



Road Safety Audits

FACT SHEET – DECEMBER 2008

Road Safety Audit

A road safety audit assesses a road's safety performance and crash potential at various stages of a road/project's life cycle. A road safety audit is defined by Austroads as "...a formal examination of a future road or traffic project or an existing road, in which an independent, qualified team reports on the project's crash potential and safety performance..."

Road safety audits take the principles of the safe systems approach and apply them proactively. The outcome of a road safety audit is a Road Safety Audit Report that identifies any road safety deficiencies. The following fact sheet outlines the key considerations and provides links for further information.

Documents

Policy / Procedures

Policy is to direct or mandate the behaviour and actions of staff to ensure they observe and achieve agreed standards or outcomes. **Procedures** translate policies into actions and identify responsibilities for those actions.

- RTA Technical Direction TD 2003/RS03 version 2, August 2005 *policy for road safety audits of construction and reconstruction projects*, includes:
 - policy coverage
 - policy statements
 - intervention levels of when to undertake road safety audits
 - implementation and management procedures.

Guides

Guides allow some discretion and flexibility in how to undertake implementation of policy.

- RTA Accident Reduction Guide Part 2 Road Safety Audits (2005), includes:
 - general information on road safety audit objectives, types, benefits, legal issues
 - RTA road safety audit management
 - management procedures for stage one to four road safety audits
 - conducting road safety audits
 - checklists
- Austroads *Road Safety Audit* second edition (2002), includes:
 - background to road safety audit
 - conducting a road safety audit
 - safety principles
 - checklists

Training

Road Safety Auditors

Training to explain the purpose and procedures followed in conducting road safety audits.

- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) NSW division *Road Safety Audits* two day training program. [IPWEA training programs](#).
- Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia (IPWEA) NSW division *Road Safety Audit Refresher* one day training program to refresh the skills of road safety auditors. [IPWEA training programs](#).

Performance schemes

Register of Road Safety Auditors

Recognised professional online register of road safety auditors to promote road safety auditor performance credentials and development.

- NSW Centre for Road Safety *Register of Road Safety Auditors* www.roadsafetyauditors.com administered by Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia NSW division. Includes:
 - Listing of registered road safety auditors
 - Road safety audit management for auditors

Online reference tools

Road Safety Audit Toolkit

Online tool that assists practitioners to carry out road safety audits.

- Austroads *Road Safety Audit Toolkit* www.rsatoolkit.com.au. This is based on Austroads *Road Safety Audit* second edition (2002).

Road Safety Engineering Toolkit

Online reference tool for road engineering practitioners which outlines best-practice, low cost, high return road environment measures to achieve a reduction in road trauma.

- Austroads *Road Safety Engineering Toolkit* www.engtoolkit.com.au. This is based on extensive research, nonetheless, the Toolkit is not a replacement for sound engineering judgement or good design.

Useful contacts

NSW Centre for Road Safety

The NSW Centre for Road Safety is the peak body responsible for road safety in NSW. The primary objective of the Centre is to promote road safety as a core value and key influence on decision-making across the organisation and the road-using public. It leads the development and implementation of state-wide road safety strategies, policies and programs and promotes RTA leadership at state and national levels to reduce the trauma and cost of road casualties to the community.

www.rta.nsw.gov.au/roadsafety

Austrroads

Austrroads is the association of Australian and New Zealand road transport and traffic authorities and aims to promote improved road transport outcomes.

www.austrroads.com.au

Institute of Public Works Engineering Australia

The principal purpose of the organisation is to provide member services and advocacy for persons involved and delivering public works and services.

www.ipwea.org.au

RTA Library

The Library provides information services to the RTA and includes information about road, traffic and structural engineering, transport, road safety, economics, management, human resources, registration, licensing, strategic planning, and environment.

Members of the public are welcome to use the Library for reference purposes.

E library@rta.nsw.gov.au