

Communiqué



Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) Review Committee Meeting No. 1

12 September 2022 | Video conference

The inaugural meeting of the Austroads Safety Hardware Training and Accreditation Scheme (ASHTAS) Review Committee took place on Monday 12th September 2022. The attendance list for the meeting is in the Table A.

ASHTAS delivers a high standard and nationally consistent set of training outcomes for individuals installing and maintaining road safety barriers in Australia and New Zealand.

At the meeting, presentations were made and questions were addressed by:

- **Michael Nieuwesteeg – Road Safety & Design Program Manager, Austroads**
- **Chris Koniditsiotis – Implementation Manager Austroads**
- **Robert Tabor - Commercial Director and Deputy CEO, Lantra**
- **Stephanie Craig - Head of Industry Partnerships, Lantra**
- **Jade Hogan – Chair, Austroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel.**

ASHTAS Implementation

An overview of the ASHTAS initiative was presented including the historical work and the more recent implementation activities leading to the stage where the national dimensions are effectively complete for local adoption.

Austroads members, along with the road safety barrier industry, have been concerned about the quality of installation of road safety barriers which may put the safety of the public and road workers at risk.

To address this issue, Austroads worked with Australian state and territory road transport agencies, Waka Kotahi (New Zealand Transport Agency), and industry representatives to introduce a nationally consistent training and ongoing accreditation program to ensure that all installers and operatives in the workforce understand how to install, repair, and maintain road safety barriers correctly following the manufacturer's specifications and best practices.

ASHTAS training and accreditation

A presentation of the ASHTAS eco-system, including the roles and responsibilities of the different entities and their associated processes was presented.

ASHTAS is a training and accreditation scheme comprising a graduated pathway for individuals. The individual's pathway entails entry-level safety and operational awareness, and then generic installation training. An individual can then undertake training in specific road safety barrier types, e.g., W-Beam/Thrie Beam or flexible/wire rope safety barriers, etc. For each of the road safety barrier types, associated proprietary specific road safety barrier system training is also provided.

Proprietary-specific road safety barrier system training material is not a duplicate of the generic training material, but rather specific to the supplier's road safety barrier system that builds on or addresses the differences to the generic type. **Australian and New Zealand road safety barrier providers are invited to engage with Lantra to ensure their proprietary systems are included in the proprietary Installer training material.**

ASHTAS training providers

The role of Australian and New Zealand-approved training providers is to be responsible for delivering the Lantra-based training and oversight of the individual's ongoing accreditation. Lantra advised that it has three training organizations across Australia and New Zealand with discussion continuing with others. **Training providers seeking to become approved training providers for ASHTAS are invited to engage with Lantra.**

Austrroads Safety Barrier Assessment Panel (ASBAP)

Road safety barriers, systems, and devices are assessed in Australia and New Zealand by ASBAP.

Road safety barrier suppliers will continue to use ASBAP to have their specific road safety barrier systems considered and subject to assessment 'recommended for use' with the additional requirement to ensure all necessary training material for their specific road safety barrier systems is also included. This takes the form of either:

- using the Lantra-supplied training templates to create the training material, or
- requesting Lantra create the training material.

ASHTAS Operationalisation

In addition to the Austrroads national dimensions being effectively complete, Lantra informed the committee that the Operative and Installer (generic) training material is effectively complete and that it is making progress with the Installer (proprietary) training material. Lantra advised that it will be ready for commencement on 1st November 2022. The adoption by Australian States and Territories and New Zealand will be made by each jurisdiction.

ASHTAS Term of Reference

The ASHTAS Term of Reference was tabled and discussed. Request for nominations as Chair and Vice-chair, noting preference is for both industry and government representatives were requested by Austrroads post-meeting.

Table A – Attendee List

Organisation	Name
Lantra	Robert Tabor Stephanie Craig
LB Australia	Ryan Findlayson
Valmont Industries	John Dignam
Steelgal	Will Young
CSP	Neil Watson
Trafficworks	Paul Mihailidis
Road Safety Audits	Peter Harris
Austrroads	Chris Koniditsiotis Michael Nieuwesteeg
Austrroads members	Jade Hogan, Transport for NSW (ASBAP Chair) Sue Philpott, Transport for NSW (ASBAP Secretary) Santosh Tripathi, Transport & Main Roads Queensland Evan Coulson, Department of Transport Victoria Cale Mariano and Bruce Snook, Main Roads WA Julian Chisnall and Joe Southey, Waka Kotahi NZ Transport Agency Phil Malloy, Dept Infrastructure & Transport SA Sam Hatzivalsamis, DIPL NT Ben Hubbard, TCSS ACT