s Silver Level audit which places them in a very elite group of manufacturers in this province. Currently, there are fewer than 25 of Saskatchewan’s over 2,000 manufacturing firms that have met the Silver standard.

Passing an audit, even an audit based on a very high standard, is not a guarantee that injuries will not happen. What it does mean is that the employers and workers are actively engaged in concerted efforts to protect the workers from harm. Typically, in the multi-year progression firms may need to achieve the milestone of passing this level of audit, the firms have often already met “Mission Zero” repeatedly.

Much like SGI rewards drivers who have multi-year “clean records”, the Workers Compensation Board rewards those firms that have a lower than the average number of claims or costs. The WCB premium discounts can be as much as 30%. In the manufacturing sector this means a discount of up to \$437/worker per year!

Beginning in 2018, SASM is additionally rewarding those firms that successfully meet or surpass our safety standards. The financial reward from SASM in this case (i.e., Silver level) is 35% of the firm’s annual cost of membership in SASM, or about \$42/worker. This reward from SASM, is therefore not about finances, but much more about a peer-to-peer and association-to-member acknowledgement that these firms are reaching into the “extraordinary” category.

The Mission Zero advertisements ask “What if Zero was a good thing?” but they could also ask “What if below average was a good thing?” In the case of workplace injuries, Ross Machine Shop and Armour Steel Fabricators have both proven that “zero” and “below average” are very positive when it comes to injuries in the workplace!

Register for classroom training through our web site: www.sasm.ca