The toll from road crashes remains an important health and economic issue in South Africa. Approximately 14,500 people died in road accidents in 2013, with the estimated cost of all vehicle crashes to the Road Accident Fund in the year amounted to R306 billion. And with the long term trend still showing no significant signs of improvement, this requires an even greater emphasis on preventative measures. Well-documented experience in Europe, Australia, and elsewhere shows that Road Safety Audits are both effective and cost beneficial as a proactive safety improvement tool. This is reflected in the growing number of countries, both developed and developing, that have introduced Road Safety Audits.

Who should attend this course?
This Road Safety Audit Course is aimed at practitioners with a basic civil engineering background and provides a robust, fundamental basis for those wishing to become auditors or take up roles in an Audit Team, as well as those responsible for commissioning, reviewing or assessing Audit Reports. All delegates will be expected to have a basic background in geometric road design and traffic signal design, or at the very least be familiar with the basic concept of these designs (i.e. super-elevation, gradient, horizontal and vertical curvature, forward visibility and stopping sight distance etc) and be able to “read” (interpret) engineering design drawings and traffic signal stage diagrams.

Course objectives:
• to give delegates a sound background to Road Safety Audits
• to bring delegates up to date with latest developments and thinking in Road Safety Audits internationally
• to make delegates aware of the Road Safety Audit requirements in South Africa
• to encourage delegates to share their experiences of road safety and highway design

Topics Covered:
• Why do we need to carry out Road Safety Audits?
• How collisions occur on roads and how to apply this knowledge in the context of Audits. Why design standards are not always safe. Benefits of and justification for Audits. Requirements for audits in South Africa.
• What is a Road Safety Audit?
• Basic principles of Audits. Audit Team composition. Different stages of Audit.
• History and future of Road Safety Audits
• Development of Audits over the years. Recent international developments including competence certification of auditors and auditing of ‘shared streets’.
• How to do Road Safety Audits
• How to undertake Audits. How to write Audit reports. How to structure problems and recommendations. Using check lists and control data.
• Risk assessments
• Concept of risk. How risk is affected by accident frequency and severity.
• Road Safety Assessment
• What is it? How does differ from Road Safety Audits?
• Good design practice
• Designing for road users. Key geometric design elements.