CHASE PARTNERING AGREEMENT

Between the

NEW MEXICO ENVIRONMENT DEPARTMENT
OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BUREAU
&
ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS
NEW MEXICO

In May, 2001, the New Mexico Building Branch, Associated General Contractors, and the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department (NM OHSB), mutually agreed to a Construction Health and Safety Excellence (CHASE) Partnership. It was the first CHASE Partnership in the country and the first such partnership between an AGC chapter and a OSH State Plan.

On October 26th 2016, the parties agreed to a fifth renewal of the Partnership for another three-year period.

In essence, CHASE allows certain benefits to be granted to participating contractors by NM OHSB in exchange for commitments by those contractors to follow certain prescribed rules and procedures in their safety programs.

Purpose

- 1. The New Mexico Occupational Health and Safety Bureau (NM OHSB) and Associated General Contractors (AGC), New Mexico, mutually recognize the importance of providing a safe and healthful working environment for New Mexico's construction workforce.
- 2. To advance our mutual goal, we strongly agree on the need to develop a working relationship that creates mutual trust and respect for the respective roles of each organization in the construction process.

Vision

- 1. We remain committed to work as partners to achieve construction workplace safety through implementing the provisions of the Construction Health and Safety Excellence (CHASE) partnering program.
- 2. Implementation of a state level partnership agreement based upon the OHSB Strategic Partnership for Construction (OSPC) Directive 15-07 is expected to result in decreased injuries, illnesses, and fatalities in the construction industry.

Goals

With the overall intent of having a positive impact on the safety culture and working environment for CHASE Partnership member employees, the following goals are established

- 1. Focus on incident trends by gathering incident and accident data from available and timely internal sources annually. From the results of analysis of this data, training offerings, monthly meeting awareness topics, and verification visits will be focused throughout the following year. e.g.: non-dominant hand injuries, back and shoulder strains, fall protection, struck by.
- 2. Site Visits with OHSB representative participation: At least one active construction site annually for all Blue Level members.
- 3. Chase Champions Committee member representatives will be asked to participate in safety health and management system evaluation and site visits of fellow Red or White level member companies sites during the year.*
- 4. All site visits will be conducted with the intent of improving and strengthening the member companies' safety programs, always with the intent of improving, and strengthening the effectiveness of the OSPC.
- 5. AGC New Mexico continues to conduct monthly safety meetings and participate in the quarterly Construction Safety Coalition meetings. Additional timely safety training topics and events will be hosted by AGC annually. All members of the CHASE Partnership will be encouraged to participate and attend.

Partnership Management and NM OHSB Validation

- 1. The Chase Partnership will be directed and overseen by the CHASE Champions Committee. This Committee will be comprised of the previous AGC EH&S Committee Chairpersons, the current Committee Chairperson, the Current Vice Chair, and the AGC New Mexico Staff Safety Director. The CHASE Champions Committee is essentially the working and special projects committee.
- 2. The CHASE Champions Committee will ensure that each participant complies with the achieved level of criteria. NM OHSB may validate information in the members CHASE application during annual verification visits.
 - a. Information obtained by NM OHSB through the validation process will not be shared, including with other government agencies, without the foreknowledge of the CHASE Partnership and the Participant.
 - b. Participants designated safety personnel will have the opportunity to accompany the NM OHSB personnel during validation reviews and job site inspections.
- 3. The Blue Level Chase Partners will be comprised of Blue Level Members, all Chase Champions Committee members, the NM OHSB Primary Contact, and the AGC New Mexico Safety Director. The Blue Level CHASE Partnership Members are responsible to advise the CHASE Champions Committee of the overall pulse and desires of the CHASE Partnership members, and to advocate for participation in the partnership in the industry and within the membership of AGC.

Employee Rights

Employee rights guaranteed under the OSH Act, including participation in the walk-around portion of an inspection, the right to file an occupational safety and health complaint, and the right to information collected pursuant to OHSB requirements (e.g., the OSHA 300A and medical exposure records) or any right provided under the act shall not be precluded by this agreement.

Employer Rights

Employer's rights guaranteed under the OSH Act, including participation in the walk-around portion of an inspection, the right to appeal or contest violations issued by NM OHSB, or any other right provided under the act to employers shall not be precluded by this agreement.

There are three levels of participation---Red, White, and Blue (with Blue being the highest). AGC members who wish to participate, complete the following procedure:

- 1. Fill out attached application form (Appendix I) with self-evaluation questionnaire (appendix II)
- 2. Return it to <u>AGC CHASE Champions Committee</u>, 1615 University Blvd. NE, <u>Albuquerque</u>, N.M., 87102, with your application fee.
- 3. The application (Appendix I) and questionnaire (Appendix II) will be reviewed by the CHASE Champions Committee which will make a recommendation as to participation and at what level. All CHASE Partnership Applicants will be visited by the CHASE Champions Committee who will verify application criteria as a part of a jobsite visit prior to confirmation as members of the CHASE Champions Committee.
- 4. When approval is granted by the sub-committee, the chapter will recommend to NM OHSB that the applicant be accepted into the CHASE program and at what level.
- 5. When NM OHSB concurs, they will issue a certificate of participation to the company.

The Partnership between AGC and NM OHSB is for three years, after which it may be renegotiated. Enrollment is open year-round for applicants.

Eligibility

Participation in CHASE is a reward to a contractor's dedication to safe working practices on their jobsites. This dedication must also include a continued commitment to a strong safety program and outstanding safety record. The CHASE Partnership Champions Committee will ensure that each participant complies with the achieved level of criteria. NM OHSB will conduct an evaluation of the CHASE partnership annually, therefore CHASE members are required to submit their 300 & 300A logs no later than January 15 each year.

- 1. Quantitative measures will be determined by the CHASE Champions Committee, and will be scored based on the committees evaluation of the items listed in the self-evaluation program on a scale from one to five.
- 2. A 90% criteria value must be met to qualify a member company for one of the three levels listed below.

3. Comparison of a partnership member company's three year Injury and Illness (I&I) rate and/or DART rate will be made to the New Mexico BLS I&I rate and/or DART rate; a rate that is better than the state average may be used as a deciding factor in the inclusion and classification of a member partners eligibility to participate in the program and at which level.

Partnership Benefits

For determination of a partnership members eligibility to receive incentives a Partnership Members Days Away, Restricted or Transferred (DART) Rate calculation must be at or below the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS) published national average for their specific industry classification. In the event that a member's single or disproportionate number of incidences has a negative effect on the DART Rate calculation, an alternate rate calculation will be used OSPC(L)(7) or the Partner Review Process may be utilized per OSPC(L)(8)

Red Level

1. Red participants will not receive citations for other-than-serious violations, provided that the hazards are corrected at the time of inspection or within a prescribed agreed upon time.

White Level

- 1. White level CHASE members will not receive citations for other-than-serious violations provided that the hazards are corrected at the time of inspection or within a prescribed agreed upon time.
- 2. White level CHASE members will receive an additional 10% good faith penalty reduction for being a member of a partnership.
- 3. White level CHASE members will be given special recognition from NM OHSB and AGC designating the contractor as a participant in the CHASE program.

Blue Level

- 1. Blue level participants will not receive citations for other-than-serious violations provided the hazards are corrected at the time of inspection or within a prescribed agreed upon time.
- 2. Blue level participants will receive an additional 10% good faith penalty reduction for being a member of a partnership.
- 3. Blue level CHASE members will be given special recognition from NM OHSB and AGC designating the contractor as a participant in the CHASE program.
- 4. Blue level participants will not receive compliance inspections at worksites under their control except in response to reports of imminent danger, formal complaints, fatalities, employee hospitalization, referrals alleging a serious injury has occurred, or a failure to provide in writing a satisfactory response to an inquiry. NM OHSB will investigate all other referrals by inquiry.

- 5. During programmed and referral inspections, Blue level participants will not be inspected at worksites which are not under their control unless one or more of the following conditions exist: the participant is covered by a referral allegation; a serious injury or illness is being investigated; or the NM OHSB Compliance Program Manager deems inclusion necessary to investigate a serious hazard already identified during the inspection.
- **6.** If a complaint or referral is received concerning a partnership member, a copy of the referral will be sent to the employer, but not to the partnership committee.
- 7. Blue level participants will be given special recognition by NM OHSB and AGC designating the contractor as a Blue level participant in the CHASE program. This recognition will include presentation of one CHASE Partnership banner to the Blue level participant. Additional banners may be purchased by the participating company from the vendor through NM OHSB after a site verification visit. Site(s) displaying the Partnership Banner is/are expected to exceed the minimal acceptable standards.
- **8.** Blue participant's jobsites will not receive another programmed inspection within the next 12 months following OHSB site verification.
- 9. During an NM OHSB inspection, Blue level participants whose program has been previously verified by an NM OHSB site verification will not be included in the inspection unless the Compliance Officer documents that the participant is responsible for any employees exposure to severe hazards such as falls, struck by, caught in/between, or electrocution hazards.

Annual Partnership Evaluations

An annual evaluation including participation and discussion between the OSPC primary contact representative and the Participating Partnership Representative(s) may occur during the first quarter of each year.

- 1. This evaluation may include comparison of a member companies DART rates to National BLS rates for similar industries by NAICS code.
- 2. Additional evaluation criteria may include:
 - A. The number of participating members, and at which levels
 - B. Evaluation of training sessions conducted by the partnership
 - C. Number of inspections conducted by OHSB
 - D. Suggestions from OHSB
 - E. Suggestions from Partnership Participants
 - **F.** Physical review of partnership documentation with the only intent being to improve, and strengthen the effectiveness of the OSPC.

For further information on CHASE, please contact Michael Rife, Director, AGC Workforce Development, Safety and Education, 505-842-1462, mrife@agc-nm.org.

The parties agree that this partnership is effective until <u>October 26, 2019</u>, after which it may be re-negotiated upon request of either party. The parties may make changes or amendments during the course of the agreement, upon mutual agreement.

Agreed to this 26th day of October, 2016

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Deputy Secretary, NMED

Robert Genoway

Bureau Chief, NM OHSB

John Stroud, 2016 President NM Building Branch AGC

Mike Puelle, CEO

NM Building Branch, AGC

Ray Barber, 2016 Chair AGC EH&S Committee

Michael Rife, AGC Workforce

Development Director Safety and Health

Agreement Footnotes:

* Chase Champions will be required to release and indemnify ACG New Mexico in connection with their actions and recommendations at a site inspection. Their voluntary participation in site inspections, as well as any advice, suggestions, written reports, or comments made are not made in a professional capacity in service to AGC New Mexico, The CHASE Committee, Partnership Member's, or their Safety Professionals. These visits are understood to be peer to peer courtesy assistance opportunities. By participation in the CHASE Program, all members understand and agree to the tenants of this paragraph, and to sign a release and indemnification form as deemed necessary by AGC New Mexico counsel.

<u>Appendix I - Application</u>

AGC CONTRACTOR APPLICATION FOR CHASE PARTNERSHIP

Directions: Please answer questions below for your company which performs work in the area covered by the Occupational Health and Safety Bureau, New Mexico Environment Department (**NM OHSB**). The CHASE Partnership between NM OHSB and AGC New Mexico, applies to NM OHSB's jurisdiction and is reciprocal with work performed under the jurisdiction Region VI of Federal OSHA in New Mexico.

Company Name:	
Address:	
Phone Number:	Fax Number:
Company Contact:	Contact's Title:
• Classification of Contractor:	, General Contractor
	, Sub or Specialty Contractor; Specialty: (drywall, plastering, masonry, steel erection, mechanical, roofing, electrical, sheet metal, etc.)
 Average No. of Employees: _ Average No. of Supervisors_ 	
Average No. of Annual Worl	k Hours:
• Does your company have a S	afety Department?(YES)(NO)
• Do you budget for Safety?	(YES)(NO)
Date of last NM OHSB Inspective One)	ection: State or Federal? (Please

•	Date of any willful OSH Act violation in last three years from the NM OHSB Office;from the Federal Office:								
•	Date of any repeat serious violations in the last three years from the NM OHSB Office:; from the Federal OSHA Office:								
•	in serious	or willfu	ıl citations r		incident from I	years that resulted NM OHSB:			
•				idence rate for		ated recordable			
Ye	ar	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate			
•	What is yo		No. of To	otal Hours Wo	esses× 200,000 orked ate for the past	three years?			
Yea	rF	Rate	Year	Rate	Year	Rate			
	Note: A los	No.	of Lost Work	rate is determedays/ <u>Cases</u> × Hours of Exp		owing formula:			
•	Does your Program?		y currently		rehensive Safet	ty and Health			
•	Does your	compan	y perform d (YES	rug-testing?	(NO)				
	If	f" <u>YES</u> ",	is it for	, Post Offe	er;, Rand	om;			
			~	, Post Acc	cident, Pr	obable Cause			

For the previous reporting year, please provide the following information:

1. Experience Modification Rate:
2. Number of Lost Workdays:
3. Number of Fatalities:
4. Number of Restricted Workdays:
5. Number of Medical Only Cases:
The <u>CHASE Partnership Champions Committee</u> of AGC New Mexico, or its designated representative, will review this application and the eligibility requirements spelled out in the attached "Self-Evaluation Program" guidelines to determine your eligibility for the program and the level at which you should be recommended to New Mexico NM OHSB for participation (red, white, or blue).
The Committee, or its representative, will perform this evaluation solely to determine whether your company is eligible to participate in the program, and, if so, the level that would be appropriate. This evaluation is not intended to be, and should not be considered, a determination that your company's safety program does or does not meet any applicable legal standards, such as (1) federal safety or health statutes; or (2) any state or local statutes or regulations that also address occupational safety and health. In addition, the Committee or its representative will not attempt to determine whether or not your company is exercising a "reasonable standard of care" or whether its safety program ensures a "safe and healthful working environment" for either your own or any other company's employees. AGC New Mexico, and its CHASE Partnership Champions Committee disclaim, and do not undertake, any liability or other responsibility for any claim that may arise out of your company's performance of its obligations either to its employees or others.
It is understood that by signing this application form for the CHASE program, you and your company acknowledge and accept the limited scope and purpose of the evaluation that the Chapter's <u>Safety and Health Committee</u> or its designated representative will perform.
I hereby certify that all information contained herein is accurate:
Name (printed): Title:
Signature: Date:
Company:

This application is intended for the following level (please circle one)

Red White Blue

(It is understood that the Committee may determine that another level is more appropriate. If such is the case, it is possible to move up in levels after one year.)

Please return this application along with your self-evaluation form to <u>mrife@agc-nm.org</u>; or FAX to 842-1980 or mail to:

AGC Safety and Health Committee 1615 University Blvd. NE Albuquerque, N.M., 87102

Appendix II - Evaluation

NEW MEXICO OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY BUREAU & ASSOCIATED GENERAL CONTRACTORS OF AMERICA NEW MEXICO BUILDING BRANCH

SELF-EVALUATION PROGRAM FOR CHASE

Eligibility: To determine at which level of the CHASE Partnership a contractor qualifies as a participant, the contractor must provide the chapter safety committee or the chapter's designated representative with evidence of meeting each Safety and Health Management System (SHMS) requirement listed below for the specific level. If the contractor wants to proceed to a higher level after one year, and have their program reviewed by a verification team made up of NM OHSB and AGC representatives, the contractor must meet the requirements for the next higher level. If the contractor answers "yes" to all questions at the level to which they are applying, they are eligible to become a CHASE participant at that level.

		Score for Champions use only		
REI	LEVEL	YES	Score	NO
1.	Contractor has implemented a written Safety and Health program.	<u> </u>	12345	<u> </u>
2.	Contractor conducts weekly employee safety meetings.		12345	
3.	Contractor conducts and documents jobsite safety inspections.		12345	
4.	Contractor conducts and documents annual self-audits of Red level criteria.		12345	
5.	Contractor has not received any citations for willful violations or any repeated serious violations in the last three years.	·	1 2 3 4 5	· <u></u>
6.	Contractor has not had any fatalities or catastrophes within the last three years that resulted in willful citations related to the incident.	<u></u>	1 2 3 4 5	

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7.	Contractor conducts new employee safety orientation of the company's safety and health program and trains employees for hazard recognition specific to the contractor's worksites.		12345	
8.	Contractor maintains a substance abuse program.		12345	
9.	Contractor requires all field personnel to have completed OSHA 10 safety training before beginning work on a construction site, or within 90 days of hire date.		12345	
WH.	ITE LEVEL	Score for YES	Champions Score	use only <u>NO</u>
1.	Contractor has implemented a comprehensive written safety and health program.		12345	
2.	Contractor conducts weekly employee safety meetings.		12345	
3.	Contractor conducts and documents jobsite safety inspections.		1 2 3 4 5	
4.	Contractor conducts and documents self-audits of White level criteria		1 2 3 4 5	
5.	Contractor has not received any citations for willful violations or any repeated serious violations in the last three years.		12345	
6.	Contractor has not had any fatalities or catastrophes within the last three years that resulted in willful citations related to the incident.	5	1 2 3 4 5	
7.	Contractor conducts new employee safety orientation of the company's safety and health program and traemployees for hazard recognition specific to			
	the contractor's worksites.		1 2 3 4 5	-
8	Contractor maintains a substance abuse program		12345	

9.	Contractor requires all field personnel to have completed OSHA 10 safety training before beginning work on a construction site, or within 90 days of hire date.		12345	
10.	Contractor has evidence of employee involvement such as, but not limited to, participation in self-audits, site inspections, job hazard analyses, safety and health program reviews, safety training and accident investigations.	: 	12345	
11.	Contractor has employee(s) who administer(s) the company's safety and health program and conducts documented safety inspections of all work.		12345	
12.	Contractor provides all field construction supervisory personnel with training necessary to ensure the implementation of their safety program.		12345	
13.	Contractor maintains an incident rate of cases with days away from work (Not DART) at or less than the current New Mexico rate as reported to BLS or the current BLS Published Rate for its NAICS code.*	,	1 2 3 4 5	1
		Score for	Champions	use only
BLU	JE LEVEL	YES	Score	NO
1.	Contractor has implemented a comprehensive written safety and health program and contractor maintains a copy of any specialty contractors' safety and health plan or requires specialty contractor to follow Blue participant's plan.		12345	
2.	Contractor conducts weekly employee safety meetings.		12345	
3.	Contractor conducts and documents jobsite safety inspections.	·	12345	45 <u></u>
4.	Contractor conducts and documents annual self-audits of Blue level criteria.		1 2 3 4 5)
5	Contractor has not received any citations			

	for willful violations or any repeated serious violations in the last three years.		12345	
6.	Contractor has not had any fatalities or catastrophes within the last three years that resulted in willful citations related to the incident.	_	1 2 3 4 5	
7.	Contractor conducts new employee safety orientation of the company's safety and health program and trains employees for hazard recognition specific to the contractor's work sites.	y	12345	
8.	Contractor maintains a substance abuse program.		12345	
9.	Contractor requires all field personnel to have completed OSHA 10 safety training before beginning work on a construction site, or within days of hire date.	5 -4	1 2 3 4 5	
10.	Contractor has evidence of employee involvement such as, but not limited to, participation in self-audits, site inspections, job hazard analyses, safety and health program reviews, safety training and accident investigations.		12345	
11.	Contractor has employee(s) who administer(s) the company's safety and health program. Company conducts documented safety inspections monthly.	_	12345	
12.	Contractor provides the majority of field construct supervisory personnel with training necessary to ensure the implementation of their safety program, i.e. OSHA 30 and First Aid CPR or equivalent; such as AGC STP class Risk Management and Problem Solving.	ion	1 2 3 4 5	
13.	Contractor maintains a Days Away Restricted Transferred (DART) rate at or less than the current New Mexico BLS published rate for its NAICS code. *		12345	

14.	Contractor has designated personnel at each site conducting safety inspections of Blue participant's work, and whom have authority to tak prompt corrective action. The personnel shall have completed the "AGC Construction Jobsite Safety Specialist"** course or equivalent	ee		
	within the previous three years.	3	1 2 3 4 5	
15.	Contractor uses a 15-foot fall protection Policy for Subpart R (Steel Erection) which was developed by AGC steel erectors and endorsed by the AGC Safety, Health and Environment committee and AGC Board			
	of Directors. ***		12345	
16.	An inspection of one representative jobsite has been completed in the application process by the CHASE Champions Committee and NM OHSB. Thereafter,			
	once within every calendar year.		12345	

Additional Requirement at Blue Level

Blue Level participants are required to complete monthly self-audit reports of their jobsites and maintain them on their job sites. These reports must show the hazards that were encountered and how they were abated. The audit reports shall be made available to the verification team when requested.

Inspection reports for monthly inspections will be used to develop assurance that the self-regulation is taking place. They will not be used to impose citations and penalties from a compliance standpoint for a Blue level participant; nor will they be passed on to another agency or group for purposes of issuing citations and penalties.

Jobsite Visits:

NM OHSB Primary Contact and the AGC New Mexico Director of Safety and Health will conduct jobsite visits at random. --- AGC requires an accountability system through which the contractor must abate or mitigate any deficiencies immediately. Recognizing that some deficiencies may take longer to abate or mitigate, NM OHSB Primary Contact, and AGC New Mexico's Director of Safety and Health, and/or CHASE Champions Committee members will return within 10 days to ensure that the deficiencies have been corrected;

Contractors who do not comply with the program requirements, after being warned through the inspection process, will be dropped one level. If deficiencies persist (at least three times after being warned), they will be dropped from the program. NM OHSB will be contacted to assist in making the necessary evaluations here and, also, in assisting the contractor with compliance suggestions.

If the contractor has answered "NO" to any of these questions, then the contractor is not eligible to become a signatory at the Blue level. If the contractor has answered "YES" to all of the questions, then the contractor is eligible to become a signatory participant at the Blue level.

For Evaluation Sub-Committee of AGC New Mexico Chase Partnership Champions Committee							
<u>Applicant n</u>	neets require	ments for a P	artnership:				
YesNo							
Level:	Red	White	Blue				
Names of CHASE Champions Committee Members:							
Date							

Comments (please add pages, as needed):

Appendix II Footnotes:

* The most recently published injury/illness rate is available from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), U.S. Department of Labor for non-residential building contractors in New Mexico. For purposes of figuring how the rate of your company compares with the New Mexico rate, you should consider your average incident rate over the past three years and compare it to that rate. For further information on the North American Industry Classification System (NAICS) please check the OSHA website, www.osha.gov or call the chapter office, (505) 842-1462.

** The AGC Safety Management Class is offered periodically by AGC of America in different parts of the country. Comprehensive safety courses, where management is an integral part of the curriculum, can be substituted. These include: CE 475/575 Construction Safety, or other safety classes offered through other institutions of learning, following review of the curricula by AGC and NM OHSB.

*** This six-foot policy applies to all work covered by Subpart M. The performance requirements which are spelled out in Subpart L (Scaffolds); Subpart X (Stairways, Stair rail Systems, and Handrails), and Subpart V (Power Transmission Lines) apply for those task areas. For Subpart R (Steel Erection), the 15-ft. threshold policy for fall protection, which was developed by AGC steel erectors and endorsed by the AGC Safety, Health, and Environment Committee and Board of Directors applies.