

# Changes to the Trainee CSCS cards

**The primary objective of the CSCS card is to provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the type of work they carry out.**

From the 1st August 2016, there will be new rules with regards to CSCS Trainee cards. Trainee cards are available for apprentices and those new in the industry. They are designed to allow workers access to sites while they undertake their construction related qualifications.

Currently, there are two types of cards available:

- The Trainee (Craft & Operative) card
- The Trainee Technical, Supervisory and Management (TSM) card

To apply for a card the applicant must pass the appropriate CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test and meet the qualification requirements:

- Be enrolled in the construction course to obtain a qualification based on a National

Occupational Standard such as an NVQ or onto an HND/Degree in construction related field.

- Hold a construction related qualification that is not based on a National Occupational Standard such as SSSTS, SMSTS and NEBOSH General. However, in this case, it is required to get the approved qualification based on a National Occupational Standards before the Trainee card expires, what will allow moving onto the appropriate skilled CSCS card.

The above rules are confusing for applicants and make system too complicated, so from the 1st August 2016 the following changes will come into force:

- There will be only one Trainee card
- Card will be red colour and marked Trainee
- The occupation will not be displayed
- Trainee card will be valid for five years and will be non-renewable
- To apply for a Trainee card applicant must register for a CSCS qualification

- SSSTS, SMSTS and NEBOSH General qualification will not be accepted for Trainee card application
- To apply for a Trainee Card, the appropriate CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test must be completed within last two years. The operatives level test is the minimum requirement, but CSCS will also accept some specialist tests.
- Applicants must complete qualification before the Trainee Card expires. If the card expires, the applicant will be unable to obtain any other CSCS card.
- On completion of the qualification, applicants will be able to move onto a skilled CSCS card.

CSCS will stop accepting qualification not based on a National Occupational Standard, so Trainee Cards will be issued only to applicants who are registered for a National Occupational Standard qualification. All applications received from 1st August 2016 are subject to the new rules.



# The CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test

The CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test assess workers knowledge about health, safety and environment before they enter the construction site. It is the first step required to complete when applying for CSCS cards. Most CSCS cards require applicants to show that they have passed the test in the last two years. Membership of a relevant card scheme helps to prove that worker has the essential skills to do the job safely and might be required to access construction sites.

There are four different types of test available:

1. Operative test- it includes the behavioural case studies and consists of five core sections: legal and management, health and welfare, general safety, high risk activities, environment
2. Labourer test- it is similar to Operative test, it includes the behavioural case studies and consists of the same five core sections. Labourer test is designed for applicants for the Level 1 award in health and safety in a construction environment.
3. Specialist test- it includes the behavioural case studies, five core sections as in Operative or Labourer tests plus specialists knowledge questions in chosen

subject: supervisory, demolition, plumbing, highway works, specialist works at height, lifts and escalators, tunnelling, HVACR - Heating and plumbing services, HVACR - Pipefitting and welding, HVACR - Ductwork, HVACR - Refrigeration and air conditioning, HVACR - Services and facilities maintenance.

4. Managers and Professionals test- including the behavioural case studies, five core knowledge sections and relevant specialist knowledge questions from the following: Construction (Design and Management) Regulations, Demolition, Highway works.

All tests last for 45 minutes and have 50 multiple-choice questions including:

- 12 behavioural case study questions about how you should behave on a construction site to stay safe
- 38 knowledge questions to check your awareness of health, safety and environment issues.

The behavioural case study questions assess the applicant responses to health and safety situations on a construction site. They are based on

Setting Out film, which details safety measures on a building site. Every test includes three case studies with four multiple choice questions. Setting Out film is available to watch online on CITB website.

The knowledge questions are based on British legislation and cover 16 core areas that are included in all of the tests. For example, there might be questions on construction site signs.

The specialist test includes questions from the specialist knowledge questions plus a selection of core knowledge questions, making the total of 38 questions). CITB provides the up to date study materials.

To book the test the applicant will have to provide: which test he wish to undertake, whether special assistance is required (interpreter), method of payment, address details, CITB registration number.

1. To check which card you need visit [cscs.uk.com/cardfinder](http://cscs.uk.com/cardfinder)
2. To book test visit [citb.co.uk/test](http://citb.co.uk/test). The fee of £19.50 applies.
3. Revision material is available at [citb.co.uk/revision](http://citb.co.uk/revision)

After the test a feedback and score report is provided with passed or failed result.

## BOOK REVIEW

# Small Projects Handbook by Nigel Ostime

This is a practical introduction book on how to prepare to run a small project with a value up to £1million. It is based on RIBA Plan of Work 2013, and it is a good resource for architects, but also for contractors and clients. It is a guide to the project process focused on the initial preparation for the stage by stage procedures.

It consists of a description of The Plan of Work and all tasks required – inputs, outputs, stage activities and sustainability checks. It gives the reader tips and warnings plus advice

on templates and forms. Moreover, there are descriptions and illustrations of iconic small projects and guidance on practice at each project stage. It includes the BIM information applicable to a particular stage of the project, advice on contracts and insurances. This position is recommended for architects and those contractors interested in the construction contract administration. This is a very useful introductory book written by the architect, with some background information on how to run the project smoothly.

