



# Construction Plant Competence Scheme

**Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) is the most popular and best-regarded competence scheme that provides skills cards for the plant sector of the building industry. It was introduced in 2003 and issues cards for over 60 plant and related occupations.**

The scheme assesses the applicants' competencies, qualifications and raises standards in the plant sector. It aims to provide the identification for operators, increase health and safety standards through testing, improve employment prospects for operators. CPCS ensures that worker has the accepted standards of skills to work as an operator of the plant within the field of construction.

The scheme is directed to plant operators, slinger/signallers, individuals securing plant and equipment to vehicles/trailers for transportation, in-

dividuals planning and controlling lifting operations.

How to get the operator card?

Red Trained Operator Card- it confirms the level of core skills and knowledge, it lasts two years and can be issued for experienced and in training operators who are being measured against national standards through an SVQ and NVQ. To get the card, the applicant has to:

- pass CITB health and safety test
- pass CPCS technical test
- within two years achieve CPCS theory test
- pass CPCS practical test

Blue Competent Operator Card- it confirms the level of health, safety and environment test through CPCS theory test, operating ability through a CPCS practical test and the competence evidenced by SVQ or NVQ. It lasts five years and is renewable. To get the card, the applicant has to:

- prove the achievement of SVQ or NVQ for CPCS
- pass CITB health, safety and environment test
- achieve CPCS theory test and practical test

On the successful assessment, the card will be issued together with the logbook in which the cardholder has to evidence the lifelong training for the renewal of the card after five years. CITB audits logbooks before the renewal of the card.

Tester Card- this card can be obtained by the professional who has shown the suitable experience within the industry, has plant related health and safety knowledge, first aid knowledge, health and safety awareness, advanced underpinning knowledge and operating ability and role-based ability as a Tester. This card is required to assess an applicant's knowledge, understanding and performance against CPCS tests' criteria.

The CPCS helps to comply with the regulations set by the construction industry and apply the common standards for all plant operators in the UK. Download free support material at [www.citb.co.uk/cpcs](http://www.citb.co.uk/cpcs) Grants are ranging from £60 to £400, available towards the taking the practical and theoretical tests which you can check at [www.citb.co.uk/grant](http://www.citb.co.uk/grant).

(Source: CITB, CPCS)