

Traffic Controller Accreditation

To be accredited as a Traffic Controller in Queensland, the person must complete a Department of Transport and Main Roads Approved Traffic Controller Training Program. The program must be delivered through a registered training organisation (RTO) approved by Transport and Main Roads to deliver the training program.

- Accreditation as a Traffic Controller in Queensland is granted for three years.

All applicants for Traffic Controller accreditation are subject to a police check which investigates offence history, licence history and other checks.

Prospective Traffic Controllers should refer to the department's fact sheets, How to Become an Accredited Traffic Controller and Traffic Controller Offence History Checking Process and Medical Suitability. All fact sheets are available on the Traffic Controller Accreditation scheme [web page](#).

Training Program Delivery

The training program has two parts.

Part One

Off-the-job – In-class training program (Theory)

The program is delivered in a classroom environment using Transport and Main Roads approved training materials and resources. It includes a simulated practical exercise conducted in a controlled environment.

The theory part is expected to be delivered to trainees in one day, which is eight-nine hours (nominal). This timeframe may be extended if additional training needs are identified during the training program.

Part Two

On-the-job – Industry placement at a roadwork site (Practical)

Trainees must demonstrate traffic control skills in 'real world' traffic situations and be assessed as competent before attaining a certificate of completion.

Trainees must complete a minimum of 20 hours of practical experience at a roadwork site under the direct supervision of an experienced accredited Traffic Controller. The trainee's experience includes a range of practical activities as specified by the RTO, including a significant period of STOP / SLOW traffic control activity under close supervision.

Who is responsible for arranging the trainee's placement in the roadwork site environment to achieve the 20 hours of logged experience?

- *The RTO offering the training package must organise the Practical experience placement of the trainee with the worksite manager and the registered traffic management organisation.*
- *The RTO must ensure that the trainee possesses a general construction induction card before commencing the worksite placement.*

Is the Traffic Controller trainee to be paid whilst undertaking the industry placement?

- *Trainees undertaking a training program including the practical experience of the training (20 hours industry placement) are not entitled to be paid remuneration for the placement.*

Will the trainee have to perform tasks other than standing and directing traffic during the roadwork site placement?

- *Yes. The trainee will gain experience in a range of Traffic Controller functions. This may include site set-up assistance, communication on two-way radios, incident reporting and site clean-up.*

What happens when the minimum 20 hours' experience has been gained and verified?

- *When 20 hours of experience is completed and recorded, the logbook is to be returned to the RTO.*
- *The trainer will assess the experience, taking into account feedback from the host site manager and any reports from the supervising traffic controllers. The trainer will determine if further experience/training is required on any specific elements.*
- *The trainer will confirm that the trainee is competent through an onsite assessment.*

Does completion of the approved training program guarantee accreditation?

- *No. All applicants for accreditation are subject to offence history, licence history and other checks.*
- *Prospective traffic controllers should refer to the department's fact sheets, How to Become an Accredited Traffic Controller and Traffic Controller Offence History Checking Process (Suitability checks) and Medical Suitability (medical fitness).*

Accredited Traffic Controllers undertake a crucial road safety function.

In giving directions to motorists to "STOP" or drive "SLOW", they manage the efficient traffic flow around road worksites to keep road workers and motorists safe.

Road works can be dangerous places to work, and Traffic Controllers must be constantly alert and be physically capable of carrying out their tasks safely and efficiently.

When a Traffic Controller is standing in charge of a line of traffic, the Controller must be able to respond quickly and appropriately when faced with unforeseen circumstances, such as when a driver does not see them or chooses to disobey their directions.

Traffic controllers regularly interact with police, motorists, and other road workers. They must be polite, have an even temperament, and responsibly exercise their authority.

To be suitable for the role, the person must be road safety conscious and be a responsible road user themselves.

Queensland motorists must have confidence in the department's selection processes; therefore, a full traffic and criminal offence history check are performed on all people applying to become Accredited Traffic Controllers.

Criminal Offence history

Criminal offences that would generally make an applicant unsuitable for accreditation as a Traffic Controller includes:

- Offences of a violent nature [such as serious assault, rape, attempted homicide]; manslaughter; burglary; and major drug offences
 - o where convictions were recorded in a Magistrate's Court in the past five years, or
 - o where convictions were recorded in a District Court or higher court in the past ten years.
- Offences such as fraud, assault, drug possession, theft, break and enter
 - o where convictions were recorded in a Magistrate's Court or higher court within the past three years.

The department will also consider any similar offences (to the above) committed outside Queensland.

Traffic Offence History

A Traffic Controller applicant must have held a provisional or open driver's licence (Australian or Foreign) in the past five years.

An adverse traffic history can indicate that the person is not road safety conscious or has a disregard for the road rules. Accordingly, their suitability to control traffic around road works sites in potentially dangerous situations would be questioned.

Therefore, applicants may be rejected for accreditation based on an adverse traffic history.

Persons with the following history would be considered unsuitable for accreditation:

- An established pattern of serious offences such as unlicensed driving, dangerous driving, or driving under the influence,
- multiple licence suspensions over the past few years on points accumulation.

Assessment of offence history by the department

In conducting an assessment of a person's offence history record, the following factors are considered:

- The nature of offences committed, the relationship between these offences and the requirements of the accredited role.
- When the offence occurred (more recent offences are generally more relevant than prior offences).
- The type and severity of the penalty imposed (such as prison community order).
- If the penalty was imposed by a Magistrates Court or a higher court such as a District Court or the Supreme Court.
- Any pattern of re-offending / frequency of offences
- Community expectations about people accredited to perform the role and public safety considerations.
- Whether the person made truthful declarations on the application form declaring offences.

Timeframes for receiving offence history reports

- All Traffic Controller applicants should be aware that the period for the department to acquire a criminal history report through the Queensland Police Service can range from several days to six weeks.
- However, about 85% of criminal history reports take less than two weeks to obtain.
- Applicants should make an allowance for this before they apply for accreditation as a Traffic Controller.

Should you have any further questions regarding criminal and traffic history, we encourage you to contact TMR directly before enrolling in the course.

Medical Fitness

Applicants must satisfy medical fitness criteria to be eligible as a Traffic Controller.

Eyesight

A Traffic Controller must:

- Be able to distinguish a vehicle at approximately 150 metres
- Have visual acuity of 6/12, which would allow a vehicle number plate to be read at a distance of up to 20 metres on a clear day (character size on number plate 77mm x 12mm)
- Have reasonable judgement of speed and distances so that the Traffic Controller can decide when to exit the path of an oncoming vehicle that fails to stop or slow down as directed
- Be able to distinguish a red-coloured disc (of 450mm diameter) from a yellow

Hearing and Speech

A Traffic Controller must be able to:

- Hear a supervisor's instructions, vehicle warning devices and emergency vehicle sirens above normal traffic noise
- Differentiate noises emanating from the left side, right side and behind the Traffic Controller
- Have sufficient hearing and speech to communicate with other road workers and users via portable communication equipment (such as two-way radio).

Mobility, endurance, and concentration

A Traffic Controller must be capable of the following:

- Quickly moving out of the path of an approaching vehicle that does not stop or slow down as directed
- Giving approved traffic control signals whilst standing and holding a STOP/SLOW bat for periods of up to two continuous hours of work
- Setting up and removing temporary road signage at and around a road worksite
- Concentrating on the tasks at hand for periods of up to two continuous hours of work.

What does the student need to attend a TC course?

1. White card
2. USI Number
3. Driver's licence

What PPE does the student need to complete the 20-hour placement?

- Hard Hat and sun brim
- Safety glasses (tinted preferred). Safety over-glasses are required if prescription glasses are normally worn.
- Long sleeve Fluorescent shirt (with biomotion stripes) OR a Fluorescent vest (with biomotion stripes) over a Hi vis long sleeve cotton shirt
- Long pants - blue cargo pants (or similar) with biomotion stripes appropriate for the construction industry
- Lace-up, steel cap boots that provide ankle support and are compliant with Australian Standards AS/NZS 2210.3
- Two-way radio, UHF public frequencies - 5 watts is preferred within the industry. (2 Watt units may be acceptable on some sites during 20-hour placement, but units under this power rating are not acceptable)
- Sunscreen
- Water bottle

What is NOT acceptable on 20 hours placement worksites

- BOFANG or other Chinese radio sets
- Headsets or air pods connected to a media device
- Short pants or skirts of any type
- Any clothing not contained in the TMR clothing standard – or approved for use by T4 Training Management (Host)
- Bringing ANY drug or alcohol on site, or the use of ANY drug or alcohol on site unless previously permitted by T4 Training.
- Attending a job site you have not been rostered to
- Leaving the job site without notifying T4 Training, the mentor or the host