

Becoming a child restraint technician

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

28 FEBRUARY 2017

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

Child restraint technicians play a very 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.

Before you can practise as a registered CRT, you are required 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 it 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. In order for you to maintain your currency, you will need to be reassessed against the practical competency every two years. People holding both of the competencies will be recognised as a CRT.

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 NZ Transport Agency 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 other organisation) but they are independent and are free to train or assess anyone.

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

Yes. See question 1.

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.

What will it cost?

Assessor/trainers will be setting their own training and assessment costs as they are self-employed but NQF Solutions has suggested some guidelines they should work within. These include:

- » Assessment per person = \$50.00 per hour +GST
- » Training (half day) per person = \$200 +GST
- » Training (full day) per person = \$400 +GST

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These may alter if travel is involved or the training takes longer than expected. The costs for reporting a new CRT's unit standards with NZQA through ServicelQ are:

- » \$55 for both unit standards
- » \$45 if only one unit standard is being completed
- » \$15 for the certificate which will be issued within 20 working days of ServicelQ receiving the credit notification.

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

Yes, you will receive a certificate once you are competent in both parts of the process. The certificate will list the unit standards achieved.

Are these assessments attached to NZQA unit standards?

Yes, you will be awarded with unit standards 26556 and 26557. This means that once you are deemed competent and this is registered with NZQA you will receive a *Record of achievement* from NZQA with your unit standards listed on it.

How do people know about my services?

Once you are deemed competent by your assessor/trainer, you will be added to the NZ Transport Agency interactive map where people looking for a CRT will be able to look up your services.

How long does my certification last?

Knowledge competency – Once you are deemed competent you do not have to repeat it unless major changes are made to the competency due to (for example) significant legislative changes. If this happens, reassessment would need to take place.

Practical competency – To maintain your CRT currency, you will need to be reassessed against the practical competency every two years.

Does someone let me know when my certification is about to expire?

Yes. NQF Solutions will notify CRTs of their local assessor/trainer and their re-certification date. NQF Solutions will also notify the appropriate local assessor/trainer of people needing to be recertified.

How do I get recertified?

When a CRT is advised that they need to recertify they will be matched to an assessor/trainer. The assessor/trainer will advise them of their assessment venue, time, date and costs.

Once the CRT has completed the assessment successfully on the agreed date, they will be advised of the results by their assessor/trainer who will organise a recertification sticker for their certificate.

How is my recertification recognised?

Through a recertification sticker sent to re-certified CRTs. The CRT's contact details will remain on the NZ Transport Agency website database. New certificates issued to those who complete CRT status will have space for four recertification stickers.

What does recertification cost?

Recertification only requires an assessment to take place. As the assessment should be able to be completed in an hour, the NQF Solutions guideline is \$50 per hour for assessment. This does not include any assessor travel or venue costs which would be on-charged to the person being assessed. There are no credit or certificate costs attached to recertification.

What happens if I don't recertify?

Your competency will not be current and your details will be taken off the NZ Transport Agency website database.



Find out more at:

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