HVCBA FCA Route Compliance

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Transport for NSW has recently reinforced expectations around **Final Competency Assessment (FCA) route compliance**, with particular attention on **start and finish locations**.

Under the official Route Development Guide, FCA routes must be developed with **full consideration of road rules, safety, and real-world driving conditions**, and are subject to audit at any time.

Key Compliance Requirement

Start and finish locations must be:

- **Safe**
- **Legal**
- **Appropriate for heavy vehicle operation**

This aligns with the broader HVCBA framework, which requires assessments to be conducted in **controlled, safe environments that do not introduce unnecessary risk to the applicant or the public**.

Common Non-Compliances Identified

TfNSW has identified several recurring issues:

- Use of **illegal parking zones**
  (e.g. No Stopping / No Standing areas)
- Start/finish points located in **unsafe or high-traffic environments**
- **Cul-de-sac misuse**, including:
  - Poor vehicle positioning
  - Insufficient space for safe manoeuvring
- Locations that create **risk to other road users or pedestrians**

These issues directly conflict with the intent of the route development guidelines, which require routes to be designed with **appropriate road conditions and safety considerations**, avoiding high-risk environments wherever possible.

Immediate Action Required

- Any **non-compliant FCA route must be corrected immediately**
- Routes deemed non-compliant **must not be used for assessment**
- Providers should proactively review all current routes to ensure compliance

Suggested Industry Improvement

While not yet mandatory, there is strong support for improving documentation and consistency through:

- **Photographs of start/finish locations**
- **Aerial map views (e.g. Google Maps)**
- **Standardised route compliance checklists**

These tools can:

- Support internal quality assurance
- Assist during audits
- Provide clear evidence of compliance

ADTA Position

ADTA will be actively promoting this requirement across its membership.

This is not just an administrative requirement — it goes to the core of:

- **Assessment integrity**
- **Public safety**
- **Confidence in the HVCBA system**

Members are encouraged to take a proactive approach and ensure their routes reflect both **the letter and intent of the guidelines**.