



# TOPICS

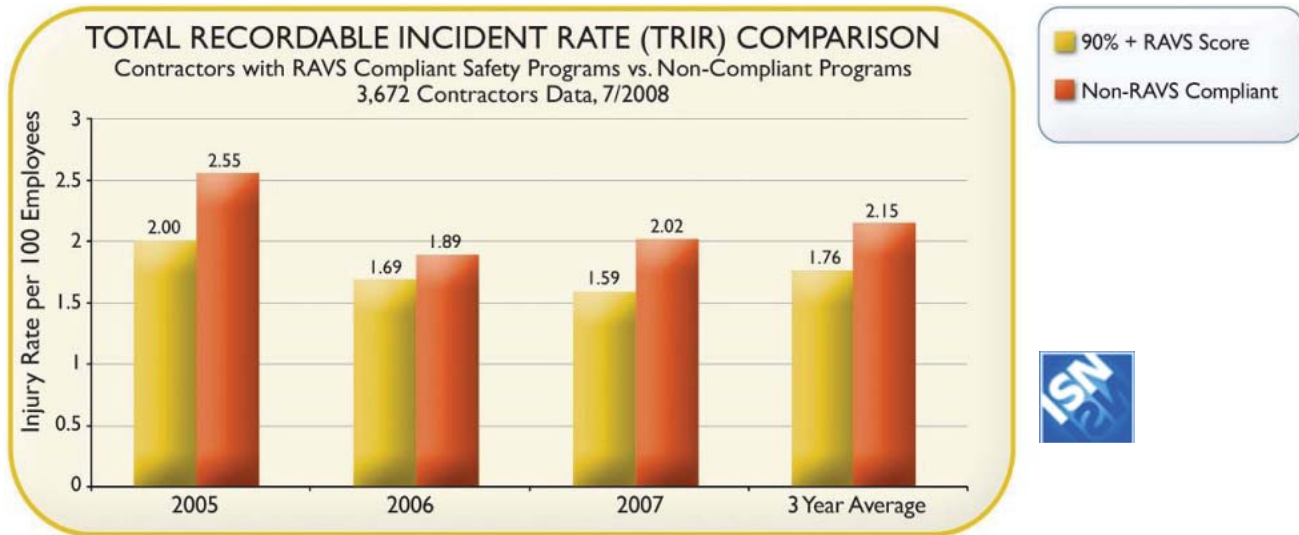
January 2009

## Registration and Certification Programs Prioritize Safety

Safety first! You hear it all the time. Aside from the moral and legal obligations that companies have to provide a safe and healthy work environment, the business case for safety programs is well established. Safe workplaces provide cost savings by reducing insurance premiums, worker compensation claims, and lost productivity. Ensuring the safety of your own employees is one thing, but how do you know whether the safety practices of your consultants and contractors are truly a top priority? Although their safety practices ultimately impact your bottom line, they are out of your direct control.

Land and energy developers can benefit by working with consultants and contractors who have demonstrated that safety is part of their company culture. The challenge, however, lies not only in getting information about a firm's safety record, but also in knowing whether the data are reliable. Many project developers and contractors don't have the time to gather and verify this type of information, even though it can affect project timeline, cost, and risk management. In response to this challenge, national and international safety program monitoring companies have emerged.

Safety program monitoring companies provide third-party validation of consultant and contractor safety programs and performance. They typically operate by offering subscription or membership services to consultants, contractors, and clients. Safety programs, safety records, and other data are reviewed for compliance with federal and state requirements and industry standards. Consultants and contractors gain the competitive advantage of being able to market their safety certification or registration, while developers get access to a database of pre-qualified consultants and contractors.



Contractors with well written safety programs (as determined by Review and Verification Services (RAVS)) show lower incident rates (TRIR) than those without such programs in place. Data courtesy of ISNetworld ([www.isnetworld.com](http://www.isnetworld.com)).

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The services of safety program monitoring companies usually vary according to safety issues and specific industries. Pipeline Testing Consortium, Inc., and the National Compliance Management Service, for example, serve the oil and gas industry by providing consultant and contractor pre-qualification for Department of Transportation (DOT) alcohol and drug testing regulations. [ISNetworld](#) serves the same industry but offers a broader scope of health, safety, environmental, and insurance review processes. The Associated General Contractors of America, a large building, highway, and heavy contractors association, provide safety training and information, though they do not provide member pre-qualification to developers. Other programs are administered by governmental agencies rather than the private sector. Certification with the U.S. DOT Federal Motor Safety program, for instance, requires implementation of certain safety practices related to company vehicles, trailers, and motorized equipment.

Prioritizing safety is a win-win proposition. Workers maintain their health and productivity, while companies protect their reputation and their bottom line. Not every firm, however, has taken the time and resources to implement a rigorous safety program. Land and energy developers stand to improve their own bottom line by asking potential consultants and contractors what safety registrations and certifications they have in place – it's the best way to know if your project team members truly put safety first.



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