

Work Zone Traffic Management Training in the Northern Territory

Information for Registered Training Organisations

Document purpose

This document provides information to Registered Training Organisations (RTOs) on new mandatory training requirements for people employed in work zone traffic management on Northern Territory Government roads. The requirements are based on national competency standards and nationally accredited courses. The information has been compiled by the Department of Infrastructure, Planning and Environment (DIPE) and aims to assist RTOs interested in providing relevant training within the Northern Territory.

The NT Work Zone Traffic Management sector

Work zone traffic management is the safe management of vehicle traffic movements through and around sites where work is being undertaken within the road reserve. It also involves temporary alterations to traffic movements as required for special purpose events.

Work zone traffic management requires safe and consistent traffic management practice at work sites. It requires the safe and appropriate use of road signs, signals and other devices that may be required to protect road users, including motorists, pedestrians, cyclists and emergency vehicles. Management of work on roads requires consideration of all road user needs and obligations.

Work zone traffic management applies to work within road reserves by government contract, private contractors and other statutory bodies such as Telstra and PowerWater Corporation. Anybody who wants to work on a road needs the skills and knowledge to do it safely.

Northern Territory Training Requirement

To implement safety standards for workers and the public, DIPE is implementing minimum mandatory training requirements for individuals to be accredited to be work zone traffic management operators.

The new training requirements are to be implemented by 1 July 2005.

The training requirements for work zone traffic management:

- identifies three levels of certification
- introduces a mandatory certification requirement for individuals working at each level
- makes the issue of certification conditional on evidence that the individual has completed a specified unit of competency
- requires that certification be renewed by completing a refresher course every three years
- requires interstate holders of the relevant units of competency to attend a bridging course, before being issued with certification.

Certification / Licensing system

At successful completion of the course, candidates will be accredited to manage traffic within work zones on Northern Territory Government roads. The RTO will issue them with a certificate/card and unique number which will be recorded in a database.

It is envisaged that ultimately these certificates will be converted to revokable licences, governed by legislation.

Training requirements

The new requirement for work zone traffic management defines three levels of work, as follows:

- Level 1 – stop/go traffic controllers
- Level 2 – onsite road work supervisors engaged in the setting out and supervision of work zone traffic management plans
- Level 3 – personnel engaged in developing work zone traffic management plans.

The following mandatory training requirements have been identified for each level. The national competency standards are from the Civil Construction Training Package (BCC03) and the accredited course for Level 3 originates from Western Australia.

The full competencies can be found on the National Training Information Service at <http://www.ntis.gov.au/cgi-bin/waxhtml/~ntis/pkg.wxh?page=1>

Unit of Competency/ Course	Unit Description
Level 1 <i>BCCCM2013B Control traffic with a stop-slow bat</i>	This unit specifies the competency required to control traffic on public roads and construction sites for the protection of site workers and the general public. This unit includes operating a radio and using a stop-slow bat.
Level 2 <i>BCCCM3003B Implement traffic management plan</i>	This unit specifies the competency required to implement a traffic management plan for works on roads ensuring traffic flow is maintained and risk to the safety of the public and workers is minimised. The unit includes traffic management plans for public and private roads, parking areas and restricted access construction sites.
<i>BCGCM1001B Follow OH&S policies and procedures</i>	This unit is a prerequisite for the two units BCCCM2013B and BCCCM3003B (detailed above). It should be delivered within the context of traffic management work zones. This unit specifies the competency required to work safely on a General Construction site adhering to OH&S policies and procedures. This unit includes emergency procedures and basic risk assessment.



Unit of Competency/ Course	Unit Description
Level 3 <i>Course in Advanced Worksite Traffic Management</i> (National Code 51289)	This course focuses on the development of worksite traffic management plans and the management of traffic at major events or disruptions to normal traffic conditions. It is based on a course developed by MRWA but is yet to be developed for the Northern Territory.

Approach to training delivery and assessment

The Civil Construction Training Package emphasises that the training must be provided with a focus on quality, hands-on approaches to training. Practical activities in simulated environments are essential.

The units can be assessed in a simulated environment, however the industry strongly recommends that assessment is conducted in the workplace wherever possible.

The integration of units of competency for assessment is encouraged as it reflects the real work place environment. For example, a traffic controller would coordinate traffic and apply occupational health and safety together, not as individual tasks.

DIPE will assist RTO's establish the courses, ensuring content and presentation are inclusive of all relevant Australian Standards and Northern Territory specific provisions for roadworks on Northern Territory Government roads.

Discussions with industry suggest that level 1 and 2 training should be no more than one day duration. Level 3 training should be no longer than two days duration. Assessment tasks, particularly for level 3, could be undertaken outside of this time.

Extension to Scope

Interested RTOs may need to seek to extend their scope of registration with the Northern Territory Department of Employment, Education and Training (DEET) to include training for work zone traffic management.

This process is detailed in DEET's RTO Guide available on the website http://www.deet.nt.gov.au/training/training_organisations/index.shtml.

Payment for training

The training will be user pays. Neither DIPE nor DEET will fund training for work zone traffic management, except for internal staff who are required to be certified.

It is anticipated approximately 500 people per year will require training. These will be both government and private sector employees, all of whom work on Northern Territory Government roads.

It is estimated approximately a further 200 people per year may require the training as Councils, Communities and other Statutory Authorities recognise the benefit of work zone traffic management training and utilise the courses because they are available.



Northern Territory context

The training and assessment will need to ensure that the Units of Competency are tailored to the Northern Territory context to meet client needs. Key elements for customisation include:

- knowledge of statutory/regulatory authorities
- Territory legislation relating to workplace operations
- Reference to the “Miscellaneous Provisions” section of the standard DIPE work specification (available on DIPE website)
<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/techspecs/index.html>
- and the “Permit to Work Within the Road Reserve”(available on DIPE website)
<http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/whatwedo/construction/index.html>

Bridging and refresher courses

Certification is for a period of three years. After this period, candidates will be required to attend a refresher course to renew their certification for a further three years.

A bridging course is also required for people moving from other regulatory jurisdictions to enable them to be accredited in the Northern Territory.

The development of the refresher and bridging courses will rest with RTOs. There will be no requirement for the training to be nationally accredited. It is anticipated that these courses would be half day in duration.

Inquiries

RTO issues DEET – Employment and Training Division

Website: <http://www.deet.nt.gov.au/>

Telephone: 08 8901 1340

Work zone traffic management DIPE – Road Projects Division

Website: <http://www.ipe.nt.gov.au/>

Telephone: 08 8999 4753

