From 1 July 2015, Roads and Maritime Services will introduce a nationally-recognised competency-based framework into its suite of training courses for traffic controllers.

The introduction of a competency framework is based on the Austroads research report, Traffic Control at Worksites – Training and Accreditation, which recommends a set of standards, skill sets and units of competency for traffic controllers.

Please refer to the Changes to Traffic Control Training in NSW fact sheet for more information about the improvements to traffic control training.

Q What qualification is changing?

Changes are being made to the qualification Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans, currently referred to as Red Card training. This qualification has been upgraded and will be incorporated into a new qualification called Prepare a Work Zone Traffic Management Plan. This new qualification will enable you to create a Traffic Management Plan as well as design, select and modify Traffic Control Plans (TCPs), also known as Traffic Guidance Schemes (TGSs), and conduct inspections.

Q What are the skills and competencies required for the Prepare a Work Zone Traffic Management Plan qualification?

- Design TGSs or TCPs to suit the specific road environment
- Select and modify TGSs or TCPs to suit the specific road environment
- Prepare and develop a Work Zone Traffic Management Plan
- Incorporate environmental management plans
- Follow organisational and legislative WHS policies and work procedures
- Select signs for a TGS/TCP (as required)
- Sign-off a TGS/TCP (if required)
- Keep records of all modifications to the TGS/TCP
- Monitor and interpret control systems to apply to the drawing, selection and design
- Use approved methods and follow recognised local legislation
- Use the site/location assessment, distinguish topographical landmarks and carry out authorised risk control
- Conduct an onsite check of the plan to identify any unexpected risks and hazards
- Able to interpret plans, that is must be aware of the distance and measuring devices of the method
- Interpret standards and requirements with local policy and procedures
- Draw up a TGS/TCP to recognise other graphical representations such as pedestrian movement plans, vehicle movement plans, notification of authorities
- Understand speed, environment, type and class of vehicles, traffic density, sight lines, environmental condition, weather patterns and surface type
• Identify record keeping structure, type of records to be maintained, approvals, duration records must be maintained, depository location and custodian
• Select and modify a TGS/TCP based on risk assessment, statutory and regulatory requirements, standards, road authority requirements and project brief
• Interpret engineering plans and drawings, interpret and apply relevant standards, interpret manufacturer’s specifications, interpret engineering terms and phrases
• Identify all potential hazards and implement appropriate risk treatment control measures
• Determine the recommended spacing between signs and traffic control devices in line with standards; measure width of trafficable surface; calculate edge clearances to barriers, cones and clearance to work personnel
• Collate traffic volume data, type and class of vehicles
• Determine lane capacity, road network performance and lane closure restrictions
• Identify impacts from any concurrent or adjacent works
• Identify times and dates of any planned public events that may result in increased or redistributed traffic patterns
• Identify approvals required, identify approval agencies, types of approvals for roadway access, railway reserve access, authority to install signs on roads, variation to standards
• Identify affected stakeholders and type of notification required and prepare notifications
• Develop and design a TGS/TCP in accordance with relevant regulations, standards and road authority requirements.

Q What are the units of competency required for the Prepare a Work Zone Traffic Management Plan qualification?

• RIIWHS201A Work safely and follow WHS policies and work procedures
• RIIRIS301A Apply risk management processes
• RIIGO401A Apply, monitor and report on compliance systems
• RIICWD503A Prepare work zone traffic management plan

Q Will this affect my current Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans qualification?

If you are currently selecting and modifying TCPs, your current qualification will remain valid until its expiry as you are already demonstrating the appropriate skills and knowledge to carry out the functions and duties linked to the card. You may need to discuss long term skills and requirements with your employer to determine if you require an upgrade.

Q What happens when my current qualification expires after 1 July 2015?

Depending on your skill level, knowledge and experience, you may be required to complete a training course or gap training. Each person has a different experience and skill level. You will be provided the appropriate options when you apply for recertification with an approved provider.

Q What if my qualification expires before 1 July 2015?

Depending how close to 1 July 2015 your card expires, you can apply for an extension to your photo card through Roads and Maritime, and this will give you the opportunity to enrol in the new training format. For more information, contact our support team on 1300 828 782.

If you choose to enrol in the current course, it will be current for a full three years and will be recognised by Roads and Maritime and employers.

Q I have a current Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans qualification and wish to
If you wish to upgrade to the new qualification level and be able to fulfil the additional functions and duties, you will need to contact an approved provider to discuss your options.

Q I have current Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans and Design and Inspect Traffic Control Plan qualifications. Can I use these to obtain the new qualification?

If you wish to upgrade to the new qualification level and be able to fulfil the additional functions and duties, you should contact an approved provider to discuss your options.

Q I am currently working in the industry selecting, modifying and designing TCPs. Can I be assessed in the workplace to achieve the new qualification?

There are a number of options available to you, and on-the-job assessment is one of the options. You will need to contact an approved provider to discuss your options.

Q I have current Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans and Design and Inspect Traffic Control Plan qualifications. Can I prepare a work zone management plan?

From 1 July 2015, you will require the new Prepare a Work Zone Management Plan qualification. If you wish to upgrade to the new qualification level and be able to fulfil the additional functions and duties, you will need to contact an approved provider to discuss your options.

Q I completed my Select and Modify Traffic Control Plans and Design and Inspect Traffic Control Plan qualifications in late 2014. Must I upgrade to the new qualification?

No, you will still be able to perform the functions that relate to these cards. However, from 1 July 2015, you will require the new qualification if you wish to prepare a Work Zone Management Plan.

You may need to discuss long term skills and requirements with your employer to determine if you require an upgrade. If you wish to upgrade to the new qualification level and be able to fulfil the additional functions and duties, you will need to contact an approved provider to discuss your options.

Q I am new to the industry and I wish to get qualified before 1 July, what do I do?

If you wish to enter the industry before 1 July, you can enrol in one of the current recognised courses. Training courses are still being facilitated throughout NSW each week. You can visit our website for a list of current courses and a list of current providers. You can also contact our support team on 1300 828 782.

Further information


Other fact sheets and information available on the Roads and Maritime website include:

- Fact Sheet No 1 Changes to Traffic Control Training in NSW
- Fact Sheet No 2 Changes to the Traffic Controller qualification
- Fact Sheet No 3 Changes to the Implement Traffic Control Plans qualification
- Fact Sheet No 5 Changes to the Design and Inspect Traffic Control Plans qualification