



GUIDANCE NOTE – GN 6  
THE CONSTRUCTION SKILLS  
CERTIFICATION SCHEME (CSCS)



2017 Edition

## GUIDANCE NOTE – GN6

### THE CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME (CSCS) FOR COMMISSIONING SPECIALIST PERSONNEL

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Revision	Detail	Date
<b>001</b>	<b>updated</b>	<b>March 2018</b>

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**Commissioning Specialists Association**

**January 2016**

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### **What is CSCS?**

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) cards provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the type of work they carry out.

The Scheme keeps a database of people working in construction who have achieved or are committed to achieving a recognised construction related qualification.

Holding a CSCS card is not a legislative requirement. It is entirely up to the principal contractor or client whether workers are required to hold a card before they are allowed on site. However, most principal contractors and major house builders require construction workers on their sites to hold a valid CSCS card.

<https://www.cscs.uk.com>

### **Engineering Services SKILLcard**

This is a scheme which is affiliated to the CSCS and applies to anybody working in the heating, ventilating, air conditioning and refrigeration industry, including ductwork and other specialisms associated with the building engineering services industry - such as service and facilities, domestic heating and plumbing, and refrigeration and air conditioning. The scope of SKILLcard also covers those with supervisory and managerial responsibilities in the building engineering services industry.

You do not have to be employed in order to register. You could be self-employed, an agency worker or unemployed.

Membership of the scheme is confirmed through the issue of an Engineering Services SKILLcard and there is no need for separate registration with CSCS.

See the web site <https://www.skillcard.org.uk> for full details of requirements and how to apply.

### **Why do I need an Engineering Services SKILLcard?**

More and more clients are insisting that contractors employ only staff registered with a recognised personnel registration body in an important initiative aimed at improving the health and safety record of the construction industry.

Build UK (formally the Major Contractors Group) representing the largest construction companies throughout the UK, has set the target of ensuring that all personnel working on their sites are registered with an appropriate registration body.

### **How do I get an Engineering Services SKILLcard?**

Applicants need to prove they have the training and qualifications required to carry out their job and apply for the correct card for their occupation. The requirements can be checked by using the online card finder which will also confirm which type of Health and Safety Test needs to be passed. The H & S Test is designed to give everybody working on sites a minimum level of health and safety awareness.

You don't have to have an NVQ/SVQ to qualify for a Engineering Services SKILLcard – because you can get a SKILLcard on the basis of industry accreditation through an endorsement from your employer. Once your SKILLcard has been issued on the basis of industry accreditation you can keep your industry accreditation membership of SKILLcard for life (subject to renewal rules).

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**How do I apply for Industry Accreditation?**

Full details are given on the web site but the following is generally applicable:-

<b>Job/Position</b>	<b>Type/Colour of Card</b>	<b>Industry Accreditation Required (Employer Endorsement)</b>
Commissioning Trainees, Commissioning Assistants and Intermediate Commissioning/Balancing Technicians	Red Trainee SKILLcard	No
Commissioning Engineers and Senior Commissioning Engineers	Blue or Gold (Advanced Craft) SKILLcard	Yes if the engineer does not have an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 or 4 in a relevant building services engineering discipline
Senior Commissioning Engineers (Supervisory duties)	Gold (Supervisor) SKILLcard	Yes if the engineer does not have an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 or 4 in a relevant building services engineering discipline
Commissioning Managers and Contracts Managers	Black SKILLcard	Yes if the engineer does not have an NVQ/SVQ Level 3 or 4 in a relevant building services engineering discipline

Further details and guidance is detailed on the SKILLcard web site along with the appropriate application forms.