

Competency Framework

Vehicle Purchase and Modifications

Introduction

The Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Credential recognises that Occupational Therapists undertaking driving assessment and rehabilitation require specialist knowledge and training. This knowledge allows the therapist to provide appropriate advice and recommendations related to driving safety, driving techniques, vehicle modifications and equipment needs.

Level 1 Credential

Level 1 Credentialed Assessors may assess people who may require:

1. Seating and seat belt changes to enable the person to drive a vehicle safely and/or
2. Appropriate wheelchair storage to achieve independence.
3. Seating changes to enable the disabled person to be a passenger in the vehicle.
4. A ramp, hoist or other vehicle adaptation in order to be a passenger in a vehicle while seated in a wheelchair.

Level 2 Credential

Level 2 Credentialed Assessors may assess people who may require:

1. Pedal modifications such as a left foot accelerator to drive a vehicle safely; and/or
2. Modifications to secondary controls including switches, knobs, levers, indicators, park brake and ignition to drive a vehicle safely and/or
3. Hand controls; and/or
4. A cognitive function assessment to determine safety to drive; or
5. An on road assessment to determine safety to drive.

Option module (Drive from Wheelchair or joystick technology) allows Occupational Therapists assessing at this level to assess people who may require:

6. A ramp hoist or other vehicle adaptation in order to access the vehicle while seated in a wheelchair for the purposes of driving while seated in a wheelchair; or
7. A wheelchair docking system to achieve safe driving from the wheelchair; or

8. A swing away back support for the purposes of driving from the wheelchair, or
9. Custom lateral supports to achieve safe driving from the wheelchair or
10. Joystick technology to achieve safe driving.

Requirements for Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Credentials

Level 1 Credential	Level 2 Credential
Occupational Therapist with a current Annual Practicing Certificate	Occupational Therapist with a current Annual Practicing Certificate
2 years post basic experience in physical (rehabilitation or acute) occupational therapy	Holds a Level 1 Credential in Vehicle Purchase & Modifications
Completed EMS Core Module	
Successful completion of a recognised ¹ Driver Assessment & Training Course <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • University of Sydney Unit of Study: OCCP5144 Driving Assessment and Training B 	
Successful completion of a case study as reviewed by the Supervisor	Successful completion of a case study as reviewed by the Supervisor
Understands the indicators for seating changes that promote safe transit and postural management and has linkages with a Wheelchair and Seating Level 1 Assessor ² to collaboratively discuss suitable solutions	
Employer Declaration by Supervisor demonstrating competencies for the Credential have been achieved (includes three different assessments resulting in EMS Service Requests for Ministry of Health or applications for ACC)	Employer Declaration by Supervisor demonstrating competencies for the Credential have been achieved (includes two assessments that have been peer reviewed by the Supervisor)
	Optional module for Drive from wheelchair or Joystick technology

Supervisor

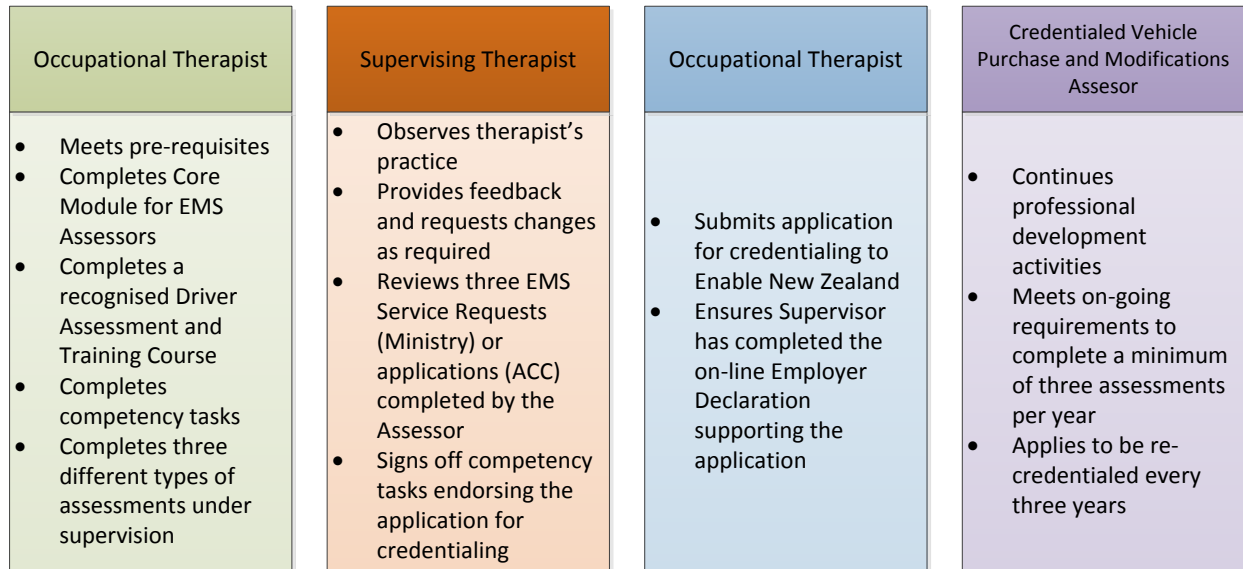
Each Assessor working in a Provisional (in training) capacity will require a supervisor under the EMS Accreditation Framework. If your employer cannot provide a suitable supervisor or you are self-employed please contact Enable NZ who may be able to assist in identifying a supervisor in your area.

Where a credential is required by ACC refer to the Transport for Independence contract or Highly Specialised Transport for Independence contract for clinical supervisor requirements.

¹ Other training courses will be recognised by the Ministry of Health where Occupational Therapy NZ (OTNZ) has endorsed a programme as being equivalent to those listed.

² ACC equivalent is: Seating and Wheelchair Assessor.

Occupational Therapists seeking to be credentialed for the first time or after a three year gap in practice will follow the process as outlined in the following diagram:



Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Assessor Level 1 Credential Competencies

Description	Competencies Required	Demonstrated By
<p>Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Level 1 Credential enables the Assessor to assess people who may require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Seating and seat belt changes to enable the person to drive a vehicle safely and/or 2. Appropriate wheelchair storage to achieve independence. 3. Seating changes to enable the disabled person to be a passenger in the vehicle 4. A ramp, hoist or other vehicle adaptation in order to be a passenger in a vehicle while seated in a wheelchair 	<p>Knowledge:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a working knowledge of Low Volume Vehicle standards (disability adaptive control systems, seatbelt anchorage standard and vehicle seat standard) and certification system. • Has knowledge of New Zealand legislation and regulation (e.g. Land Transport rules – Section 56 – Allows NZTA to place special conditions on a licence on the opinion of an Occupational Therapist). • Understands the eligibility and access criteria and processes related to Ministry of Health funding and/or ACC for assessment, vehicle purchase and modifications. • Understands the requirements for Lottery Grants Board funding, including the dual Ministry of Health and Lottery Grants Board funding process for vehicle modifications for children under 16 years. • Understands the indicators for seating changes that promote safe transit and postural management. • <u>Understands the Indicators for Liaison between Vehicle Assessors and Wheelchair and Seating Assessors</u> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Uses knowledge gained at recognised vehicle assessor training as provided by the University of Sydney or as recognised as being equivalent by OTNZ. • Completes three different types of vehicle assessments as observed by a supervising therapist. • Uses evidence based assessment tools to conduct three initial interview assessments as observed by a supervising therapist or mentor • Presents a case study with thorough clinical reasoning to present a preferred option (meets client needs, cost efficient, meets funding (Ministry or ACC) criteria) that will result in driver independence and/or safe seating and transportation while a passenger in a vehicle.

Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Assessor Level 2 Credential Competencies

Description	Competencies Required	Demonstrated By
<p>Vehicle Purchase and Modifications Level 2 Credential enables the EMS Assessor to assess people who may require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Pedal modifications such as a left foot accelerator to drive a vehicle safely; and/or 2. Modifications to secondary controls including switches, knobs, levers, indicators, park brake and ignition to drive a vehicle safely and/or 3. Hand controls; and/or 4. A cognitive function assessment to determine safety to drive; or 5. An on road assessment to determine safety to drive. 	<p>All competencies as for level 1 and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can determine the capacity of a disabled person to drive safely and independently. • Able to use evidence-based and other relevant assessment tools capable of measuring the impact of age- and other health-related issues on driving safely (e.g. Driver Advisement System (DAS), Canterbury Driving Assessment Tool (CanDAT). • Understands the indicators for and the complexities for the position and use of hand controls that promote safe driving and postural management. • Understands the range of interventions available to promote safe driving (e.g. steering and secondary control aids, left foot accelerators, clutch conversions, additional car mirrors, wheelchair stowage equipment, hand controls, seatbelt modifications and harnesses, special seating, joystick and foot steering, infra-red remote control systems) and community mobility options other than vehicle modifications including transportation alternatives. • Uses assessor/instructor safety equipment and appropriate safety techniques during in-vehicle assessments. • Determines driver readiness to drive independently in a modified vehicle. 	<p>All competencies as for Level 1 and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presents a case study of a complex assessment with thorough clinical reasoning to present a preferred option (meets client needs, cost efficient, meets funding criteria (Ministry or ACC)) that will result in driver independence and/or safe seating and transportation while a passenger in a vehicle.

Description	Competencies Required	Demonstrated By
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes an assessment subsequent to vehicle modifications being made including Low Volume Vehicle Technical Association (LVVTA) Disability Adaptive Controls Form (FS029) on completion of satisfactory off-road and on road assessments. 	
<p>Optional Module: Drive from wheelchair or Joystick technology enables the assessor to assess people who may require:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. A ramp hoist or other vehicle adaptation in order to access the vehicle while seated in a wheelchair for the purposes of driving while seated in a wheelchair; or 2. A wheelchair docking system to achieve safe driving from the wheelchair; or 3. A swing away back support for the purposes of driving from the wheelchair, or 4. Custom lateral supports to achieve safe driving from the wheelchair or 5. Joystick technology to achieve safe driving. 	<p>All competencies as for Level 1 Credential and Level 2 Credential and in addition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understands the complexities and relationships between wheelchair position for the driver to achieve safe operation of steering, hand control function and plus position and the use of all appropriate secondary controls. • Able to work collaboratively with the client and vehicle modifications technicians to achieve safe driving from the wheelchair in an appropriate vehicle. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Completes a case study that provides an example of wheelchair positioning for the safe operation of a vehicle where the client drives seated from their wheelchair. • Completes two assessments that have been peer reviewed by the supervising therapist or mentor that demonstrates competencies.