

Demystifying Cert II

The so-called 'Cert Two' has never enjoyed so much press.

Since becoming the standard on which the new National Refrigerant Handling Licence is based, workshops and trainers around the nation are having to come to grips with Cert Two and what it means, how much it costs, who delivers it, how long does it take, is there government subsidy for trainees, can it be done in the workshop...among many other questions.

The time has come when somebody has to explain it.

Let's start with the formalities. Full name: AUR207 99, Certificate II in Automotive (Mechanical – Air conditioning).

Address: Supposed to be available at 53 Registered Training Organisations around the country (but isn't).

Most of the 53 Registered Training Organisations around the nation, authorised to deliver this course, are TAFE colleges. VASA has surveyed all of them to find out how many actually deliver and how much it costs. Not all responded, but of those who did, 24 claim to do Assessments of current competencies in Cert II.

Nine out of the 53 surveyed admitted they had just ramped up with Cert II training as a result of the legislation.

Those who successfully complete a Cert II course, will also automatically be eligible for the new national licence.

How Certificate II is delivered may vary slightly from place to place.

Cert II is a course which, generally speaking, should consume roughly 320 hours of your time and cost roughly \$1,200 and upwards, depending on your eligibility for the subsidy governments provide, and that varies from state to

state. If you don't qualify for a Government subsidy, you must pay full price, which could be \$20 an hour, making it around a \$6,000 course. To find out if you qualify for subsidy, you need to talk to your state based government department which handles training and education.

The Cert II courses

There are 12 subjects in all. Four are called 'Compulsory Common Core Competencies' which means that these are courses common to most industries. The names will explain the obvious.

Compulsory Common Core Competencies

Follow workplace Occupational Health and Safety Procedures
Use and maintain workplace tools and equipment
Contribute to workplace communication
Establish relations with customers

Now we get into the courses which hone in on the industry you intend to service. These are obviously compulsory.

Compulsory Stream Competencies.

Carry out minor repairs to electrical circuits/systems
Install ancillary electrical equipment
Repair/retrofit air conditioning systems
Service air conditioning system
Carry out pre-repair operations

Now you must choose three courses, called 'Electives', and they can be sourced from any endorsed Industry Training Package, but the following is an indicative list only.

Electives

Repair electrical systems
Install air conditioning systems
Overhaul air conditioning systems components

Carry out welding, thermal cutting and heating procedures
Use and maintain measuring equipment
Prepare vehicle /component/equipment for customer use
Inspect vehicle systems/components and determine preferred repair action

For the results of the VASA survey of Cert II providers around Australia, go to www.vasa.org.au and follow the link from the front page.