

Becoming a child restraint technician



November 2020:

Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency provides support for the sector and for parents/guardians on child restraints in the following way:

- producing educational material and promoting best practice
- by publishing on its website the details of Child Restraint Technicians (CRTs) who have been trained and certified through an independent competence-based system.

Child Restraint Technicians (CRTs) play an important role in keeping children safe on our roads. They can provide informed advice on the type of child restraint needed. They also have the practical knowledge to correctly fit a child restraint into a vehicle and show parents/caregivers how to do it too. However, a CRT is not a legal requirement under land transport legislation and Waka Kotahi does not independently verify or assess their training.

If a CRT wants to have their details recorded on the Waka Kotahi website for public inquiries, they will need to undertake training by an established CRT trainer/assessor according to the unit standards. Waka Kotahi recognises that the current unit standards are simply a minimum foundation for training from which an experienced and respected CRT trainer/assessor can build upon using their own training material. Even though training will be done based off unit standards, no credits will be registered or a certificate issued by Waka Kotahi.

You can contact the CRT administrator by email to crtregistrar@nzta.govt.nz



Waka Kotahi

Published May 2016
Updated November
2020

Copyright: May 2016
NZ Transport Agency
15-283

If you have further queries, call our
contact centre on 0800 699 000
or write to us:

Waka Kotahi
Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

While a CRT is not a legal requirement and Waka Kotahi does not independently verify or assess their training, linking to a competence-based system allows the skills and knowledge required to become a CRT to be applied consistently across the country.

Alignment to competencies professionalises training practice within the child restraints sector. Linkage to child restraint competencies also allows a range of organisations to deliver training to differing technicians. For example, training could be run by retailers or people who work for restraint rental companies.

Under the competence-based system, there are two options:

- A knowledge-based option.
- A technician option (which includes a knowledge-based part and a practical part).



What is the knowledge-based option?

This option is for people who are not regularly installing child restraints but need to know how they are installed. This competency alone will not qualify you as a child restraint technician but it will involve an assessment to determine whether you are competent on the material covered in the training.

The assessment is a theory test where candidates can use the *Child restraint technician's manual* for assistance. Once a person is deemed competent, they do not have to repeat it unless major changes are made to the competency outcomes, eg if significant legislative changes are made. If this happens, reassessment would need to take place.

People holding this competency are not deemed to be child restraint technicians.



What is the technician-based option?

This is a knowledge and practical option for those who are installing child restraints and need to become a child restraint technician. This involves an assessment against both of the child restraint competencies.

The assessment is in two parts:

- The first assessment is the knowledge-based assessment (see page 2) carried out by a theory test where candidates can use their reference manual for assistance. Once a person is deemed competent they do not have to repeat it unless major changes are made to the competency outcomes, eg if significant legislative changes are made. If this happens, reassessment would need to take place.
- The second assessment can only be undertaken once a person is deemed competent in the knowledge assessment. This assessment is a practical assessment where the person is observed installing a range of child restraints.

People holding both of the competencies would be recognised as a child restraint technician. In order for a child restraint technician to maintain their currency, they will need to be reassessed against the practical competency every two years.

ASSESSMENT PROCESS

New enrolment (theory and practical)

1. A person wishing to become a CRT checks the Waka Kotahi website to identify a trainer/assessor.
2. The candidate attends the training course and receives a copy of the assessment which is to be completed after the training.
3. The assessor marks the assignment. If the candidate is competent, the candidate can register for the practical assessment. If 'not yet competent' a further opportunity to complete the assignment will be provided.
4. The candidate completes the practical assessment.
5. If the candidate is competent with the practical skills, they will be informed of this by the assessor. If 'not yet competent' a re-sit opportunity will be provided.

More about the assessments

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THE KNOWLEDGE ASSESSMENT?

To complete this competency, you will need to attend a training course. Your provider will try to select a training course for you that fits with the preferred location and date you nominated in your application form. A confirmation letter will be sent to you, outlining what you need to bring to your training course.

On the training day, your trainer will outline the course and assessment requirements. A written theory assessment will be given to you to complete but please advise your trainer if you have any literacy issues, as the assessment can be completed verbally if required. You will have access to your training materials when completing the theory assessment.

Your trainer will mark your theory assessment when it has been received then inform you of the result. If you have been deemed as 'not yet competent', your trainer will contact you personally to discuss further training options.

WHAT'S INVOLVED IN THE PRACTICAL ASSESSMENT?

If you're completing both competencies, after you've passed your knowledge-based assessment, you move on to the practical assessment. You'll be offered a time and date to complete this. Correct installation will form the basis of the skills you will need to acquire before your practical assessment day.

At the practical assessment, you will be required to install a maximum of five different child restraints in a set timeframe under observation. Make sure you are confident you are ready to be assessed before you confirm your practical assessment session.

Your assessor will not make the assessment decision on the day of the practical assessment but will inform you of the results in writing within five working days. If you have been deemed as 'not yet competent', your assessor will contact you personally to discuss further training options.

Qualifying as a technician

Once you have successfully completed both your theory and practical competencies, you will be registered as a child restraint technician for two years.

RECERTIFYING AS A TECHNICIAN

After your two-year registration expires, you will have to apply to recertify as a child restraint technician. This recertification will only require you to be reassessed against the practical competency.

Every two years from the date of your original certification, you will need to contact an assessor to initiate the recertification process. If this process is not initiated within three months of your certification expiring, you will be deemed inactive.





FURTHER INFORMATION

There are a number of qualified child restraint assessors and trainers throughout New Zealand. A list of these people can be obtained from the Waka Kotahi website www.nzta.govt.nz/childrestraints

Our contact details:

Waka Kotahi
Private Bag 6995
Wellington 6141

If you have further queries, call our contact centre on 0800 699 000.