

The Construction Plant Competence Scheme is changing

from 1st August 2008



What's new?

The CPCS Technical Test:

- a new core element which applies across all categories and routes of entry and will replace the Intermediate Certificate (the current training and testing element for the red Trained Operator card route of entry into the Scheme).
- will be in two parts, a practical test of ability and a theory test (which incorporates questions relating to underpinning knowledge, specific category and environment related H&S, and Operators rights and responsibilities).
- supported by a training syllabus, against which training can be tailored to meet individual requirements through a variety of channels including accredited CPCS Trainers, training providers, in-house trainers and colleagues.
- the S/NVQ will only need to be passed once for a family of categories (grouped into a unit), so if an individual has an NVQ in a 360 excavator below 10 tonnes, if they pass a further CPCS Technical Test on a 180 excavator below 5 tonnes they will automatically be awarded the blue Competent Operator card.

The renewal process:

- A CPCS Renewal Theory Test will need to be taken to support all blue card renewals from 1st January 2009.
- The CPCS Renewal Theory Test will be a computer based multiple choice test. It will consist of a core test and bolt-ons for each family of categories, delivered through a centre that can offer independent invigilation.
- From 1st January 2009 all Logbooks being presented as meeting the 300 hour requirements will need to be independently validated, and quality assured, by the centre completing the Renewal Theory Test, and a Logbook pass result submitted to CPCS.

What's staying the same?

Core elements are being kept to maintain standards:

- ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test as basic test of H&S knowledge which all participants are required to pass before any further tests are taken.
- Level 2 National Vocational Qualifications (S/NVQs) as the measure of competence.
- Logbook to record ongoing competence.
- A 5 year blue Competent Operator card, and a 2 year red Trained Operator card (reduced from 3 years).

How will it be delivered?

The new Scheme will be supported by:

- CPCS Test Centres offering the complete package of services; supporting operator progression from red card application to blue card renewal: H&S Testing, CPCS Technical Tests, S/NVQ assessment.
- CPCS Testers working through CPCS Test Centres to deliver the CPCS Technical Test.
- CPCS Trainers appropriately qualified to train operators.
- CPCS Monitors assuring the quality of the CPCS Technical Test, but not training.

The new Scheme will no longer be supported by:

- CPCS Training Providers who will be invited to become CPCS Test Centres.
- CPCS Instructors who will be invited to become CPCS Testers and/or Trainers.
- CPCS Validators as this role will be completed by the CPCS Test Centres.
- CPCS Examiner as this role will be completed by CPCS Testers.
- CPCS In-House Assessors as the renewal tests will be completed by CPCS Testers.



The diagram across the next two pages explains the changes in the process of gaining a card from 1st August 2008.

Working towards a blue Competent Operator card

An Operator is required to:

- Pass the ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test before any testing begins (if not passed in last 2 years).
- Carry out any training necessary to bring the operator up to the standard required to pass the CPCS Technical Test. This training will be tailored to meet individual requirements and based on a CPCS training syllabus.
- Pass the CPCS Theory Test
- Pass the CPCS Practical Test
- Have the relevant S/NVQ, with the unit appropriate to the category of plant required.

CPCS has removed:

- The age and experience entry restrictions.
- The Intermediate Certificate. This will be replaced with the CPCS Technical Test for all categories, which would include knowledge, health and safety questions and practical ability tasks.
- Any restrictions on choice of awarding body.

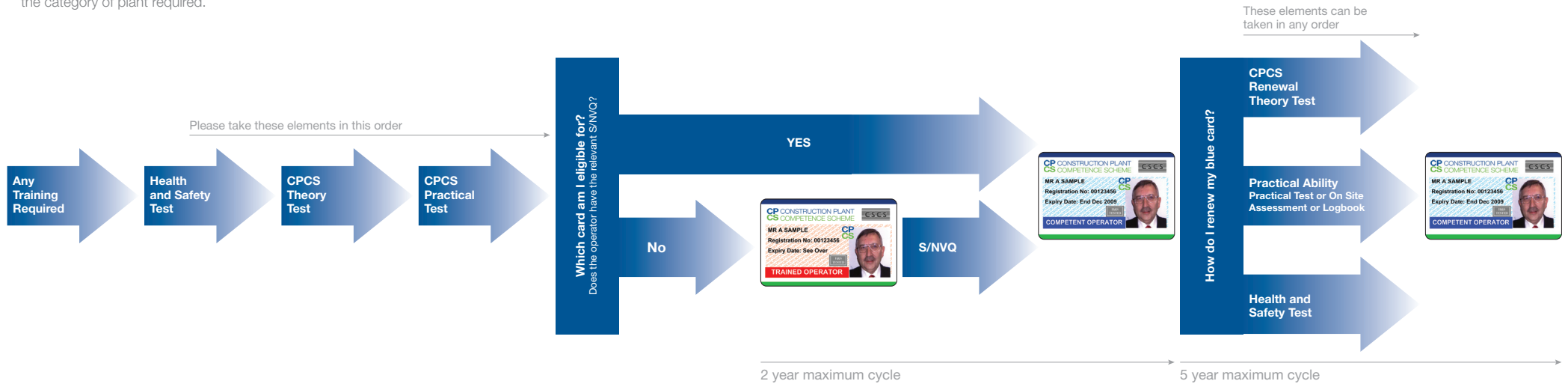
Renewing a blue Competent Operator card

An Operator is required to:

- Pass the ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test (if not passed in the last 2 years);
- Record 300 operating hours in the logbook or pass a CPCS Practical Test (delivered through a CPCS Test Centre with a CPCS Tester, either at the centre or in the workplace as a On Site Assessment);
- Pass a CPCS Renewal Theory Test from 1st January 2009 onwards

- Record all ongoing training including health and safety refreshers or manufacturers updates in the logbook.

CPCS will be recommending that the Occupational Health good practice guidance provided on its website is followed



Working towards a red Trained Operator card

An Operator is required to:

- Pass the ConstructionSkills Health and Safety Test before any testing or training begins (if not passed in the last 2 years).
- Carry out any training necessary to bring the operator up to the standard required to pass the CPCS Technical Test. This training will be tailored to meet individual requirements and based on a CPCS training syllabus.
- Pass CPCS Theory Test
- Pass CPCS Practical Test

CPCS has removed:

- The age entry restrictions.
- The Intermediate Certificate, it would be replaced with the CPCS 'Technical Test' for all categories, which would include knowledge, health & safety questions and practical ability tasks.
- The issue of a logbook with a red card.

Moving from a red Trained Operator card to a blue Competent Operator card

An Operator is required to:

- Pass the relevant S/NVQ with the unit appropriate to the category of plant required, within the 2 year life of the card.

CPCS has removed:

- The six month minimum time period imposed between progressing from red to blue card.
- Any restrictions on choice of awarding body.
- The re-issue of a further logbook. The logbook will only be issued with the first blue card that the individual receives.

The life of the card has been reduced from 3 years to 2 years to encourage progression to a blue card.

Logbook

The Logbook has been redesigned to capture its role as a document for recording the on-going experience and lifelong learning of the operator.

- Only issued to an Operator once with their first blue Competent Operator card
- All entries of operating hours to be fully endorsed and traceable
- From 1st January 2009 all Logbooks being presented as meeting the 300 hour requirements will need to be independently validated, and quality assured, by the Centre completing the Renewal Theory Test.

Grant

In 2008/9 CITB-ConstructionSkills are offering the following Grants to support the Scheme.

- achievement Grants available for a CPCS Theory Test pass, a CPCS Practical Test pass, a H&S Test pass, and an S/NVQ achievement
- attendance Grants will be available to support training through the Training Plan or Short Duration training.
- For further information please access: www.cskills.org/grant

The Construction Plant Competence Scheme has changed - why?

The CPCS Scheme was launched in 2003, and is the Industry's largest scheme for plant operators with over 200,000 cards issued. The CPCS Management team started a review of the Scheme in 2007 to ensure that the Scheme met industry's requirements, whilst being simple to understand.

The review considered comments and suggestions that had been received from industry, the Construction and Design Management regulations (CDM 2007), occupational health issues and technology advances. A proposed model was developed for taking the Scheme forward which was presented to industry during a consultation process over the summer of 2007. Many individuals, federations and firms took the opportunity to feedback on the proposed model. During autumn 2007 the model was amended to take on board the comments received, for example;

Red card lifespan?

- The review proposed reducing the lifespan of the red card to encourage operators to complete their S/NVQ.
- The review recommended reducing the current 3 year lifespan of the red card to 1 year.
- Feedback during the consultation suggested this was insufficient time to gather the evidence required for an S/NVQ.
- The final decision is that the lifespan of the red card should be 2 years.

Making S/NVQ registration compulsory?

- The review proposed making S/NVQ registration a requirement for gaining the red card.
- Feedback suggested that this might restrict access to S/NVQ funding.
- The requirement for registration has been removed from red card requirements.

CPCS Instructor role removal?

- The review proposed removing the role of CPCS Instructor from the Scheme in line with the additional options for training.
- Feedback suggested employers might find it difficult to access properly skilled training.
- Role of CPCS Trainer has been introduced enabling CPCS to provide a list of appropriately qualified trainers.

The outcome is an improved Scheme - simpler whilst maintaining the strong standards that have defined the Scheme since 2003.

Launched on 1st August 2008



What is the timetable for change?

31 July 2008

- Existing Training Providers, to submit scheduled Training and Testing up to 31 October 2008 to CPCS, against which they can continue to deliver.
- Existing In-House Assessors to submit scheduled In house Assessments up to 31 October 2008 to CPCS against which they can continue to deliver.
- Cessation of Instructor Skills Testing (to be replaced by Advanced Technical Tests).
- Termination of role of Examiner (to be replaced by CPCS Tester).

1 Aug 2008 to 31 Oct 2008

Phase 2: Scheme launch for new applicants

- Launch of new Scheme with accredited CPCS Test Centres and registered CPCS Testers delivering the Technical Tests and On Site Assessments, with the exception of the CPCS Renewal Theory Test. Operators able to complete new style application forms under the new Scheme rules. Employers able to claim the supporting 2008/9 Grants for CPCS Technical Test achievements.
- Existing Training Providers allowed to complete training and testing already booked and notified to CPCS, and submit old style application forms under the old scheme rules and employers able to claim the supporting 2007/8 Grants.
- Existing In House Assessors allowed to complete In House Assessments already booked and notified to CPCS.
- Operators able to submit old style application forms under the old scheme rules and employers able to claim the supporting 2007/8 Grants.
- No Renewal Theory Test requirement applied to blue card renewals.
- Validators to continue to sign off blue card renewals.

31 Oct 2008

- Termination of CPCS Training Provider Agreements.
- Termination of CPCS Instructor cards.
- Termination of role of In-House Assessor (to be replaced by CPCS Tester).
- No further old style application forms or Grant claims accepted.

1 Nov 2008 to 31 Dec 2008

Phase 3: New Scheme activities and applications only

- No old style applications under the old Scheme rules and Grant claims for the 2007/8 Grant Scheme will be accepted.
- No CPCS Renewal Theory Test requirement applied to blue card renewals.
- Validators to continue to sign off blue card renewals.

31 Dec 2008

- Termination of CPCS Validators (to be replaced by the centre at which the CPCS Renewal Theory Test is taken).

1 Jan 2009 onwards

Phase 4: Full Scheme activities including CPCS Renewal Theory Tests

- Launch of CPCS Renewal Theory Tests.
- Launch of Logbook validation at the point of sitting CPCS Renewal Theory Test.
- Full Scheme in operation.