CoRsafe

AMCAS
Master Code Auditing Service

AMCAS Audit Program Public Consultation 2026

Australian Master Code Auditing Service

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1. Introduction

The Australian Master Code Auditing Service (AMCAS) is an industry-recognised audit framework designed to support businesses and their supply chains in assessing safety, compliance, and operational systems against the principles of the 'Master Code', a Registered Industry Code of Practice recognised under Heavy Vehicle National Law (HVNL).

The program was originally developed by the Australian Logistics Council (ALC) to provide a structured mechanism for assessing how businesses meet their Chain of Responsibility (CoR) obligations under the HVNL, translating the intent of the Master Code into a practical and assessable format.

The program was acquired by NTI / Logistics Safety Solutions (CoRsafe) in 2023, and since then has undergone a period of revitalisation. This work focused on improving quality, clarity, and industry relevance, while maintaining alignment to the original intent of the Master Code.

The release of an updated Master Code in January 2026 prompted a comprehensive review of the AMCAS program to ensure ongoing alignment. This review incorporated workshops and consultation with two industry working groups, with participants representing a broad cross-section of businesses, including transport operators, retail and grocery, transport consultants, and industry representatives. These workshops generated significant input on audit design, usability, and alignment with real-world operational practices, ensuring the program remains industry-led and fit-for-purpose.

This process has resulted in a revised AMCAS framework that better reflects contemporary supply chain risks, emerging regulatory expectations, and the practical realities faced by businesses.

2. Feedback and Consultation

AMCAS is an industry program – designed with businesses, for businesses. Public input, whether about the scope of the program itself, or about other gaps/controls that could improve program outcomes, all help to ensure AMCAS participants are given targeted support to improve transport safety performance.

CoRsafe welcomes feedback from industry stakeholders to ensure the AMCAS program continues to meet the needs of businesses and supports improved safety outcomes across the supply chain.

The consultation period will close on **14 April, 2026**.

All feedback can be submitted to:
amcas@logss.com.au

3. Purpose of the AMCAS Program

The AMCAS program is designed to:

- Provide a consistent, industry-aligned standard for assessing CoR-related safety and system performance
- Support businesses in understanding and applying the Master Code in a practical way
- Enable improved safety outcomes across supply chains, not just compliance
- Offer clear, structured insight into strengths and opportunities for improvement
- Reduce ambiguity in how CoR obligations are interpreted and assessed

4. Design Philosophy

The design of the AMCAS program has been informed by both regulatory frameworks and industry feedback.

The PSOE (Present, Suitable, Operating, Effective) methodology put forward in the draft HVA framework was considered in the development of the program. Rather than applying PSOE as a separate assessment overlay, the core principles have been embedded directly into the design of each audit question. This approach provides clearer guidance on what is being assessed and reduces ambiguity for both auditors and auditees.

The program is designed to:

- Provide structured, consistent assessment criteria
- Improve clarity around evidence expectations
- Support both experienced and less mature businesses in understanding requirements

To maximise accessibility and industry uptake:

- The AMCAS audit will be hosted online
- Self-assessments will be available for free on the CoRsafe platform.

In recognition of the program's significance, CoRsafe will also integrate AMCAS into its platform for customers, ensuring:

- Consistency in audit delivery
- Alignment between self-assessment and formal audit processes
- Progress toward reducing the overall compliance burden across the industry

5. Program Structure and Alignment

The AMCAS program has been designed to align closely with the evolving regulatory and industry landscape.

The framework:

- Reflects the principles and intent of the 2026 Master Code
- Anticipates upcoming changes to the HVNL and associated regulatory expectations
- Has been referenced against recognised audit standards, including the NHVR National Audit Standard
- Considers the transition to the updated Heavy Vehicle Accreditation (HVA) scheme, which focuses on risk-based, outcome-driven assurance
- Considers the Chain of Responsibility requirements in non-HVNL participating jurisdictions, and ensures the program represents reasonable expectations for ensuring transport safety in these regions (i.e. WA, NT, NZ).

The structure of the AMCAS program consists of nine core elements, outlined briefly below, and in further detail under section 6 of this document.

The first five elements align directly with the structure of the draft HVA Safety Management System (SMS) Standard:

- Leadership and Commitment
- Risk Management
- People
- Assurance, Monitoring and Improvement
- Safety Systems

These elements reflect the foundational components required to demonstrate an effective Safety Management System (SMS), and reduce inconsistency between AMCAS and the HVA scheme.

The remaining four elements address critical components of the 2026 Master Code that are not explicitly covered within the HVA scheme, ensuring broader CoR obligations and supply chain risks are appropriately captured.

All elements and questions of the program have been mapped to various roles and industries represented across the supply chain. This design means that by answering a series of questions before commencing the audit about what the business does, the audit is tailored to them, and only covers relevant areas related to the business.

This structure enables AMCAS to act as a bridge between regulatory requirements and broader industry expectations, in a targeted manner.

6. AMCAS Audit Framework – Section Overview

1. Leadership and Commitment

This section examines how a business' leadership establishes, demonstrates, and maintains accountability for safety and Chain of Responsibility (CoR) obligations.

This section covers:

- How executives demonstrate their understanding of their business' transport activities
- How executives demonstrate due diligence
- The types of training executives are involved in
- Measurable indicators of safety culture, to the extent that might reasonably be measured by an auditor informed by the 2026 Master Code, including:
    - Personal responsibility for safety
    - No consequences for reporting safety issues
    - Fair application of consequences where applied
    - Monitoring, reporting and action taken based on safety performance
    - Recognition of positive safety behaviours
    - Supporting mental and physical wellbeing, including promotion of healthy lifestyles

2. Risk Management

This section focuses on how the business identifies, assesses, and controls risks associated with their transport activities and broader supply chain operations. It reflects the expectation that risk management is proactive, systematic, and embedded into everyday decision-making.

The section covers:

- How risks, hazards, incidents or near misses are reported
- The investigation and escalation of critical risks or incidents
- How risk management methodology (identify, assess, control, monitor, review, consult) is documented, implemented and operating
- How the effectiveness of controls is monitored
- How impacted parties are notified/involved in regard to risks and controls
- Emergency equipment and personal protective equipment availability

3. People

This section examines how the business ensure that all personnel involved in transport activities are competent, fit for duty, and supported to meet their safety obligations. It recognises that people are central to effective CoR outcomes.

The section covers:

- How training requirements are established
- How training, competency and licencing is recorded
- The breadth, appropriateness and quality of training
- Recruitment practices
- Fitness for work, including fatigue, health, and drug and alcohol programs
- Consultation with employees
- In-vehicle technology, and how it will be used when monitoring drivers
- Employment contract terms conducive to safety outcomes

4. Assurance, Monitoring and Improvement

This section focuses on how the business measure performance, verifies that systems are working as intended, and drives continuous improvement. It reflects a shift from compliance-based auditing to outcome-focused assurance.

The section covers:

- How the business stays up-to-date with CoR related legislation, practices and controls
- How the business monitors performance of safety and operational processes/systems
- The types of information and data monitored by the business
- How inbound/outbound loads, vehicles and drivers are monitored to ensure safety and compliance

5. Safety Systems

This category covers the systems and processes used to manage transport safety risks in day-to-day operations that are not covered in other sections.

The section covers:

- The policies, procedures, standards or other equivalent documentation that outlines how the business manages the safety of their transport activities
- How policies, procedures, standards or other equivalent documentation is kept up to date
- How documents are retained, and private/confidential information is secured

6. Transport Operations

This section covers how the business plans, manages and carries out its transport activities to ensure safety and compliance. It is focused on operational tasks and decisions closely linked to heavy vehicle movements on-road, such as journey planning, driver management, load information, and how speed, fatigue, mass, dimension, loading and vehicle standards is managed/controlled.

The section includes:

- Requirements relating to transport documentation, and the accuracy of documentation
- Demonstration of control effectiveness relating to speed, fatigue, mass, dimension, loading and vehicle standards
- How journeys are planned and monitored, and how disruption is managed
- How transport activities are priced to ensure sustainable and safe services
- Effectiveness of controls to prevent dropped trailers and uncontrolled vehicle movements

7. Site Activities

This section focuses on the safety of heavy vehicle activities occurring at sites where vehicles arrive, queue, load, unload, manoeuvre, or interact with other site users. It recognises that many CoR risks arise not only from transport itself, but from the design, operation and management of sites that heavy vehicles access.

The section covers:

- Site traffic management efficacy
- How delays are managed, and notification of delays to impacted parties
- Timeslot management, and contingencies for early/late arrivals
- Driver rest facilities and queuing practices
- Site hazard identification and risk management

8. Working With Other Businesses

This section addresses how a business manages CoR-related risk when engaging suppliers, contractors, subcontractors, customers and other external parties. It reflects the principle that safe transport outcomes depend on cooperation, visibility and clear expectations across businesses, not just in isolation.

The section covers:

- Contractor and supplier onboarding practices
- Ongoing monitoring and assurance measures for other businesses
- Communication and planning arrangements with other businesses
- Commercial arrangements with other businesses conducive to safety outcomes
- How safety issues with other businesses are managed
- How safety issues raised by other businesses are managed

9. Specialised Activities

This section covers higher-risk or sector-specific transport activities that require additional controls beyond the core program elements. It is designed to reflect the underlying principles of the sector specific controls outlined in the 2026 Master Code. There has also been consideration to other Registered Industry Codes of Practice (RICP) in this section. This section may also evolve further without a full program review, where a new RICP is released.

This section covers industry/sector specific evaluation of controls, including:

- Farming/Agriculture
- Container cartage, storage, imports, exports, packing and unpacking
- Dangerous goods
- Livestock
- Oversize, Overmass transport
- Tow and recovery vehicles
- Digital freight platforms
- Passenger transport/buses

7. Certification and Outcomes

Certification against the AMCAS program is presented to businesses with a score of 100%.

However, the primary purpose of AMCAS is not certification. The program is designed to provide businesses with clear, practical, and actionable insights into their current performance, highlighting both strengths and opportunities for improvement.

Where non-conformances are identified:

- Auditees will have 28 days to address and close out these findings with the auditor
- Upon closure, scores will be updated to reflect the improved position

This approach reinforces the program's focus on improvement rather than compliance alone.