

Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessment

Information about becoming an Assessor for Restricted Access Vehicle (RAV) route

What is RAV?

A RAV is a vehicle and any load it carries that is:

- over 4.3 metres high
- over 18 metres long
- over 42.5 tonnes
- a controlled access bus

What is a 'RAV route assessment'?

A route assessment is required when a proposal is made to allow access for RAVs to an existing road or road network. RAV route assessments are undertaken by Department for Infrastructure and Transport (DIT) prequalified¹ Route Assessors.

Not all roads are suitable for large or heavy vehicles like RAVs. Route assessments are required to ensure that proposed routes are safe and suitable for RAV operation.

The Route Assessor thoroughly examines proposed routes to determine whether or not they would be suitable for the particular access requested.

Route assessments must be undertaken in accordance with nationally agreed Performance Based Standards Guidelines.

Route assessments may be initiated by a local council, private organisation (such as a transport operator) or by government.

Why is route assessment necessary?

All road use must be managed and regulated. This ensures that the needs of industry can be balanced with environmental concerns, the protection of valuable infrastructure (such as roads and bridges) and the safety of road users.

¹ A 'prequalified' Route Assessor or Senior Road Safety Auditor is a person who DIT has determined is eligible to be considered for work (tender) and is registered with DIT.

Who can assess routes?

A person who wishes to undertake route assessments must be formally acknowledged as a Route Assessor in South Australia by DIT.

What experience must a person have and what are the steps to becoming qualified as a Route Assessor in South Australia?

An applicant must:

1. have at least five years experience in a relevant road design, road construction or traffic engineering field;
2. have knowledge and understanding of:
 - relevant Austroads Guidelines and Australian Standards
 - the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator's Performance Based Standards (PBS) Scheme and the Network Classification Guidelines
 - DIT's Heavy Vehicle Access Framework;
3. Successfully complete a road safety audit training course of a t least two days duration;
4. Undertake at least five formal road safety audits as part of an audit team, which has been led by a prequalified Senior Road Safety Auditor, including at least three at design stages;
5. Be a prequalified Senior Road Safety Auditor with DIT;
6. Undertake a minimum of two route assessments lead by a prequalified Route Assessor/Senior Road Safety Auditor and apply for Route Assessor status from DIT;

Important note:

Route Assessors must maintain their professional experience by undertaking at least one route assessment per year.

For further information and useful links:

Visit the Department for Infrastructure and Transport website at www.dit.sa.gov.au to view the:

- Heavy Vehicle Access Framework
- Performance Based Standards Guidelines
- Guidelines and Application Form for Senior Road Safety Auditor Prequalification
- Guidelines and Application Form for Restricted Access Vehicle Route Assessor Prequalification