

Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme – 6 September 2023

The Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) will deliver a nationally consistent set of training outcomes for individuals designing, installing, and maintaining road safety barriers in Australia and New Zealand. The scheme is managed and administered by Austroads and run by Lantra.

Lantra is a global company that develops training courses and nationally recognised qualifications, that are delivered through a network of training Provider Partners.

Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel (ASBAP) is the existing Australian and New Zealand roads and transport agencies panel that assesses and recommends road safety barriers to its member agencies.

Why is TMR adopting Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme?

Serious national concerns have arisen about substandard roadside safety barriers and safety hardware installation practices. These practices are likely to compromise the performance of barriers and safety hardware, potentially resulting in fatal outcomes. The audit revealed that improperly installed barriers performed significantly worse than expected, thereby increasing the risk of death in the event of a crash.

To address this issue, Austroads members agreed to develop a standardised training and accreditation program. The program aims to ensure that all road safety barrier practitioners understand how to use road safety barriers correctly, following the standards, manufacturer's specifications, and best practices. Austroads will oversee the training, transition, and operational aspects of this program, with input from road and transport agencies through the ASBAP.

This update represents another step towards a national approach to improving support for our workforce and making our roads safer.

What are the upcoming changes that I need to be aware of?

Road safety barrier practitioners in Queensland should voluntarily undertake the ASHTAS Operative training course which is now available. Completion of the Operative course will be a prerequisite for participating in the Installer course and any future courses that are to be created.

The Installer course is currently under development. The Designer and other courses are yet to be developed.

Once the Installer and Designer courses become available from Austroads, a mandated date for completion of these courses for individuals involved in those activities and who wish to be accredited to undertake these roles will be advised. **At this point, we expect that to be 1 July 2024 so practitioners should undertake the available operative training now.**

ASHTAS accreditation will be mandated by TMR for all practitioners involved in the design, installation and maintenance of road safety barrier systems on Queensland roads. The department's Technical Specification (MRTS14 *Road Furniture*) will be updated to reflect this new requirement.

Who will need to be trained?

All individuals involved in designing, installing, and maintaining roadside safety barriers will need to obtain national training and accreditation (relevant to their role).

Prior to enrolling in an ASHTAS course, it is necessary to fulfill existing jurisdictional requirements, such as the General Construction Induction Training Card previously known as a White Card, as applicable.

Operative Course

At this stage, the Operative course has been created. This course is for all personnel that are involved in design, installation, repair and maintenance activities related to road safety barrier systems.

The main objective of this course is to provide individuals with an understanding of the fundamentals of road safety barriers. This knowledge will not only enhance their safety on-site but also increase their value to the industry as members of a road safety barrier installation and maintenance team. Successfully completing this course is the first step towards being qualified to design and work on road safety barriers.

The course can be completed in a one-day session, conducted in a classroom setting. After the course, participants will undergo an assessment, which must be supervised by an Authorised Training Provider (ATP).

Installer Course (*under development*)

The Installer course is for certified operatives to become accredited for installing road safety hardware products. The course covers the generic barrier elements and practice of system installation.

Installer training is a two-part process – a training session, plus a demonstration of skills recorded in a logbook.

Followed by successful completion of the training, individuals are required to complete a logbook (this being an ongoing process to demonstrate currency of skill) which will demonstrate that they can apply the skills they have learned in a work environment. On filling out the logbook, this will then be followed by a professional interview via the ATP to sign off their installer status.

On completion of both parts, the Installer qualification is given.

Lead Installer Course (*under development*)

For those individuals who wish to become qualified for overseeing installation and sign-off of the road safety barrier including the correct installation of proprietary systems.

Inspector Course (*under development*)

Aimed at experienced individuals with a broad knowledge wishing to move into an independent audit or quality assurance role.

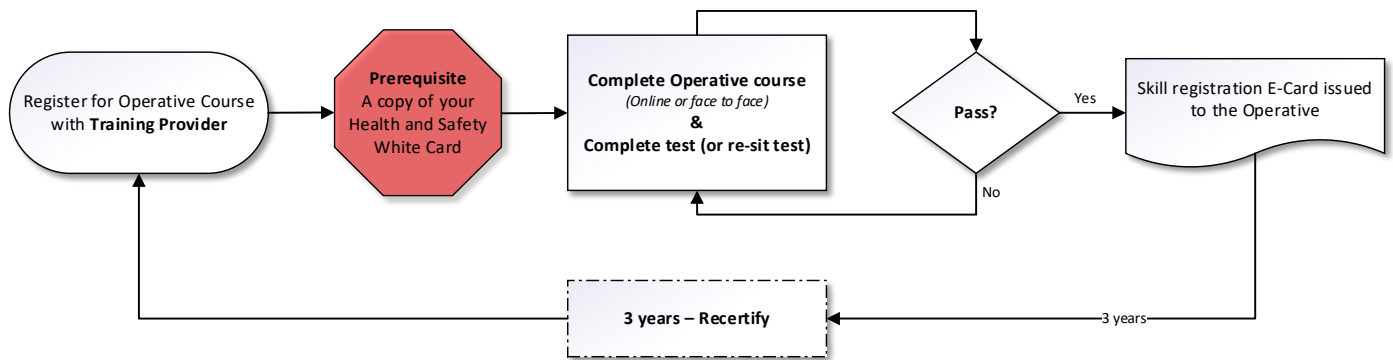
Designer Course (*under development*)

A separate training program tailored for Installation Designers and other industry practitioners. This course will cover the theory of good road safety hardware design practices and installation fundamentals.

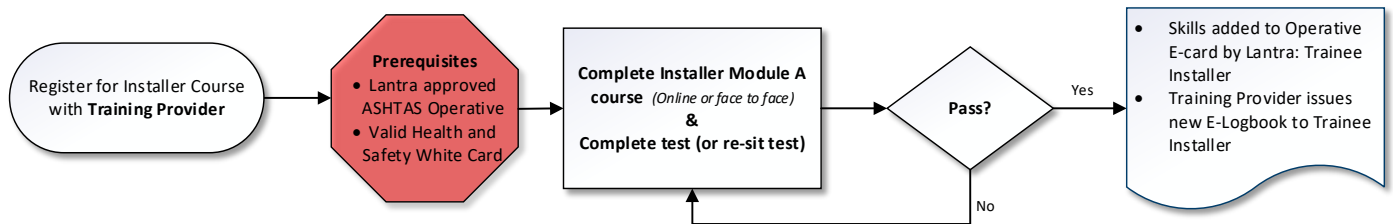
What is the cost of the training?

The initial indicative training cost for the Operative course is priced at approximately \$700 (plus GST). There will be recurrent costs associated with recertification (as shown in the diagrams below).

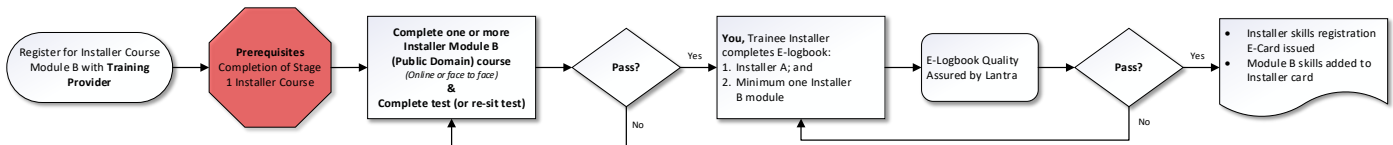
Operative Course Process (available now via approved training organisations)



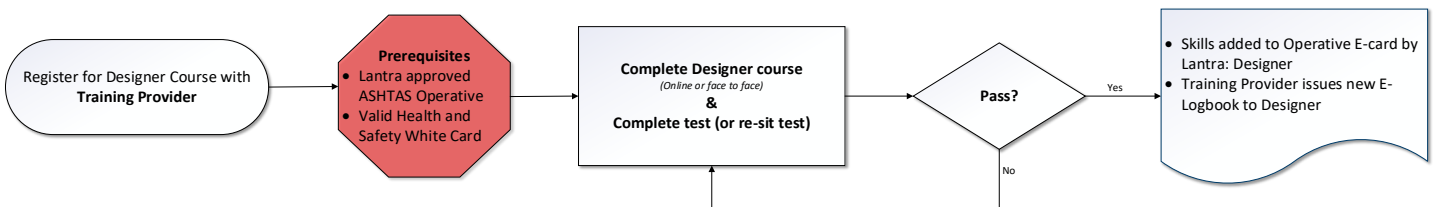
Installer Course Process – Stage 1 (currently under development)



Installer Course Process – Stage 2 (currently under development)



Designer Course Process (currently under development)



Can I complete the Operative Course online?

Yes, training providers have indicated they will have an online and an in-person option for completing the course.

Further training information is on the [ASHTAS page](#) located on the Austroads website.

Who will be paying for completing the training?

Individuals, such as Contractors and Consultants will be responsible for the cost of their training.

Transport and Main Roads will pay costs for departmental employees requiring the training.

Will my qualification be relevant in another state?

Yes, this is a national scheme (including New Zealand).

Who is the QLD Training provider?

National / International providers that are be accessible across Queensland are listed [here](#).

What are the risks if Transport and Main Roads does not adopt Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme?

VicRoads conducted an audit which revealed that the installation of hardware did not meet the jurisdiction's specification requirements and the requirements of product manufacturers. The audit report indicated that the barriers that were installed incorrectly performed significantly worse than what was expected by the manufacturers and road agencies. Essentially, improper installation practices increased the risk of fatalities in crashes beyond what would be considered reasonable.

To address these issues, a standardised training and accreditation program has been implemented to ensure that individuals in the workforce have a thorough understanding of how to properly design, install, and maintain road safety barriers in accordance with established standards, manufacturer's specifications, and best practices.

Where can I go for more information?

For further information on this training requirements, please:

- Visit our webpages:

External web page:

[Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme \(ASHTAS\) \(Department of Transport and Main Roads\) \(tmr.qld.gov.au\)](https://www.tmr.qld.gov.au/transport-and-main-roads/austroads-safety-hardware-training-and-accreditation-scheme)

Internal SharePoint page (departmental staff only):

<https://intranet.tmr.qld.gov.au/sites/engtech/team-space/Pages/Austroads-Safety-Hardware-Training-Accreditation-Scheme.aspx>

- Email Road Design Unit at [Road Design Standards](#)