

Four Wheel Drive Competency Training Guideline

Introduction and Scope of this Guideline

The University recognises that within its operations it is necessary for four wheel drive vehicles to be used 'off road' in remote locations and in terrain that may exceed the driver's abilities, experience and understanding of how the vehicle and its accessories are to be operated safely.

While a 'C' Class license is the only requirement to legally operate a four wheel drive on the road this licensing requirement does not consider how competent a driver may be when operating a four wheel drive off road.

This guideline should be adopted to ensure adequate controls are in place during these off road situations.

This will be achieved by ensuring that all persons operating four wheel drive vehicles off road have completed a Competency Training Unit designed for the safe operation of a four wheel drive vehicle and its recovery.

Who should read and use this Guideline

- Staff undertaking fieldwork that involves the off road use of four wheel drive vehicles.
- Students undertaking research that involves the off road use of four wheel drive vehicles
- Academic supervisors of students who have a responsibility for safeguarding the occupational health and safety of students in their charge
- Executive Deans, Heads of Schools and Centres who have a responsibility for implementing and maintaining occupational health and safety standards in projects and teaching facilities under their control.
- Persons charged with the responsibility of providing access to four wheel drive vehicles.

Definitions

Off Road: is any area, road, trail or terrain, to be traversed in a vehicle where the off road capabilities of a conventional two wheel drive vehicle are exceeded and four wheel drive vehicles are required, and that has signs indicating that four wheel drive is required.

Competency Standard: is a Unit of Competency that is registered with the National Training Information Service and must be provided by a Registered Training Organisation (RTO).

RTO: is a Registered Training Organisation that has been registered by state and territory training authorities to deliver nationally recognised training.

Responsibilities

Executive Deans, Heads of Schools and Centres: have obligations under the Workplace Health and Safety Act, S28 -Obligations of employers and S30 - Obligations of persons in control of workplaces, to ensure the appropriate controls are in place.

This includes:

- allocation of resources for training personnel
- provision of vehicles that are appropriately selected, equipped and maintained for conduct of the required task and environment to be negotiated.
- developing a system of work that ensures only trained personnel are operating four wheel drive vehicles off road.

Managers and Supervisors: who authorise staff and student access to four wheel drive vehicles, where off road use will be required, are to ensure the appropriate controls are implemented.

Staff: have responsibilities for their own health safety and the health and safety of coworkers and others in their charge and will ensure the implementation of these controls .

Students: are responsible for taking all reasonable steps to ensure their own health and safety and shall follow all safety instructions provided to them regarding four wheel drive vehicle operation.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment should be conducted, prior to departure, to determine the competency training needs of the driver. The assessment will consider the terrain and conditions to be negotiated. If information on the terrain is unknown then a trained driver should always be chosen. This assessment would form part of the Fieldwork Plan as detailed in the Fieldwork & Off-Campus OHS Guideline.

Competency Training Providers (RTO) (See <http://www.ntis.gov.au/Default.aspx?rto/all>)

University of Queensland
Gatton Vocational Education Centre (GVEC)
Gatton Campus 4343
Ph. 07 54 601 353
<http://www.uq.edu.au/nravs/?page=52200>

RTO Code 1511

Queensland Transport Driver Training Centre
Mt. Cotton Road
Mt. Cotton 4165
Ph. 07 3822 0000.

Australian 4WD Driver Training and Tours
7 Markore Court
Albany Creek 4035
Ph. 07 3264 1877
<http://www.australian4wd.com.au>

RTO Code 31223

Four Wheel Drive Training Pty Ltd
11 Hudson Road
Albion 4010
Ph. 07 3630 0008
<http://www.4wdtraining.com.au/>

RTO Code 30973