CSCS helps you throughout your whole career

The different routes to getting a CSCS card

You usually need to have achieved an N/SVQ to be eligible for a CSCS card.
However, there are other routes into the Scheme such as the trainee and experienced worker cards for people who are working towards their N/SVQ, industry accreditation, professional membership or visitor cards.

CSCS card	Who qualifies?
Trainee	Available to trainees registered for an N/SVQ level 2 through their college, training provider or employer. The card is valid for three years.
Skilled	Workers who hold the appropriate N/SVQ or have completed an apprenticeship. It may also be possible to qualify via 'Industry Accreditation' which allows an employer to 'sign-off' workers' skills in place of formal qualifications. This is only available for a limited period of time after each occupation becomes available under the scheme. The card is valid for five years and is then renewable.
Experienced Worker	Available to workers who have registered for N/SVQ level 2 or 3 and have completed their profiling session. The card is valid for one year and is non-renewable.
Professional Membership	If you are a member of certain professional bodies, are up to date with your Continuing Professional Development (CPD) and have passed an appropriate health and safety test, you can qualify for a CSCS card. Please contact the CSCS Helpdesk for the current list of qualifying professions. The card is valid for five years and is then renewable.
Visitor	For regular visitors to construction sites who do not perform a construction specific skill. The card is valid for five years and is then renewable.
Construction Related Occupation	For workers in construction related occupations where there is currently no applicable N/SVQ. The card is valid for five years and is then renewable.
Professionally Qualified Person	For non-site based professionals who have health and safety responsibilities such as consultants, clients, architects, surveyors and engineers. The card is valid for five years and is then renewable.

Call the CSCS Helpdesk on 0870 4178777 or visit www.cscs.uk.com

Your quick guide to CSCS

Let SkillsDirect organise everything for you – call them on 0870 850 5262.

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This publication is for guidance only. All information correct at time of publication.

Get Qualified. Get On.

CSCS
CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME

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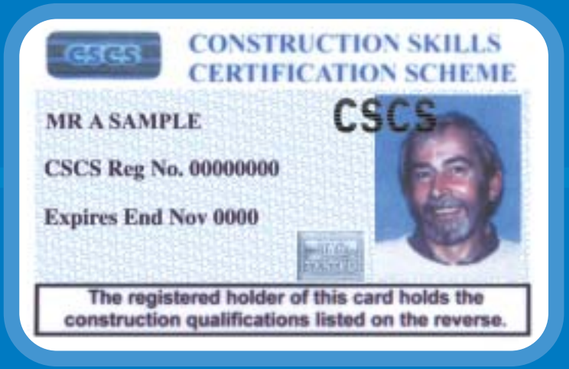
Your quick guide to CSCS



SkillsDirect – the quick and easy way to get a CSCS card. Call 0870 850 5262.

from

FMB The sign of building quality

Get Qualified. Get On.

CSCS
CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME

Quality up, accidents down and cowboys out were the main objectives for the formation of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) when it was launched in 1995. Today its main purpose is still to help people who work in construction prove that they are competent to do their job. It also shows that they have health and safety awareness as all cardholders have to pass the appropriate health and safety test.

CSCS cards list the holder's qualifications and are valid for one, three or five years.

There are over one million CSCS or affiliated cardholders. The Scheme covers over 250 occupations and has become the industry standard. It is demanded as proof of competence by industry organisations, employers, clients and Government.

The levels of card available

The cards are based on the N/SVQ system. There are different coloured cards for each of the levels.

So whatever stage you are at in your career, there's a CSCS card that's right for you.

The back of each CSCS card states which occupation(s) you are qualified in.

All cards require the applicant to pass the ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test.

Red
Working towards
N/SVQ level 2 or 3
Trainee

Green
N/SVQ level 1 OR
Sign-off from employer
Site Operative (labourer)

Blue
Working towards
N/SVQ level 2 or 3
Experienced Worker

Blue
N/SVQ level 2*
Craft

Gold
N/SVQ level 3*
Advanced Craft/
Supervisory

Platinum
N/SVQ level 4
Management

Black
N/SVQ level 5
Senior Management

Yellow
N/SVQ level n/a
Visitor (no
construction skills)

Yellow
Professionally
Qualified Person

White
N/SVQ
level n/a
Construction
Related
Occupation

* Formal indentured apprenticeships which didn't lead to an N/SVQ may exempt workers from having to get the qualification.

Some of the main benefits of the Scheme are:

- It helps you get onto more sites
- It's an easy way for you to prove your skills
- It raises the general quality of workmanship on site
- It improves health and safety awareness across the industry
- Employers have competent and safe labour.

One card covers the whole industry

CSCS now has over one million cardholders and it is being asked for by an increasing number of clients in tender documents and at site gates. For most occupations, one call to the CSCS Helpdesk gets you started or provides the information that you need.

Other occupations listed below are covered by amalgamated or affiliated schemes. The cards and procedures are slightly different, but you can still call the CSCS Helpdesk in the first instance and they will be able to connect you to the appropriate scheme.

- **CPCS** A card scheme for plant operators 0870 4177274
- **CISRS** A card scheme for scaffolders 0870 4177223
- **SKILLcard** A card scheme for heating and ventilating operatives 01768 860406
- **CCDO** A card scheme for demolition operatives 0870 4173366
- **JIB-PMES** A card scheme for English and Welsh plumbers 01480 476925
- **SNIJIB** A card scheme for Scottish and Northern Irish plumbers 0131 225 2255
- **ECS** A card scheme for electricians 0208 302 0031 (0131 445 5577 Scottish)
- **CSR** The Northern Irish equivalent to CSCS, offering cards in the same trades 028 908 77150

To check if your trade is covered by CSCS or an affiliated scheme call the CSCS Helpdesk.

Call the CSCS Helpdesk on 0870 4178777 or visit www.cscs.uk.com

How to apply

Contact SkillsDirect on 0870 850 5262 and they will organise everything for you.

Alternatively, call the CSCS Helpdesk. One of our advisors will help you find out which cards you are eligible for and send you the relevant application pack.

How much does it cost?

All cards cost £25. And it costs £17.50 to sit the ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test.

Training and funding

Workers without an N/SVQ can get qualified through on-site assessment and training (OSAT).

Another option is Experienced Worker Practical Assessment (EWPA). To find out the best route for you call the Helpdesk.

There are grants available to registered companies for a range of activities including training and passing the health and safety test.

Call the CSCS Helpdesk on 0870 4178777 or visit www.cscs.uk.com