

Card Schemes

Proof that your customers
are in good hands



CITB-ConstructionSkills is working in partnership with CIC and CITB(NI)
as the Sector Skills Council for Construction.

The benefits available to you



What is it?

Qualifications aren't just bits of paper; they've been designed by people in the industry to show whether workers are competent. As support from the industry and clients to have a fully qualified construction workforce mounts, a recognised qualification will be essential in order to get on site.

CITB-ConstructionSkills are making sure that the infrastructure to meet the challenge of having the entire workforce qualified by 2010 is in place. That is why we administer the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) – the construction industry's leading card scheme. Designed by the industry itself, it proves that the holder of the card is competent, has passed the Health & Safety Test, and has been trained to do their job.

Why is it important?

There is an increasing call – both from within the industry and from clients – for a fully qualified construction workforce. The aim is to achieve this by 2010, and CSCS will play a big part in it.

CSCS is owned by the main industry organisations, such as the Major Contractors Group, Federations and HSE. Many large clients, including BAA, the NHS and most local councils are behind it. And, an increasing number are demanding the proof of competence that CSCS offers before they allow firms to tender or workers onto their sites. No cards, no work.

The scheme covers over 175 occupations within construction and is being adopted as the standard for the industry. Recently, the major plant industry schemes have amalgamated to form the Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS), which is now part of CSCS.

How do you get one?

To qualify for the CSCS card, each worker has to reach a recognised level of skill in their chosen occupation, whether an operator, supervisor or manager. An individual must pass a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) – or in Scotland, an equivalent SVQ. They also have to pass the construction Health and Safety Test. There are different coloured cards for each level of NVQ or SVQ, from trainee to senior management level.

How will I benefit as an employer?

You benefit from having a trained and qualified workforce. Properly qualified workers get the job done safer, faster

and with less mistakes. And if your workers hold CSCS cards, you are likely to win more contracts – especially if you are sub-contracting to major employers and clients.

How will my staff benefit?

If your workers hold a CSCS card, they have proof that they're up to the job. The card lists the occupations that they are skilled in and shows that they are aware of health and safety issues, having passed the Health and Safety Test. It's an achievement that they can be proud of – and one that they'll need more and more in the future.

What support can I get?

CITB-ConstructionSkills can help experienced workers gain the NVQs or SVQs without leaving the site, through On-Site Assessment and Training (OSAT). There are also a wide variety of grants available to registered firms to help workers get the training they need, including the Health and Safety Test. For more information on OSAT, see the OSAT leaflet in this pack.

Where can I get more information?

Just call the CSCS helpdesk on 01485 578777 or visit www.cscs.uk.com

To find out more call
01485 578777