
Certification Rules for Traffic Control Supervisors

Tips For Counties

The following are certification rules for Traffic Control Supervisors (TCS):

1. No laws require any specific form of training. Colorado requires either training or certification for state projects but not for county work. Certification is available from either (CCA) Colorado Contractor's Association or (ATSSA) American Traffic Safety Services Association. Certification requires a minimum number of hours directly supervising projects, and only employer supervisors must sign off on those hours.
2. You can do the training and get the "training only" card. They can issue you a card that says you attended the training but it won't say they are certified. Training modules or segments may also be purchased from lower cost alternatives. Proof of the employee's training in the files is good enough—even for state projects. Employees should all be encouraged to take such training.
3. The actual certifications are required if the TCS is the person in charge of a federal FHWA/CDOT contract and that usually requires the contractor to hire a traffic control manager. Any work that impacts, crosses, or will impede traffic on any state regulated road should have a (written) plan filed and approved with the appropriate CDOT office. A private contractor will be required to follow the (MUTCD) Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices.
4. Who provides the traffic control contract for other projects is a "grey area" but CDOT will require it as a part of the contractor's obligations. Sources consulted knew of no problems with county planning and zoning relative to notifying CDOT or vice versa.
5. If it's a local contractor project impacting only county roads or private roads not owned by the contractor, the county engineer should require a traffic control plan, and a TCS for on-site supervision, to be provided by the contractor as part of any permitting process and pre-planning process. After plans are approved, make sure to: a) have it on file in the office, and b) have a copy at the site of the work/maintenance. This is

especially true if there is any impact on roads likely to be regulated by CDOT. The rules apply everywhere, and local law enforcement can shut down the project until there is one if you have the right zoning code/regulations.

6. If it is work being done by the county on county owned and maintained roads (including maintenance), the county engineer, or road and bridge engineer or traffic control supervisor should, at the least, go out to the site, and draw or sketch out a traffic control plan following the CDOT guidelines. If there is no sketch or adequate (drawn or written) plan at the site, in theory CDOT or local law enforcement can shut down the project until there is one. This plan should be: a) filed in the engineering or traffic control office, and b) a copy at the worksite. Two cones and a sign do not make a work zone plan.

If you need more information, please consult the following sources:

- CDOT standards on Traffic Control Review
http://ops.fhwa.dot.gov/wz/resources/final_rule/cdot_tcr_form.htm
- State of Colorado DOT rules and regulations
<http://www.dot.state.co.us/truckpermits/2-CCR-601-6.pdf>
- Federal Highway Administration rules on training for federal projects
<http://www.fhwa.dot.gov/construction/training.cfm>
- Colorado Contractors' Association
<http://www.workzonesafety.org/>