



What Do I Need to Do to Become a Traffic Controller?

To become a traffic controller, firstly you will need to obtain a **Construction Induction Qualification** known in NSW as the **white card** and complete the necessary traffic control training courses.

The white card is a prerequisite for working in the construction industry, Traffic control Personnel also need to speak and read English and understand Australian road signs.

The job also has physical requirements. Traffic Control personnel may need to lift relatively heavy objects when preparing a traffic management work site.

What Does a Traffic Controller Do?

A traffic controller directs the flow of vehicles and machinery on roads and other work sites.

Working in this role involves more than just holding a stop/slow bat. Typical include:

- Directing vehicular flow and pedestrians
- Setting up signage and safety barriers
- Applying a road management plan
- Cleaning and maintaining signs and equipment

These roles are needed in the construction and road building and maintenance industries.

Traffic control operators help divert traffic from work areas, protecting the safety of workers and passing motorists or pedestrians. This typically involves the use of safety barriers, signs, and the stop/slow bat.

Traffic Controllers normally wear hard hats, steel-toed boots and reflective vests.



Managing traffic and pedestrians is a heavy responsibility. The primary duty of the controller is to ensure the safety of all workers and road users. The secondary duty is to minimise the impact of the project on the road network.

Duties during the shift may include setting up, maintaining and taking down road signs or barriers. A traffic plan should describe the locations and conditions of the work. Most traffic work requires the use of appropriate communication devices to maintain contact with colleagues.

Learning how to complete these tasks requires training through the nationally recognised training programme.

What are the Courses for Working in Traffic Control?

Most employers require that Traffic Control personnel, Labourers and general workers complete the two basic Traffic Control skill sets:

The first skill set is ***Control Traffic with a Stop/Slow Bat***.

The second skillset is ***Implement Traffic Management Plan***

Supervisors and team leaders are often required to complete the ***Prepare a Traffic Management Plan (CTMP)*** skill set.

Commonsense Safety Training offer combination training that includes the

- ✓ ***NSW Construction Induction White Card***
- ✓ ***Control Traffic with a Stop/Slow Bat skill set***
- ✓ ***Implement Traffic Management Plan skill set***

The Control Traffic with a Stop/Slow Bat skill set covers:

- Planning and preparing traffic procedures
- Controlling traffic using stop/slow bats
- Operating communication devices
- Cleaning up a road work site



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The program teaches you how to access and apply site traffic control plans (TCP's). The training also covers the different types of signage and devices used for road management.

Controlling Transport flow includes the use of temporary signs and barriers. You also learn how to direct motorists and pedestrians correctly. As part of the training, you learn how to monitor vehicular flow and adjust the plan based on changing conditions.

Workers need to learn how to operate communication devices to maintain contact in the workplace. This involves choosing the right equipment and method in order to transmit messages clearly.

The final portion of the training covers the removal of signs and devices after completing a roadside task. Workers also discover the proper techniques for cleaning, checking, and maintaining tools and equipment.

Implement Traffic Management Plan skill set covers:

- Identify and understand the safety implications of traffic control
- Manage traffic control devices in accordance with the TCP
- Communicate effectively using a range of devices including a two-way radio
- Check, clean and store equipment
- Select an appropriate TCP to suit the site conditions e.g. traffic volume, weather, road conditions and adjust/adapt as needed
- Assess a location, identify topographical landmarks and carry out associated risk control
- Assess a TCP for any unexpected hazards or risks
- Plan for emergencies
- Understand speed, types of vehicle, traffic density, sight lines, environmental conditions and the way they inform or effect a TCP
- Monitor traffic controllers



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Safety Training

Attendees complete practical training and theory. The theory portion of the program is completed in the classroom. Students then complete practical training in a simulated work site.

A Traffic Controller and Implement Traffic Plans assessment test is completed after the training, requiring you to demonstrate your knowledge of the information covered during the theory training.

After you have successfully completed the program and the assessment, you will be issued with an RMS Statement of Completion. This allows you to work as a traffic controller. The statement remains valid for 90 days. In the meantime Commonsense Safety Training will apply to the RMS on your behalf for the issue of a photo card which has a 3 year validity

Where Can I Find Traffic Control Jobs?

After obtaining the necessary traffic controller accreditation, you may begin seeking employment in this field, work opportunities exist in the industries noted below:

- Road Construction
- Road maintenance and upgrades
- Infrastructure construction and maintenance
- Heavy industries
- Domestic construction
- Commercial construction
- Building Maintenance
- General Construction
- Capital works



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The average hourly rate in Sydney is around \$32.00 per hour with some companies offering up to \$50 per hour depending on the type of job or whether for example the work is undertaken at night

Your position, experience, and industry also affect your pay rate. An experienced traffic controller can expect to earn more while an entry-level position may earn less.

The available jobs may include full-time, part-time or temporary positions. Many foreign visitors obtain the required accreditation to seek temporary employment with their working holiday visas.

You have many sources available for finding work in this field, including staffing agencies, online job directories and personal contacts.

Summary

Obtaining the necessary accreditation can open new opportunities or higher pay, depending on the industry. The need for experienced specialists is expected to rise in the short term due to the Corona Virus stimulus package and over the next decade as State and Federal Governments invest in infrastructure.