



## **10 Questions you need to ask about Certificates of Competency if you are a Road Safety Auditor**

*There are some major changes coming up with respect to qualifications for Road Safety Auditors in the UK. In the future, auditors will require a “Certificate of Competency”, and in February 2012 TMS Consultancy obtained Highways Agency Approval to award Certificates of Competency through their two day “Keeping up to date with Safety Audit” CPD course.*

*Steve Proctor of TMS Consultancy answers the ten most important questions that auditors should be asking about this issue....*



### **1. Where does this Certificate of Competency requirement come from?**

*In 2008 the European Commission issued a Directive (2008/96/EC) stating that Certificates of Competency would be required in order to undertake Road Safety Audit work*

### **2. Who does it affect?**

*The Directive says that all safety audit teams undertaking audits on the Trans European Network (TERN) must include at least one audit team member who holds a Certificate of Competency. But the requirement for a certificate of competency will also apply to all trunk road and motorway schemes.*

### **3. Why does this apply to all trunk roads if it's a Directive from Brussels about European roads?**

*The Highways Agency (HA), Transport Scotland, Transport Wales, and DoE Northern Ireland have jointly decided that they want the conditions of the Directive to apply to all trunk road and motorway schemes (and not just TERN roads). This is stated in IAN 152/11, published last December*

### **4. But I only work on local roads.....**

*Then you might be OK. But you need to check whether the relevant local authority guidelines say that audits should be carried out in accordance with HA standards, and if they do, you may feel that you need a Certificate of Competency. And don't forget that the current HD 19/03 commends the RSA Standard to ALL highway authorities*

**5. How do I get my Certificate of Competency?**

*IAN 152/11 sets out how to go about this. There are two options. First you could undertake an HA Approved two day CPD course, and undertake the training providers' HA Approved Certificate of Competency assessment process. TMS awards HA Approved Certificates of Competency through our two day "Keeping up to date with Safety Audit" CPD course.*

*Alternatively, you could provide a "portfolio of evidence" to an HA Approved organisation independent of your employer. SORSA is currently seeking HA approval to award certificates via the portfolio route*

**6. Who verifies this qualification?**

*The Highways Agency checks the process that the training provider and / or portfolio institution puts forward. The HA requires certain conditions to be met by the provider, for example that they check candidates' existing training, skills, and experience, and that the Certificate of Competency training is in line with the HA designated curriculum*

**7. But I already belong to SORSA/ am on the IHE Register of RS Auditors.....**

*Me too, but you and I will still need to obtain a Certificate of Competency!*

**8. I don't have much RSA experience yet, can I do the Certificate of Competency anyway?**

*You need to demonstrate the training, skills and experience requirement set out in HD 19/03 as a pre-qualifier for taking the Certificate of Competency. So as long as you have 10 days formal road safety engineering training, at least 2 years road safety engineering experience, and have undertaken at least 5 RSAs in the last 2 years, you should be OK to try for the Certificate of Competency*

**9. Does my Certificate of Competency allow me to do RSAs on trunk roads and motorways throughout the UK? And how about the rest of Europe?**

*Well, an HA Approved Certificate of Competency will allow you to do RSAs on trunk road and motorway schemes throughout the UK. As far as the other 26 Member States are concerned, a UK based Certificate of Competency will be like an entry qualification. You may need to meet further requirements in specific Member States if their national standards demand it*

**10. OK, so when do I need to get Certified by?**

*You will need at least one member of the trunk road or motorway RSA team to hold a Certificate of Competency by December 2013*

*Any more questions, please contact Steve Proctor or Phil Cook at TMS on 02476 690900  
[info@tmsconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:info@tmsconsultancy.co.uk)*

*You can register for the next HA Approved Certificate of Competency course at TMS by contacting Gill Brooks at [courses@tmsconsultancy.co.uk](mailto:courses@tmsconsultancy.co.uk) or by checking out the training section of our web site. These courses are also available in house for organisations wishing to train four or more staff.*

The TMS HA Approved route to Certificate of Competency not only provides delegates with their certificate, but also provides the two days annual road safety CPD requirement from HD 19/03