



National Federation of Demolition Contractors
Voice of the Global Demolition Industry



National Demolition Training Group
TRAINING THE DEMOLITION INDUSTRY

Maintaining Competency during COVID-19

Summary of Guidance for Competence Schemes



AN **nocr** JOB CARD



INTRODUCTION

In recognition that COVID-19 will prevent some of the demolition workforce from being able to apply for or renew industry recognised certification, the NDTG are monitoring all of the schemes applicable to the industry to ensure you have the latest advice and guidance.

Card Schemes have been adapting and applying leniency such as CCDO card extensions and temporary acceptance of UKATA elearning certifications for the duration of the COVID-19 crisis.

There is a summary of guidance below against each of the existing schemes:

CCDO – Certificate of Competence for Demolition Operatives:

At this time, all CCDO cards should be in date, however with the situation the industry is currently facing, in the coming months this may not be the case. NDTG can only advise that employers use their discretion in accepting CCDO cards that will expire from 1st April 2020 onwards until the COVID-19 situation is brought under control.

If you wish to request an extension on your existing CCDO card for an initial period of three months, please call the team on 01442 217 144 (Option 2) or email: hello@ndtg.training

The NDTG will be continually monitoring the current situation with CITB, Build UK, HSE and will continually be updating their website.

Effective now, (26th March 2020), NDTG will accept UKATA eLearning certification for Asbestos Awareness and for Refresher training only, for the duration of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Any Certificate should clearly display the date the course was undertaken, so NDTG can track that these Certificates were achieved during the COVID-19 period of disruption.

CPCS – Construction Plant Certification Scheme:

CPCS have suggested to Employers that their sites could be more lenient on accepting cards that have expired from mid-March onwards until the Covid-19 situation has been brought more under control. This is of course the Employers' choice and decision.

CSCS – Construction Skills Certification Scheme:

CSCS has extended the grace period for renewal from when the card expires, from 6 months to 12 months. This means that the card can be renewed, once the CITB H,S&E test has been passed, up to one year from the card's expiry date, without the further requirement to provide proof of qualifications.

CSCS has requested that employers and those responsible for site access and card checking procedures use their discretion towards workers whose cards have expired since mid-March onwards and who can provide evidence that they have been unable to sit their CITB HS&E test or undertake the required training and qualifications as a result of the closure of Test/Training centres.

This is at the employer's discretion until the situation has stabilised so we may see different standards being applied by different clients/contractors.

Employers should still expect their workers to hold a valid CSCS card as proof of their training and qualifications.

CITB – Construction Industry Training Board:

HS&E – Health, Safety and Environmental Testing

CITB released a statement advising they will be temporarily closing all Pearson Vue HS&E Test Centres from Friday 20th March 2020 until further notice. NDTG Test Centre is also temporarily closed until further notice.

Pearson Vue centres will allow people to reschedule HS&E Tests free of charge where COVID19 means they have to cancel at short notice.

CISRS – Construction Industry Scaffold Record Scheme:

CISRS have suggested to Employers that their sites could be more lenient on accepting cards that have expired from mid-March onwards until the Covid-19 situation has been brought more under control. This is of course the Employers' choice and decision.

It is difficult to envisage the disruption this virus will cause but we will be adopting a pragmatic approach to issues which may arise. For example: if a core scheme course Part 1, 2, Advanced is ended prematurely, e.g. after 6 days we would not expect the person to repeat the full course.

If someone's card expires as their CPD course is cancelled please liaise directly with CISRS scheme.

NPORS - National Plant Operators Recognition Scheme:

Where, due to travel restrictions or company internal policies card holders are unable to renew their registrations due to no re-testing being available, please contact NPORS directly.

SS+ - Site Safety Plus:

Any delegate whose Site Supervisors Safety Training Scheme (SSSTS) and Site Managers Safety Training Scheme (SMSTS) achievement has expired since 15 March 2020 and who hasn't been able to renew in time due to COVID-19, will be allowed to take the refresher rather than the full course -this will remain in place whilst the current Coronavirus situation continues and will be reviewed on a regular basis. No end date has yet been added but this is likely to be 6 months from this date.

CITB have asked employers to show discretion for recently expired Site Safety Plus courses such as SSSTS and SMSTS.

MAY BE RELEVANT FOR SOME CONTRACTORS

Sentinel / NSAR - National Skills Academy Rail /RTAS - Rail Training Assurance Scheme

Network Rail has temporarily extended by four months all Sentinel railway competences and medical certificates. The system will be updated by 26th March but for the avoidance of doubt, the extension period is effective from 23rd March. For Network Rail staff, HAVS health surveillance dates and Annual Capability Conversation (ACC) requirements have also been extended and Oracle will be updated in a similar timeframe. By undertaking this as an extension for all competences, not just those expiring in the next four months, the aim is to prevent a bow wave of reassessments.

While the mandatory requirement for re-training, formal assessment and the ACC will be suspended during this period, managers have an important role to diligently observe the other requirements of competence management.

If a manager or individual doubts continued competence or becomes aware of any change in health status or behaviour, they must stop work using that competence and engage with the relevant service for advice. If there is any suspicion about someone being unfit through drugs or alcohol, there is no relaxation to existing controls.