

Changes to becoming a child restraint technician

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Why are these changes occurring?

Due to the resignation of the contracted CRT Registrar in December 2019, Waka Kotahi brought the function in-house and undertook a review. During the review, the Industry Training Organisation (ITO) *Service IQ*, working under an agreement with the contractor, opted to cease its collaboration with Waka Kotahi as an ITO. Waka Kotahi has decided to streamline the CRT regime by no longer monitoring expiry dates for recertification, registering any credits with NZQA and no payment required to Waka Kotahi.

How do I contact Waka Kotahi about child restraint technicians?

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

What is the process to become a child restraint technician (CRT)?

The process hasn't changed much. Child restraint technicians play an important role in keeping children safe on our roads. For this reason, the child restraint training programme has been linked to a competence-based system based off NZQA unit standards.

Before you can practise as a registered CRT, you are expected to obtain two competencies. This ensures that all CRTs have the skills and knowledge required to carry out this role competently.

The two competencies are:

- » Demonstrate knowledge of child restraints to provide advice for installation, rental or sale (knowledge competency);
- » Select approved child restraints for installation, rental or sale, and install them (practical competency).

If you only need to know how to select and use child restraints as part of your job, rather than install them, you will only need to obtain one competency (knowledge-based). People holding only this competency are not deemed to be CRTs.

If you are new to the sector, you will undergo training and then be assessed in the competencies you wish to obtain.

The assessment for the knowledge competency is carried out by a theory test where you can use your reference manual for assistance. Once you are deemed competent, you do not have to repeat the knowledge competency unless major changes are made to the competency due to - for example - significant legislative changes. If this happens, reassessment would need to take place.

The second assessment (to become a CRT) can only be undertaken once you are deemed competent in the theory assessment. This assessment is a practical assessment where you are observed installing a range of child restraints. People holding both competencies will be recognised as a CRT.

Are CRTs a legal requirement?

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 for installing child restraints under land transport legislation.

When will these new changes take effect?

December 2020.

How do I find an assessor/trainer in my region?

If you're looking to become a CRT, you need to get in touch with an assessor or trainer who can guide you through the training and assessment process.

There is a list of assessor/trainers on the Waka Kotahi website:
www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/vehicle-safety/safety-belts-and-restraints/child-restraints/become-a-child-restraints-technician/

Assessors and trainers may be employed by a retailer (or another organisation) but they are independent and are able to train or assess anyone.

Do I have to complete both the theory and practical components to become a CRT?

Yes. See question 3.

Can I do just the theory component?

Yes. If you only need to know how to select and use child restraints as part of your job, rather than install them, you will only need to obtain one competency (knowledge-based). People holding only this competency are not deemed to be CRTs.

Will CRTs be trained to the same structure of unit standards?

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.

Will the training manual be updated?

Minor updates have been made to reflect these changes. Over time further updates may be made by working with experienced CRT trainers/assessors and child safety groups.

Is Waka Kotahi looking for a new ITO?

Not currently. Waka Kotahi is also awaiting the outcome of the Review of Vocational Education.

Will Waka Kotahi look to enhance the CRT regime, including making CRTs a legal requirement?

Not currently. Instead, a streamlined version of the existing model will continue, whereby CRTs are still trained by CRT assessors/trainers according to the unit standards. Waka Kotahi will not verify or assess the training undertaken.

Will you be training new CRT trainers/assessors?

Waka Kotahi is no longer providing training for established or new CRT trainers/assessors. Any outstanding requests, or trainers/assessors on a waiting list will not proceed.

With no new trainers/assessors coming through, won't new CRTs struggle to have access?

This is an identified issue and Waka Kotahi will work with current CRT trainers/assessors on a suitable solution.

I've already had my training as a CRT against the unit standards and my paperwork has been submitted to Waka Kotahi, what will happen now?

Waka Kotahi is working through a backlog of new CRT requests and you will be notified by email of your request and advised that an update will be made to the Waka Kotahi website (if requested). Waka Kotahi will no longer issue certificates, monitor expiry dates for recertification, will not register any credits with NZQA and no payment is required to Waka Kotahi.

Is the cost changing?

Assessor/trainers will still be setting their own training and assessment costs. No payment is required to Waka Kotahi to have a CRT's details recorded on the website.

How will Waka Kotahi know if a CRT trainer/assessor has taught in line with the training programme?

In order to have a CRT's details updated/recorded on the Waka Kotahi website, the CRT trainer/assessor is required to make a declaration that the named CRT has been trained/assessed in accordance with the appropriate and relevant unit standards for a CRT.

What does the CRT training consist of?

The same unit standards of US 26556 and 26557 are still required and these are typically referred to as the 'theory component' and practical component' respectively. 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.

Are CRT trainers/assessors able to use the Waka Kotahi logo?

No. While Waka Kotahi has been notified that CRTs listed on its website have been trained and certified through an independent competence-based system, their training has not been independently verified or assessed by Waka Kotahi.

How will the standard of training be regulated?

There is currently no ITO to monitor training in accordance with the unit standard and it is not the role of Waka Kotahi to do so.

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Do I get recognition once I have completed both my theory and practical assessments?

Yes, you will receive an acknowledgment email and your contact details recorded on the Waka Kotahi website (if requested).

Are these assessments attached to NZQA unit standards?

Yes. The same unit standards of US 26556 and 26557 are still required to be a CRT and to have contact details recorded on the Waka Kotahi website.

How do people know about my services?

Once confirmation has been received by Waka Kotahi from your trainer/assessor, you will be added to the Waka Kotahi website interactive map where people looking for a CRT will be able to look up your services.

Will Service IQ continue processing the Unit Standards for a period and what is the cut-off date?

Service IQs processing of CRT Unit Standards ceased in December 2019 when the Waka Kotahi-contracted CRT Registrar resigned their services.

What support will be provided for CRT trainer/assessors going forward?

Waka Kotahi will provide some support to CRTs and CRT trainers/assessors by email at crtregistrar@nzta.govt.nz. In addition, Waka Kotahi is still considering how best to utilise the experience and expertise of the CRT reference group.

Does my NZQA qualification hold more weight than what is achieved by a CRT trained under the new system?

Waka Kotahi expects the same standard of training to apply and 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.

Is there an application form to become a CRT?

An updated form has been created for CRT trainers/assessors to complete and submit to crtregistrar@nzta.govt.nz.



Find out more at:

www.nzta.govt.nz/safety/vehicle-safety/safety-belts-and-restraints/child-restraints/find-a-child-restraint-technician/