

Becoming a Road Safety Auditor



Road Safety Auditing

The route to being part of the Audit Team

To start:

The main requirements for someone to become a Road Safety Auditor are that you:

- Have acquired a good understanding of the science of road traffic Casualty Reduction or Collision Investigation
- Know how to take steps to implement measures which are designed to reduce the risk of future similar crashes occurring
- Are committed to reducing road traffic casualties and improving road safety.

These measures will usually be of an engineering nature in order to make the road environment safer but can also include measures which make use of traffic regulations enforcement and education, training and publicity (ETP). The wide range of measures which can be applicable are often as a result of a Safe Systems approach to the problem.

In the UK & Ireland, it is likely that those aspiring to become a road safety auditor



will gain their knowledge and experience working for highway authorities (in many cases a local authority or a division of Highways England or its equivalent in Wales, Scotland and Ireland) or in the private sector within an engineering or multi-disciplinary consultancy.

The work will usually be part of the traffic and/or highway engineering section in these organisations. However, the work of the Police, Fire Service, local education department and sometimes even of a specialised branch of the National Health Service may also be involved with casualty reduction. Very often these disparate groups will be working together, particularly in the case of Road Safety Partnerships, which are a good example of how the UK implements the Safe Systems approach.

So a route to becoming a Road Safety Auditor is most likely to start with a background of engineering but may also include that of education, driver or rider training, police traffic work, forensic examination or even medical trauma diagnosis.



To obtain a better understanding and competency of the techniques involved in casualty reduction and road safety engineering further and additional training is likely to be required. Many organisations will facilitate this but prospective auditors can attend training courses that provide the relevant programme. There are a few such courses but perhaps the most favoured is the 10 day (two week) course run by the Royal Society for the Prevention of Accidents (RoSPA).

There are also other courses which look at specific aspects including advanced road safety engineering and vulnerable road users such as pedestrians and cyclists. The training and continued gaining of experience in engineering techniques is crucial to eventually becoming a Road Safety Auditor.

For a list of suitable courses available please visit – www.ciht.org.uk/sorsa

Types of Auditor:

There are three levels of auditor

- ✔ **Observer**
- ✔ **Member**
- ✔ **Team Leader**

Road Safety Audit Team Observer must have:

- ✔ At least one years' experience in Collision Investigation (CI) and/or Road Safety Engineering (RSE). In order to audit Trunk Road and Motorway schemes this experience must include these types of routes;
- ✔ Completed 10 days of Initial Training, usually in the form of a relevant course (see previous) to form the solid theoretical foundation on which to base practical experience.

Road Safety Audit Team Member must have:

- ✔ Attended at least 10 days of formal CI and/or RSE training to form the solid theoretical foundation on which to base practical experience;
- ✔ At least two years' experience in CI and/or RSE;

- ✔ Completed at least five Road Safety Audits (RSAs) as Member or Observer in the past 24 months;
- ✔ Completed a minimum of two days CPD in the field of Road Safety Audit, CI and/or RSE in the past 12 months.

Road Safety Audit Team Leader must have (in UK):

- ✔ Already achieved the necessary training to become an Audit Team Member;
- ✔ At least four years' experience CI and/or RSE experience;
- ✔ Completed at least five RSAs in the past 12 months as a RSA Team Leader or Member;
- ✔ Completed a minimum of two days CPD in the fields of RSA, CI and/or RSE in the past 12 months.



NOTE - For Ireland, applicants must be Chartered Engineers or FSORSA



So, you are working in Collision Investigation/Casualty Reduction/Road Safety Engineering and you want to become a Road Safety Auditor - first, ask to attend site visits as an Observer along with other auditors and get yourself on an appropriate 10 day course.

In addition to the above, auditors who intend to work on projects on the Motorway and Trunk Road network or local authority high speed roads may need to acquire a Certificate of Competency (CoC). This is an additional requirement for at least one team member undertaking Safety Audits on Trunk Roads, Motorways and/or local authority high speed roads.

The Highways England Certificate of Competency (CoC) fulfils the four Core Modules as laid out in Article (1-3) of the EU Directive 2008/96/EC and HD 19/15 and applies also across the Devolved Administrations.

There are two paths to attaining the CoC:

- Through a training course, usually of two days length, with a two part exam (1. multiple choice questions, and 2.

hazard recognition, identification of potential collision types and their possible mitigation), or

- Portfolio of Evidence (the route that SoRSA offers – see below) where auditors provide evidence of their knowledge or experience of the modules.

The Core Modules are:

- Core Module 1: Road Safety Legal Issues, Legislation and Policy;
- Core Module 2: Collision Investigation;
- Core Module 3: Road Safety Audit;
- Core Module 4: Road Safety Engineering/ Road Design.

It would not be expected that an Observer, nor a relatively new auditor, would be able to gain a CoC but an auditor with several years' experience would be expected to be successful by one route or the other.

About SoRSA

SoRSA (Society of Road Safety Auditors) represents an exciting initiative by the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT), in providing a home for the development of professional road safety auditing best practice.

SoRSA was established by the Institution as a response to a growing call from professionals operating in the fields of road safety auditing and safety engineering practice in the UK, for a forum to exchange best practice and, importantly, to provide advice and ultimately routes to professional recognition for road safety auditing practitioners.

Importantly, SoRSA is an association of CIHT and therefore has a committee structure and constitution similar to the established CIHT regions. Uniquely, it is a community of professionals from a specialist discipline. If you are an existing CIHT member, you can join SoRSA from wherever you live. SoRSA now has links to similar organisations overseas which may enable overseas auditors to become members in the future.

There are four types of membership of SoRSA available:

Affiliate

Open to all who are interested in Road Safety Auditing. Experience in the field is not required, merely an interest in Road

Safety Audit will suffice and the information requested will be used to assist SoRSA in developing new member services. There is no post-nominal for this grade of membership.

Associate

Applicants should show how they meet the requirements of an Observer as defined in HD 19/15 'Road Safety Audit' or to the local standard applicable in the country in which the applicant is working (a copy of this standard in English must be supplied to enable the application to be assessed against it). Copies of attendance certificates are required for all formal training identified in this application. Some experience/attendance at Road Safety Audits would be beneficial. There is no post-nominal for this grade of membership.

To become an Observer applicants will have to request inclusion in Road Safety Audit site visits - to learn how Auditors conduct their investigations and how reports are compiled.

Member

Applicants will have to ensure provision of sufficient information that complies with the requirements for road safety audit team leader or team member. Applications for SoRSA membership will be assessed against in-depth criteria which may not reflect the standards against which all currently practising auditors will have been assessed. The post-nominal MSoRSA applies.

Fellow

Fellow is the Society's highest grade of membership. This grade is only awarded to those who, in the opinion of the SoRSA Membership Committee, demonstrate a high level of experience in Road Safety Audit and collision investigation or road safety engineering; train and mentor other Auditors; lead Audit Teams on large, complex schemes and recommending interesting or innovative solutions to identified problems, i.e. the applicant should surpass the requirements for Road Safety Audit Team Leader as set out in HD 19/15 'Road Safety Audit'.

Applicants for Fellow are required to submit a separate 2000 word report on their Road Safety Audit experience. The report will reflect the applicant's high level of experience in Road Safety Audit, accident investigation or road safety engineering, leading audit teams on large, complex audits and recommending interesting or innovative solutions to identified problems. The submission should additionally demonstrate proven ability and where a significant contribution has been made to the profession. The post-nominal FSoRSA applies.

www.ciht.org.uk/sorsa





To join SoRSA, there are Membership Application forms which are downloadable from the website www.ciht.org.uk/joinsorsa

A Word version is available upon request by emailing membership@ciht.org.uk

Applicants should complete the SoRSA Membership Application Form for the various levels of membership and submit by email to membership@ciht.org.uk

Membership of SoRSA is fast becoming a prerequisite qualification by employers both here in the UK and several other countries for professionals to undertake Road Safety Audit work.

SoRSA undertakes an **ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP REVIEW** in order to ensure that its members who are currently

undertaking audit work can demonstrate Continuing Professional Development (CPD) in order to maintain a high standard of competency and keep themselves up to date on developments in all aspects of the work.

The SoRSA Committee is composed of experienced UK and international road safety auditing and engineering professionals. All are Members or Fellows of the Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) and who responded to the Institution's proposal to establish a dedicated Society for professional safety auditing practice within the terms of its Constitution in early 2007.

Each area of the UK and Ireland has a committee member responsible for promoting SoRSA in that area and acting as a regional point of contact.

Membership of CIHT is not essential to becoming a member of SoRSA. SoRSA welcomes applications from auditors who may or may not be members of other UK organisations or institutions and particularly from those who may be undertaking road safety engineering and/or auditing in other countries, provided they can show that their membership criteria are comparable with those in UK.