

CSCS helps you throughout your whole career

The different routes to getting a CSCS card

Workers 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. The card is valid for 3 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 5 years and is then renewable.
Experienced Worker	Available to operatives who have registered for N/SVQ level 2 or 3 and have completed their profiling session. The card is valid for 1 year and is non-renewable.
Professional Membership	Membership of some professional bodies means you do not have to achieve an N/SVQ in certain occupations. 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 on 0870 4178777 for the current list of qualifying professions. The card is valid for 5 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 5 years.
Construction Related Occupations	For workers in the construction related occupations who currently don't have a CSCS card. The card is valid for 5 years.
Professional Qualified Persons	For non-site based professionals who have health and safety responsibilities such as consultants, clients, architects, surveyors and engineers.

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



Your quick guide to CSCS

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CSCS is owned and managed by CSCS Limited. It is controlled by a management board whose members are from the Construction Confederation, Federation of Master Builders, GMB Trade Union, National Specialist Contractors Council, Transport & General Workers Union (Building Crafts Section), Union of Construction Allied Trades and Technicians, CITB-ConstructionSkills, Construction Industry Council and Construction Clients Group, Department of Trade and Industry and the Health and Safety Executive. CITB-ConstructionSkills administers the Scheme under contract.

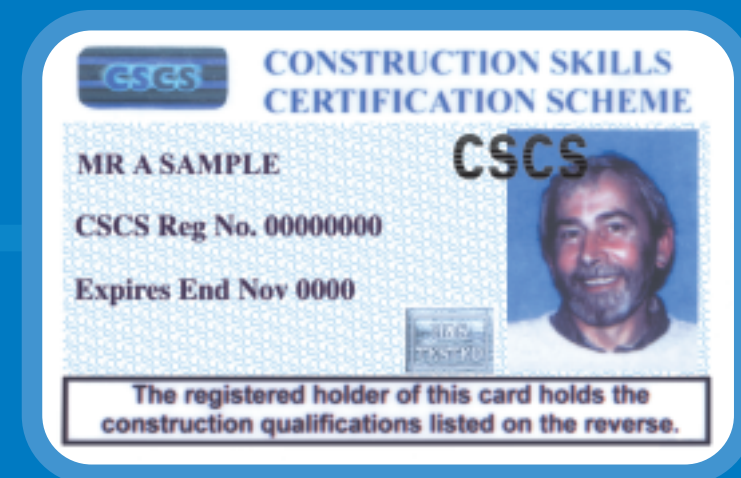
Get Qualified. Get On.



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Your quick guide to CSCS



The registered holder of this card holds the construction qualifications listed on the reverse.

from NSCC
National Specialist Contractors Council

Get Qualified. Get On.



Quality up, accidents down and cowboy builders 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 workers 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 either three or five years. There are over one million CSCS or affiliated cardholders. The Scheme covers over 250 occupations and is fast becoming the industry standard. It is supported by industry organisations such as Major Contractors Group (MCG) and National Construction Federation (NCF). It is demanded by, as proof of competence by major 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 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.

The CSCS card proves the holder is competent and safe.

Competence –

The CSCS scheme is based on N/SVQ qualifications which prove the cardholder is up to the job.



Safety –

Cardholders must pass the CITB-ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test to prove they're safe on site.

Some of the main benefits of the scheme are:

- It helps workers get onto more sites
- It's an easy way for workers to prove their 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 225225
- **ECS** A card scheme for electricians 020 83020031 (0131 4455577 Scottish)
- **CSR** The Northern Irish equivalent to CSCS, offering cards in the same trades 028 90877150

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

How to apply

Just 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 or contact Skills Direct on 0870 850 5262 and they will organise everything for you.

How much does it cost?

All cards cost £25

Training and Funding

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

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



Red
Working towards N/SVQ level 2 or 3 Trainee

Gold
N/SVQ level 3**
Advanced Craft/Supervisory

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

Platinum
N/SVQ level 4
Management

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

Black
N/SVQ level 5
Senior Management

Blue
N/SVQ level 2**
Craft

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



White
– N/SVQ level n/a
Construction Related Occupation

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

For information on exemptions call the CSCS Helpdesk on 0870 4178777.

* An employer can sign off an individual's competence in place of N/SVQ level 1.

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