

CSCS Cards for Carpenters

CSCS has recently announced that Fellow and Member grades at the Institute of Carpenters (IoC) are now eligible for the CSCS Professionally Qualified Person (PQP) card.

Although it is not a legislative requirement, most contractors and major home builders require site workers to hold a valid CSCS card. The scheme keeps a record of those working in the construction sector who have achieved or are committed to completing a recognised construction-related qualification. Site managers check the information on the card using a smartphone, tablet, or PC, giving them reassurance that the cardholder is qualified for the job they do on site.

CSCS worked closely with the IoC to carry out a detailed mapping exercise of their membership criteria and the Professionally Qualified Person card can now be offered to Fellow and Members of the institute.

Institute of Carpenters President Geoff Rhodes said: "I am really delighted to see this CSCS PQP card project completed and now in place and available to our members. I would like to thank all those involved in bringing this particular piece of work to a positive conclusion. This



is very positive news and IOC is pleased to be working with the CSCS and other organisations to develop and recognise a fully trained and qualified UK workforce."

CSCS Director of Operations Gordon Jenkins said: "This is fantastic news and CSCS is pleased to be working with the IoC, this is another example of the industry working together to achieve a fully trained and qualified workforce. The IoC have been maintaining standards in carpentry for over 100 years and it is their commitment to continual professional development that really ties in with the objectives of the PQP card."

The PQP card is valid for five years and all

applicants must pass the CITB Managers and Professionals Health, Safety and Environment Test.

When applying for this card applicants will need to provide a copy of their current IoC membership certificate (or card) or supply a letter/email from the IoC confirming that they are a current, competence assessed member.

You can apply for this card over the phone by calling 0344 99 44 777.

You will need to email evidence of your IoC professional membership to cscs@citb.co.uk prior to calling.

(Source: CSCS)



Brexit 'cliff edge'

Construction Bosses fear EU Workers won't return to UK After Christmas

According to the Federation of Master Builders the construction industry employers are worrying about EU workers come back to the UK after Christmas. The UK Construction is currently dealing with skills shortages and the possible lost of EU workers will have negative influence on the industry.

The FMB has published some new research which focusses on how the bosses of small and medium-sized (SME) construction firms view their EU workers and the key findings include:

- 85% of construction SME employers that employ EU workers say that these workers are important in allowing their business to maintain and expand its workforce;
- 76% of these firms say it would have

a negative impact on the health of their business if any of the EU workers they employ returned to their country of origin, now or post-Brexit;

- 94% of firms describe the quality of EU workers they employ as 'good' or 'very good'.

Brian Berry, Chief Executive of the FMB, said: "Our latest research shows that EU workers are vital to the success of the UK construction industry and our message to these individuals is clear – you are highly valued and we need you. Christmas is now upon us and there's a risk that those EU migrant workers who go home to their home countries for the festive period might not come back. With Brexit looming large on the horizon, EU workers in the UK are facing high levels of uncertainty over their future. Furthermore, since the depreciation of sterling in the summer of 2016, their wages aren't worth as much as they were previously. Construction employers are genuinely concerned that this mixture of uncertainty about

the future and less money in their pockets will make the UK a much less attractive proposition that it was pre-referendum."

Berry concluded: "Ministers haven't done enough to reassure EU workers that they have a future in the UK. In our joint '**Construction Industry Brexit Manifesto**', published at the end of November, seven of the major trade bodies have called on the Government to embark upon a communications campaign that makes clear to our EU workers that they'll have no serious impediments to gaining settled status. Indeed, both the Government and the industry need to do all that they can to put a positive message across. In the medium term, the construction industry can and should do more to attract and train a greater proportion of domestic workers. However, such is the extent of the current construction skills shortages, we'll continue to need to draw upon a high number of EU migrant workers post-Brexit if the Government wants to meet its target for new homes and infrastructure projects."

(Source: FMB)



25 CONSTRUCTION EVENTS IN 2018

you do not want to miss!

1. Toolfair London

31 Jan - 01 Feb, Alexandra Palace, London
www.toolfair.info

Toolfair events are run annually in various places in the UK including Manchester, Exeter, Harrogate, Coventry and Surrey. The exhibition focuses on power tools, hand tools and building equipment. It is free to attend.

2. Surface Design Show

06-08 February 2018, Business Design Centre, London UK
<http://www surfacedesignshow.com>

Surface Design Show is the only UK event focusing on interior and exterior surface solutions in the building design.

3. Build It Live North West

17-18 February 2018, EventCity, Manchester, UK
<http://builditlive.co.uk/whats-on-at-build-it-live/build-it-live-northwest/>

Build It Live North West is a 2 day event showcasing products like home technology, finance and insurance, exterior finishes, doors and windows, garage doors, lighting and electronics etc. in the Architecture & Designing, Building Construction, IT & Technology industries. If you are planning self-build, renovation or extension it is the exhibition to visit.

4. The Listed Property Show

24-25 February 2018, Olympia London, UK
<https://www.lpoc.co.uk/property-show/>

The Listed Property Show is a 2 day focused on the real estate market. If you are maintaining, altering or renovating your listed home – or even looking to buy one – The Listed Property Show is not to be missed!

5. Ecobuild

06-08 March 2018, ExCel London, UK
<https://www.ecobuild.co.uk/>

Ecobuild is a 3 day event all about products like building technology and innovation, sustainability, BIM, Building Completion, systems and structures, finishing products & materials, better built environment, green solutions like green infrastructure or biodiversity, water management, efficiency and recycling.

6. The UK Concrete Show (UKCS)

21-22 March 2018, NEC Birmingham
<http://concreteshow.co.uk>

The growing in popularity, the Europe's no 1 specialist concrete event focused only on the concrete industry. Explore new suppliers and products, find new technologies, plant and machinery or tools. UKCS2018 will build on this success and will repeat the exciting new features that were so well received at UKCS2017 including a Live BIM for Concrete Interactive Visitor Experience, a Technical Advice Clinic and Live Demos.

7. National Homebuilding & Renovating Show

22-25 March 2018, Birmingham
<http://national.homebuildingshow.co.uk/>

The biggest homebuilding & renovating event aimed at self-builders and home renovators. If you run your building services business you may consider exhibiting there to find potential clients.

8. The Health & Safety Event

10-12 April 2018, Birmingham

<http://www.healthandsafetyevents.co.uk>

Health and safety on site is key to any construction business. This event features seminars on all manner of topics, from 'Training & Competence' to 'Hearing'. There are also key industry exhibitors, so it's a great chance for networking as well as learning.

9. The Property Investor & Homebuyer Show

20-21 April 2018, ExCel London, UK

<http://www.propertyinvestor.co.uk/page/home>

Free to visit, the most comprehensive exhibition of UK & International residential property (and services) with a broad selection of UK & International property features, finance and other services.

10. EcoShowcase London

10 May 2018, ILEC Conference Centre, London, UK

<https://www.ecoshowcase.co.uk>

This event combines exhibition and seminars with advice and guidance on how to play part in creating a more sustainable built environment. Stay up-to-date with innovations in sustainable design and technologies.

11. Smart Cities Expo World Forum

15-16 May 2018, ExCel London, UK

<http://smartcitiesexpoworldforum.com>

This two days event showcases products like cutting edge technologies, innovative advancement in smart cities, Real case studies, development of Internet of Things (IoT), smart governance, smart grid, smart transportation, smart healthcare etc. in the Architecture & Designing, Building Construction industries.

12. National Infrastructure Expo

12 June 2018, London

<https://infrastructure.co.uk/>

This event brings together people from multiple sectors, including construction, to exchange ideas and look at the latest products and innovations. It's a good way to stay on top of the latest trends and developments in the industry, as well as network with other key players.

13. Vision 2018

21-22 June 2018, London

<http://www.visionlondon.com/>

This event is aimed exclusively at UK architects, designers, specifiers and their clients working on commercial, health, education and retail projects. Visit to get insights into innovative building products or materials and solutions.



14. The London Design Festival

15-16 September 2018, London

<http://www.londondesignfestival.com>

London Design Festival celebrates and promotes London as the design capital of the world. The Festival will return to venues and institutions across the city from the 15-23 September 2018.

15. Tent London

20-23 September 2018, The Old Truman Brewery, London

<http://www.londondesignfair.co.uk>

The largest collection of international exhibitors, designers, brands, country pavilions, features and exhibitions including Tent London & Super Brands London in one destination during the London Design Festival. This event showcases product from Architecture & Designing industry. This event showcases products like furniture, lighting, textiles, digital media, architecture, graphics, ceramics and vintage design etc. in the Architecture & Designing industry.

16. Homebuilding & Renovating Show- London

21-23 September 2018, ExCel London, UK

<http://national.homebuildingshow.co.uk/>

The biggest homebuilding & renovating event aimed at self-builders and home renovators. If you run your building services business you may consider exhibiting there to find potential clients.

17. The Property Investor & Homebuyer Show

05-06 October 2018, Royal Victoria Dock, London, UK

<http://www.propertyinvestor.co.uk/page/home>

Free to visit, the most comprehensive exhibition of UK & International residential property (and services) with a broad selection of UK & International property features, finance and other services.

18. UK Construction Week

9-11 October 2018, NEC Birmingham

<http://www.ukconstructionweek.com/>

The UK's largest construction trade show is back again, with UK Construction Week consisting of nine shows, including Timber Expo, Build Show, Civils Expo, Plant & Machinery Live, Energy 2018, Smart Buildings 2018, Surface & Materials Show and HVAC 2018, as well as Grand Designs Live, which is open to trade on 10-11 October. Over 33,500 people attended in 2017, so expect it to be another big event in the calendar.

19. Build Show

9-11 October 2018, NEC Birmingham, UK

<http://www.ukconstructionweek.com/build-show/about/about-the-show>

The Build Show sponsored by Easy-trim is FREE to attend for trade visitors. Build Show attracts thousands of construction professionals to the NEC Birmingham, looking for solutions and new products to enhance their projects and businesses. Covering a vast spectrum of professionals from Tradesmen to Housebuilders and Contractors, the event has quickly established itself as the benchmark for business and innovation within the sector. NEW for 2018 The Build Shows sponsored by Easy-trim will be launching new sections this year; Health & Safety, Tools, Roofing & Insulation and Windows & Doors.

20. Land Remediation Expo

10-11 October 2018, ExCel London, UK

<http://www.landremediationexpo.com>

During this expo exhibitors will be presenting innovative solutions, technology and market leading products and services to professionals working in land and waste contamination management and remediation.



21. London Build 2018

24-25 October 2018, Olympia London, UK
<http://www.londonbuildexpo.com/>

London Build is the leading construction expo dedicated entirely to opportunities in London and the South East of England. It attracts contractors, developers, industry bodies and local authorities, architects, solution providers, housing associations, local councils, suppliers and many more.

22. Plant & Machinery Live

9-11 October 2018, Birmingham
<http://www.ukconstructionweek.com/plant-and-machinery>

Plant & Machinery Live is the event run alongside UK Construction Week at the NEC Birmingham. It is giving exhibitors the opportunity to showcase their equipment to visitors and demo some basic manoeuvres, such as earth moving. It is the truly interactive show with presentation.

23. The Offsite Construction Show

20-21 November 2018, ExCel London, UK
<https://offsiteconstructionshow.co.uk>

It offers the largest selection of offsite construction specialists with the latest products, services and technologies. 30 CPD accredited seminars and workshops. Visit for networking opportunity and to learn about offsite construction.

24. CIBSE Build2Perform Live

27-28 November 2018, Olympia London, UK
<http://www.build2perform.co.uk>

Over 175 experts, speaking in 80 sessions, will be presenting over the course of the two days. The event covers two days of interactive features and multiple in depth technical seminar streams, bringing built environment professionals and the wider supply chain together to help improve efficiency. It focuses on building performance, energy efficiency, reliability and productivity, providing utility, industrial, commercial, and residential sector buildings with safe, reliable and smart technologies for the distribution and monitoring of power etc. in the Building Construction industry.

25. Homes Conference and Exhibition

28-29 November 2018, Olympia London, UK
<https://homesevent.co.uk>

The exhibition dedicated to the residential development, strategic asset management and procurement solutions. It will feature 120 Exhibitors, 5 Theatres, 100 Speakers, 3000 Visitors. It is the housings destination event for residential development, strategic asset management and procurement solutions. At Home Conference and Exhibition explore the latest thinking about housing supply, discover the latest innovations, speak to your supply chain and take part in the industry networking.





Retention Reform

The Government runs the consultation until 19th January 2018 about the reform of the retention practice in the UK construction contracts. The collective view of 23 associations and construction bodies is about the adoption of the statutory retention deposit scheme.

The retention clause allows clients to withhold the percentage of the contract value owned to the contractor for the part of the time as the security for defects or other risk connected with contractor's work. It is the norm in the UK construction sector. However, retention causes significant problems for building firms waiting for payments. It is esti-

imated that approximately £10.5bn of the overall construction sector turnover of £220 billion is held in retentions by clients and main contractors from SMEs (small and medium sized building firms). An approximate £7.8bn in retentions has been unpaid over the last three years, and in the same period £700m of retentions were lost due to insolvencies.

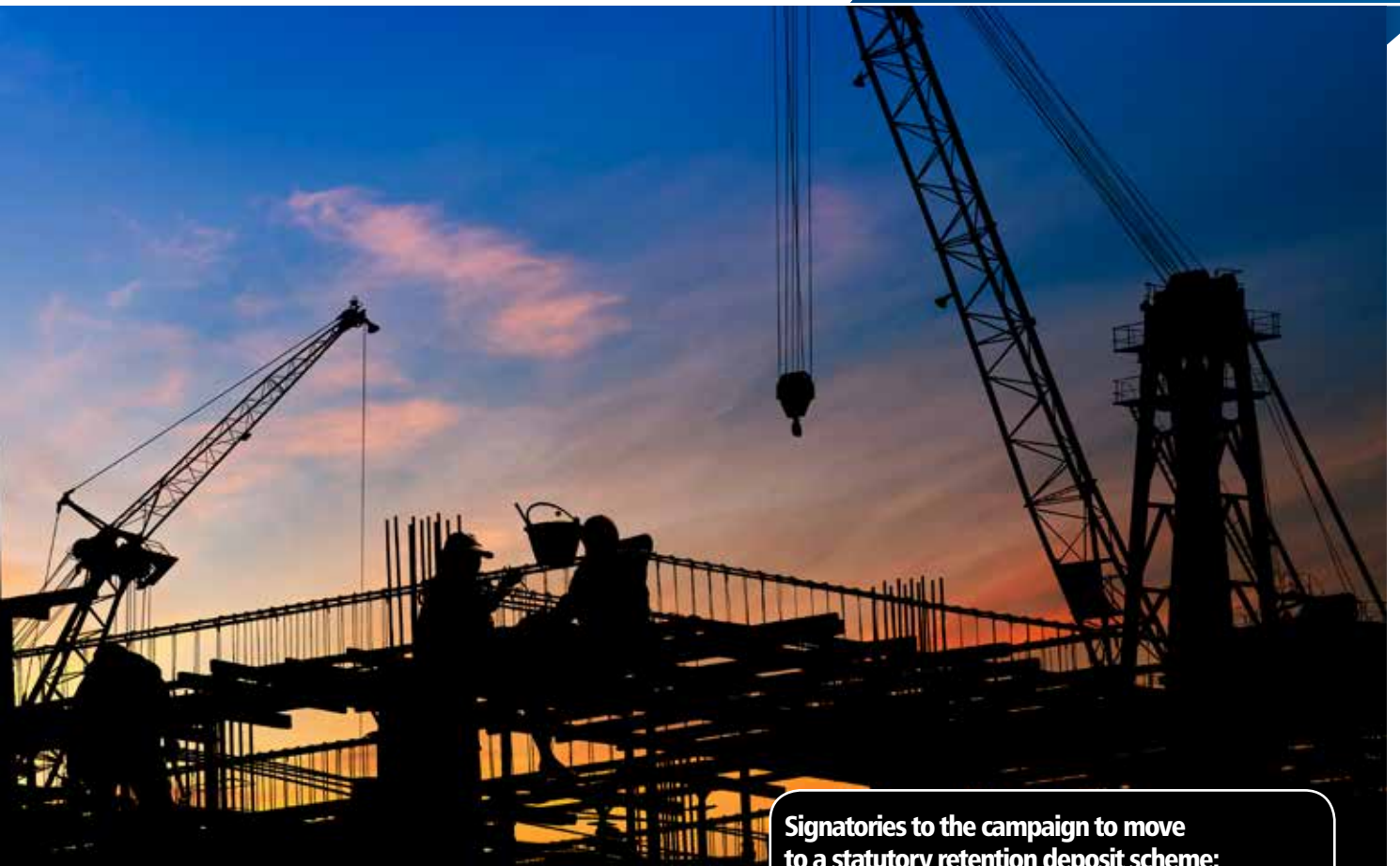
The campaign of 23 associations, led by the Building Engineering Services Association and the Electrical Contractors Association, is proposing the Australian approach to retentions. The proposal offers launching a statutory retention deposit scheme instead of client's own bank accounts. This solution will be debated in the House of Commons on the 9th January, where the private member's bill introduced by Waveney MP Peter Aldous seeks to amend the 1996 Construction Act to ensure that retentions within construction are held in a third party trust scheme.

In a joint statement on the issue, ECA director

of business Paul Reeve and BESA director of commercial and legal Rob Driscoll jointly commented: "While the significant and unacceptable problems of cash retentions in construction have been identified by independent research, and even acknowledged by government, the government has chosen to consult once again on the extent of the problem and what to do about it.

"The BESA and the ECA will continue to call on the government to ensure that all cash retentions are held in trust as soon as possible, and to phase them out entirely by the early 2020s. For the good of the economy, and the supply chain, we need a firm commitment to remove the retentions issue."

Paul Reeve, Director of Business & External Affairs at the ECA: "This Bill aims to protect the supply chain from the serious impact of lost retentions due to upstream insolvency. Way beyond those companies who are damaged by upstream insolvency, even the possibility of losing retention



money in this way hampers small business investment and growth. As such, this Bill is entirely consistent with the aims of the new Industrial Strategy, which looks for innovation, and investment in skills”.

Rob Driscoll, Legal & Commercial Director at the BESA: “With central government and major projects the biggest single construction client, the case for reform is inherently connected to the Government’s industrial strategy. To meet the challenges set by the recently launched Industrial Strategy and construction sector deal, enabling industry to re-invest in jobs, training, innovation and technological transformation, Government intervention is necessary to secure working capital that underpins the delivery models for the industry as a whole.”

The government’s consultation document is at https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/654258/2017.10.23_Retentions_Payments_Consultation_FINAL.pdf

You can reply to the consultation online at: beis.gov.uk/citizenspace.com/im/retention-payments-in-the-construction-industry

The deadline for responses is 19th January 2018.

Signatories to the campaign to move to a statutory retention deposit scheme:

- *Electrical Contractors Association*
- *Building Engineering Services Association*
- *Specialist Engineering Contractors Group*
- *British Constructional Steelwork Association*
- *Lift & Escalator Industry Association*
- *Scottish Electrical Contractors' Association – SELECT*
- *National Federation of Builders*
- *Association of Plumbing and Heating Contractors*
- *Scottish & Northern Ireland Plumbing Employers' Federation*
- *Contract Flooring Association*
- *Structural Timber Association*
- *British Blind & Shutter Association*
- *Confederation of Construction Specialists*
- *Federation of Traditional Metal Roofing Contractors*
- *Lead Contractors Association*
- *National Association of Shopfitters*
- *National Federation of Demolition Contractors*
- *Chartered Association of Building Engineers*
- *Federation of Environmental Trade Associations*
- *Scaffolding Association*
- *Stone Federation Great Britain*
- *Glass & Glazing Federation*
- *Finishes & Interiors Sector*

Tough 2018

for UK Construction industry

According to the Construction Products Association (CPA), the industry's output will not grow at all next year. It is a downward revision from the previous estimate of 0.7pc expansion. In Spring last year the predicted by the CPA growth rate for 2018 was 1.2pc. The forecast was downgraded due to the decline of commercial, public and infrastructure projects.

This negative prospect means the construction firms will struggle in 2018 with the unstable economic situation, rising inflation and falling real wages.

Noble Francis, economics director at the CPA, said: "While contractors are currently still reporting high current activity there are 'clear signs' the sector is slowing.

He added: "Prospects for construction have been adversely affected by slowing UK economic growth and falling real wages on one side and sharp rising costs on the other. 'A fall in new investment, especially where it is large international investment looking for a long-term rate of return, is forecast to lead to declines in the commercial and industrial sectors.'

According to the Federation of Master Builders (FMB), the growth amongst London's SMEs in the construction sector in the third quarter of last year slowed down.

October 2017 key results from the FMB's State of Trade Survey which is the only quarterly assess-

ment of the UK-wide SME construction sector, include:

- 41% of construction SMEs predict rising workloads in the coming three months, down from 48% in the previous quarter;
- 82% of builders believe that material prices will rise in the next six months;
- 61% of construction SMEs are struggling to hire carpenters and joiners and 59% are struggling to hire bricklayers;
- Over half (58%) of construction SMEs expect salaries and wages to increase in the next six months.

FMB chief executive Brian Berry said: "Material price hikes and skills shortages are putting the brakes on growth among the UK's small building firms. Now that the general election is well and truly behind us, it was our hope that consumer confidence would spring back and spur growth among small building firms in the third quarter of this year. However, our latest research shows that rising costs are dampening the performance of construction SMEs. The spike in salaries is a direct result of the ever-worsening skills shortage in our sector. It's a simple consequence of supply and demand – construction workers know their worth and given the scarcity of skilled tradespeople, these individuals are understandably demanding higher wages from their employers. Indeed, nearly two thirds of construction SMEs are struggling to hire carpenters and joiners which has now surpassed bricklayers as the trade in shortest supply."

Berry concluded: "Although the SME construction sector is still growing, the Government needs to keep a watchful eye on this slowdown in growth. Construction is a strategic industry and without it, the Government will be unable to build the homes, schools, hospitals, roads and railways it needs.

With Brexit on the horizon, the Government must keep the needs of the construction industry in mind as it negotiates the UK's departure from the EU. In particular, Ministers must work closely with the sector to develop a post-Brexit immigration system that works for construction and a transition period that allows us to gradually reduce our reliance on EU migrant workers. On the domestic front, we are urging the Housing Minister to turbo-charge the SME house building sector by fully implementing the proposals in the Government's Housing White Paper which was published back in February. Eight months on, our sector is crying out for the very sensible proposals aimed at removing barriers to SMEs so we can once again get Britain building en masse."



BUILDING MATERIALS



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020 8965 7972, sales@ibb.pl



IBB Croydon

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Croydon CR0 4ZS
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IBB Birmingham

425 Walsall Rd,
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0121 356 8655, birmingham@ibb.pl



IBB Manchester

Unit 24, Piccadilly Trading Estate,
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0161 375 1210, manchester@ibb.pl



Manchester



Birmingham



London



Croydon



NPORS

National Plant Operators Registration Scheme

The National Plant Operators Registration Scheme was established in 1992 and it is now one of the UK's leading Accreditation and Registration Bodies, working across a wide variety of sectors including the Construction.

NPORS is the preferred regulatory authority for workplace transport training and it offers flexibility and high standards, both nationally and internationally by working with industry and Accredited Training Providers.

NPORS CSCS Operator Card

The NPORS Operator Card is a record of training/assessment an individual has undertaken to prove their ability to safely operate or drive an item of plant machinery or equipment. Registration with

NPORS lasts for three or five years from the date of first initial test.

NPORS training and assessment is carried on in accordance with published course objectives and learning outcomes based on the National Occupational Standards. NPORS training and testing is conducted in accordance with published course objectives and learning outcomes which are derived from the National Occupational Standards.

Following the Government Strategy for Construction for a single logo applied to all card schemes, and

as a result of the Construction Leadership Council (CLC) decision to award the single logo status to CSCS, the NPORS Construction Operator Card will in future be issued in line with the requirements stipulated by the CLC and will display the CSCS logo.

The categories on the reverse of the Operator Card can be validated by scanning in the QR code on the front of the card, using the online card checker or by contacting NPORS on 01606 351240.

For more details visit www.npors.com

(Source: NPORS)





Take part in NBS

Construction Contracts in Use and Legal Issues Survey

NBS is inviting all builders and building businesses to take part in the survey about construction contracts. Spend few minutes to share your views about any legal issues you may have encountered during the building contract. This survey covers the ongoing project, the completed one or one that was in dispute in the last 12 months. The survey is about UK based projects and international projects handled by the UK based companies. All information is confidential and the survey is carried out in accordance with the Market Research Society Code of Conduct.

The survey covers subjects like for instance: main causes of dispute, their duration and value, tendering and procurement practice, pricing and legal issues and the impact of the adoption of BIM on contracts.

Head of research Adrian Malleon said: "Our

independent and experienced NBS Research team has designed this survey to be the most wide-ranging independent review of contractual and legal issues from across the industry.

"We're expecting results of the survey to provide a clearer picture of whether collaborative tech-

niques and processes such as BIM are fostering a less confrontational approach amongst project teams, as well as a strong indication of the legal implications that those adopting BIM is having, following the 2016 mandate."

To take part in NBS survey visit: <http://surveys.ribaenterprises.com/wh/s.asp?k=150089688417>