

# CSCS Cards – A Guide to the Application Process

## Introduction

Sign installers can obtain a CSCS Card in two categories: **Sign Installer (Illuminated)** and **Sign Installer (Non-illuminated)**.

To obtain a CSCS Card in either category the applicant is required to:

- Pass the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test, with ten additional questions relating to working at heights.
- Complete the two designated units from the S/NVQ in Signmaking at Level 2, in the case of a Green Card.

OR

- Complete an S/NVQ in Signmaking at Level 3, in the case of a Gold Card.

The designated units from the S/NVQ in Signmaking Level 2 which must be completed when applying for a Green Card are:

- **Mandatory Unit 2.01:** Meet Safety, Health and Environmental Requirements in the Workplace
- **Optional Unit 2.18:** Carry Out Installation Operation for Signage Operations

In addition to the Green and Gold Cards for sign installers, three other cards are available, these are:

- **Trainee (Red) Card** – for this the applicant must have registered for the S/NVQ in Signmaking and have either, completed the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test, or have undertaken a one day health and safety awareness course. Holders of a Trainee (Red) Card must, when on site, be accompanied by the holder of a full CSCS Card.
- **Experienced Worker (Blue) Card** – this card is a transitional card, which allows experienced workers access to sites while they are completing the required S/NVQ qualification in Signmaking, needed to obtain a Green or Gold Card. Applicants must pass the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test, with ten additional questions relating to working at heights and have registered for the relevant S/NVQ before applying for the card. The Experienced Worker Card is valid for one year only and is not renewable.
- **Visitor (Yellow) Card** – this card is available to applicants who do not perform a construction specific skill, but who are regular visitors to construction sites, delivery drivers for example. To apply for a Visitor (Yellow) Card, applicants must have passed the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test.

The original CSCS Blue Card for skilled workers is no longer available to sign installers. Anyone currently holding a CSCS Blue Card, obtained through the Industry Accreditation Scheme, will be issued with a Green Card when they apply to have their card renewed.

## **The Application Process**

### **Step 1: The Application Pack**

To get a copy of the CSCS Card application pack phone the CSCS Helpline on 0870 417 8777. The CSCS advisors can provide information on the various cards available to sign installers; they will also be able to help you select the card which is most appropriate for your needs.

Application packs can also be requested via the CSCS web site at [www.cscs.uk.com](http://www.cscs.uk.com)

### **Step 2: Contact the BSGA**

After receiving your application pack, contact the BSGA on 01733 230033, we will be able to provide information on the S/NVQs in Signmaking and help you identify a college or approved centre where you can gain the qualifications needed to obtain a CSCS Card.

Contact details for the colleges and accredited centres delivering the S/NVQ in Signmaking can be found in the member's directory of the BSGA web site at [www.bsga.co.uk](http://www.bsga.co.uk)

### **Step 3: Contact the college**

Contact your selected college to register for the elements of the Signmaking S/NVQ needed for the CSCS Card for which you wish to apply.

The college or accredited centre will advise you of the costs, timescales and requirements involved in completing the required S/NVQ course.

### **Step 4: Completing the S/NVQ and CITB Health & Safety Test**

The first step to gaining your CSCS Card as a sign installer is completing the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test, with the ten additional questions relating to working at heights.

For more information on the background to and preparing for the CITB Construction Skills health and safety test visit [www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk/health\\_safety](http://www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk/health_safety) or call 0870 600 4020 or 0870 417 7885.

Some of the colleges offer this facility however, if they don't, they will be able to tell how to arrange the test appointment.

## **Step 5: Applying for the Card**

Details of the application process are given in the CSCS Card application pack.

For more detailed information on the background and operation of the CSCS Card scheme or to download the Scheme Booklet visit [www.cscs.uk.com](http://www.cscs.uk.com)

BSGA  
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