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Raising the bar on safety for small contractors

It wasn't an easy process but it was an easy decision for Roy Timms, President of Timbro Design/Build Contractors, to join the Certificate of Recognition (COR™) program.

Timbro is a design builder of industrial, commercial/retail, and refrigerated/food processing buildings. The company employs about 40 core staff, but that number can vary depending on the project.

The company is now COR™ certified and proudly displays the COR™ logo on its vehicles and at its projects (see picture on the cover).

"We are committed to safety and we feel it is an essential part of a quality management process," says Timms, who believes that this commitment flows through all of the work the company takes on. The family that started the firm has roots in construction that go back nearly a century.

"It just improves our professionalism. It raises the expectations within our team as well," he says.

Timms says the key to their success was being realistic with their timelines and being able to commit staff to the certification process. That is critical, regardless of

the size of the firm involved, he says. That's his advice to any company that is thinking about signing on to COR™.

Timms says he feels that the size of the company didn't really come into play in terms of the process.

"It's equally challenging for any company. You are changing the way you do business, but you are becoming better and you are committing to health and safety. You have to be focused and committed to doing this."

In the end, while the process was certainly not a cakewalk, the pride that having the COR™ logo on their projects instills in their staff proves that it was well worth it. Achieving certification also shows current and potential customers that the company has raised the bar for their safety program, which in turn is good for business.

"It's added protection for our customers. It shows their due diligence, hiring a firm that is COR™ certified," he says.

Like other companies that have successfully navigated the COR™ certification process, Timbro can now demonstrate that their health and safety management system meets a nationally recognized standard that is tested on a regular basis. That, says Timms, is good for everyone.