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CIM-1277 (12/09)



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# NSAC

## National Specialist Accredited Centre

Providing Support to Train and Qualify the Specialist Workforce



CITB-ConstructionSkills, CIC and CITB(Northern Ireland) are working as ConstructionSkills, the Sector Skills Council for Construction. (CITB-ConstructionSkills registered charity number 264289).



Job Number:	Job Name:	Date:	Version:	Internal use only:		
3012	NSAC Booklet update	10/12/09	03	AW	CW	AD

# National Specialist Accredited Centre (NSAC)

## Providing Support to Train and Qualify the Specialist Workforce

### Introduction

Since 2002 NSAC, the delivery arm of the National Specialist Team within ConstructionSkills, has been providing a service to assist those specialist sectors of the Construction Industry which, as a result of their specialised nature and resultant relatively small operative population, have in the past been disadvantaged by a lack of training or assessment provision from the traditional FE sector.

The centre has not only become the leading assessment centre for a wide range of specialist occupations but, in partnership with industry, has developed flexible solutions to address the training shortage for many of these occupations. As a result there is now available a portfolio of Specialist Apprenticeship Programmes, recognised by the

accreditation and funding bodies as delivering an approved framework, which can be delivered through a diverse range of provision.

The benefit of these programmes has been the raising of awareness of the sectors as offering career and progression opportunities through nationally recognised programmes of training and qualifications.

This booklet gives a brief overview of the services available from NSAC which may be of benefit in meeting the objectives of regional Skills Academies.

Contact details for further information are available on the back of this booklet.

### National Skills Academies for Construction

#### Support from the National Specialist Team (NST)

On every large construction project specialist contractors are heavily involved in all aspects of the works. Whether it is Civil Engineering, commercial building, general building or housing, specialist contractors are involved at every stage.

Whether in the early stages of a project where demolition, land drilling, earthworks, piling, specialist concrete frames, structural steel or utilities are involved, specialist contractors will be carrying out the work. As the project progresses fitting the diverse range of roofs, external building facades, internal fit outs, and specialist hard landscaping are all areas and activities that specialist contractors carry out.

The number of specialist activities is increasing as new innovations and products are developed which potentially increases the complex interaction and logistical activity on site.

In many of the specialist sectors the training schemes and the assessment of operatives is not well known beyond those particular sectors. The larger more traditional specialist sectors such as Plastering and Drylining, Shopfitting, Scaffolding and a number of Roofing activities have training facilities within FE Colleges or are provided by specialist training providers on a regional basis.

There are many more of the sectors that, because of their highly specialised nature and resulting low population, do not have consistent regional training delivery or assessment provision and either have one national provider for the whole country or utilise a network of manufacturer based provision or in-company training programmes to help operatives to train and prove their competency.

The ConstructionSkills National Specialist Team links with over 60 specialist employer federations and seeks to co-ordinate and develop bespoke and flexible programmes for many of the smaller specialist occupations. In doing so, allowing the specialist sector to develop and train a fully qualified workforce.



## How can the Specialist Team help you?

Providing support via the National Specialist Accredited Centre (NSAC). We operate NSAC to provide an assessment centre service to sectors for which there is no, or insufficient, alternative provision, helping to create a satellite assessment centre from NSAC on your site. The centre is accredited to provide assessment services to award a range of specialist qualifications at Levels 2 and 3 and we should be able to provide internal verification support for assessors on your site.

The National Specialist Team may be able to support your project in the following:

- Providing advice and guidance on the Specialist Apprentice Programmes that we co-ordinate and that provide training and assessment to NVQ at Level 2.
- Providing advice and guidance on the availability of specialist upskilling training provision.
- Linking with the employer federations and providing contacts for further advice and information.
- Providing advice and guidance on the specialist training provision you may need to consider as part of the academy.
- Providing guidance on delivering those courses on site or at other suitable locations – if that is feasible.
- Provide links with manufacturers or training providers for you to link with regionally, if they exist, or nationally.
- Bespoke training options for new and innovative methods of construction.
- Links to the Management and Supervisory qualifications at NVQ Levels 3 and 4.



## Occupations that NSAC can assist you with

**Note: The following list covers those occupations for which NSAC is currently approved. Should a need be identified for qualifications not identified, there may be opportunity to have these included.**

### Accessing Operations & Rigging

- Safety Net Rigger.

### Applied Waterproof Membranes

- Built-up Bituminous Roofing.
- Liquid Waterproofing Systems.
- Single Ply Roofing.

### Chimney Engineering

### Conservation

### Demolition

### Façade Maintenance

- Surface Cleaner & Repairer.

### Fitted Interiors

- Kitchen Installer.

### Floorcovering Occupations

- Impervious, Textiles & Timber.

### Heritage Skills

### Hire and Rental Operations

### Interior Systems

- Access Flooring.
- Dry Lining Fixing.
- Dry Lining Finishing.
- Relocatable Partitioning.
- Suspended Ceiling Fixing.

### Land Drilling

- Directional Drilling.

### Occupational Work Supervision

### Passive Fire Protection

### Piling Operations

### Plastering

- Solid.
- Fibrous.

### Road Building

- Bituminous Paving.
- Concrete Paving.
- Micro Asphalt Surfacing.

- Planing.
- Surface Dressing.

### Roof Sheeting & Cladding

### Roof Slating & Tiling

### Specialist Concrete Operations

- Concrete Repair.
- Sprayed Concrete.
- Diamond/Drilling & Sawing.
- Imprinted Decorative Concrete.
- In-situ Flooring.
  - Concrete.
  - Resin.
  - Screeding.

### Specialist Installation Occupations

- Rainscreen Systems.
- Industrial Doors.
- Insulated Enclosures.
- Joint Sealant Application.

### Stone Masonry

### Stone Cladding

### Tunnelling

### Specialist Operations

### Underpinning Operations

### Wall & Floor Tiling

### Water Jetting

### Wood Occupations

- Timber Frame Erection.

**Note: Whilst NSAC is accredited to offer all the above qualifications, it does not directly employ assessors and is a centre that offers the verification support for industry assessors. In some of the above occupations independent assessors are available who are able to provide a service to nationally based candidates and employers, in others assessors are in-house and therefore only able to assess candidates within their own employer organisation. Please contact our NSAC team to confirm the specific support available for your project.**

Where assessors are not available, NSAC can help with the training and qualifying of prospective assessors in specific occupations and link these to the centre.

### **‘Specialist Apprentice Programmes’ currently available through NSAC which align to the appropriate Level 2 NVQ are:**

- Drilling and Sawing
- Passive Fire Protection
- Road Safety Marking
- Joint Sealant Application
- Façade Preservation
- Land Drilling
- Resin Flooring
- Surface Preparation
- Roof Slating and Tiling
- Drylining
- Insulated Concrete Formwork
- Lead Sheet Roofing
- Cold Formed Steel Frame Systems
- Hire and Rental Desk Operative.

### **‘Specialist Apprentice Programmes’ under development:**

- Concrete Industrial Flooring
- Hard Landscaping
- Cold Storage Construction
- Piling
- Chimney Engineering
- Industrial Concrete Flooring
- Heritage Level 3
- Wood Flooring
- Tunnelling.

As a result of the nature of delivery of the above programmes, numbers that can be accommodated on these at any one time as well as availability of courses may be limited. It is therefore important before making a commitment to employers/candidates that consultation takes place initially with NSAC to confirm availability.

### **Bespoke training options**

With the change of construction techniques that are being developed on many projects, contractors may seek to provide training in those new activities prior to work starting on site. The NST can seek to link with the contractor if enough lead in time is provided to develop with manufacturers or other specialist training providers new bespoke programmes that will upskill the specialist workforce but also raise the main contractor awareness of the systems/schemes.

### **Costs for Assessment and Training Delivery**

The National Specialist Team provides free support and advice to all NSAfC projects to help and assist them to deliver a co-ordinated project training programme. Those services provided free of charge are listed in the bullet points on page 4. This free service will include attending your site for initial discussions and providing links, contacts etc should the Project Co-ordinator not be able to satisfy their own project needs locally.

The provision of more detailed or bespoke training and assessment provision will be charged based on standard NSAC rates, for both assessment and apprentice training programmes, which are available on request. Should your project require bespoke training delivery, the National Specialist Team would be delighted to provide a quotation to deliver the programmes required for your NSAfC. This may require a lead in time to develop a programme in a number of specialist activities, additional time might therefore need to be factored in when planning your project.

Prior to commencing any development for training or assessment delivery you will need to enter into a contract for NST services. This contract will clearly list the services that will be provided and list your specified delivery dates and the associated costs.

### **Financial Support Available**

The NSAC Assessment Services and Specialist Apprentice Programmes are all fully aligned to the CITB-ConstructionSkills grant scheme and registered employers of candidates following any of the above will be eligible to claim the relevant grants:

For an up-to-date statement on current grants, please contact the NSAC office, details printed overleaf.