



May 21, 2026

To: All contractors delivering City of Ottawa construction contracts
Subject: Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) Update

This letter is being issued to inform the Ottawa construction industry of the City's updated requirements for an Occupational Health and Safety Management System (OHSMS) that will be incorporated into the procurement process.

This letter revises the OHSMS requirements set out in Technical Bulletin ISTB- 2020-01, as modified by IWSTRB-2023-01.

Starting October 1, 2026, the City will require contractors to have an Occupational Health and Safety Management System certification for all construction contracts valued over \$2 million.

The City will accept OHSMS accredited by the Chief Prevention Officer under section 7. 6(1) of the Occupational Health and Safety Act, which can be found at <https://www.ontario.ca/page/supporting-ontarios-safe-employers-program>. As of October 2025, these include:

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- ISO 45001:2018: Occupational health and safety management systems—Requirements with guidance for use
 - CSA Z45001-19: Occupational health and safety management systems—Requirements with guidance for use
 - IHSA COR™ 2020—IHSA Certificate of Recognition 2020-Health and Safety Management System-Standard
 - Responsible Care®—RC14001:2023 - Health, Safety and Environmental Management System
 - Responsible Care®—RCMS:2023 - Health, Safety and Environmental Management System

Proof of certification must either be attached to the Tenderer's electronic bid or provided to the City within 24 hours of the City's request. Should a Tenderer fail to provide proof of certification either with its electronic bid or within 24 hours of the City's request, the Tender will be deemed non-compliant and rejected. During the period of contract, the Contractor shall provide proof of certification, if requested by the City, within the time frame stipulated by the City in such a request.

The City of Ottawa continues working in collaboration with the construction industry on the implementation of the OHSMS requirements.

Thank you,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Carina Duclos', written over a horizontal line.

Carina Duclos, P.Eng.
Director, Infrastructure Services