



## NEWS and INFORMATION

### ISSUE 35

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#### HEALTH AND SAFETY TESTING BECOMES HEALTH, SAFETY AND ENVIRONMENT TESTING

The CITB-ConstructionSkills Health, Safety and Environment Test is the principal means of satisfying the health and safety requirements of SKILLcard. The test is designed to ensure that people working on construction sites and in related activities have at least a basic knowledge of health and safety at work and, now, also of the environmental implications of the work they undertake.

A new test was introduced earlier this year and the purpose of this News and Information Bulletin is to provide information on the key changes and improvements.

#### Test Content

The new test tests many of the same areas of health and safety knowledge as the previous test, but key changes in the questioning style are aimed at ensuring candidates learn more effectively and acquire a better understanding. Additional areas of knowledge are also tested - in particular, respiratory risks (an especially common cause of ill health in the industry) and environment issues.

Case studies have also been incorporated to assess behavioural responses to a number of typical on-site situations as they develop.

The marking structure has also been changed to ensure candidates who pass the test do so with an adequate knowledge of *all the areas* covered by the test.

The new tests last for 45 minutes and have 50 multiple-choice questions, comprising 12 behavioural case study <<http://www.cskills.org/supportbusiness/healthsafety/setting-out.aspx>> questions about how candidates should behave on a construction site to stay healthy and safe, followed by 38 knowledge questions to check candidates' knowledge of health, safety and environment issues. The test structure retains the specialist tests for the HVACR sector and the separate tests for supervisors, and managers and professionals.

#### New Test Service Provider

CITB-Construction Skills' new test service provider is Pearson Vue. As Pearson Vue is also the test service provider for the theoretical driving test, this means that the majority of testing can now be carried out again at the national network of local driving test centres. Other enhancements to the testing service available as a result of this change include:

- enhanced booking hours: Monday-Friday 8.00am-8.00pm; Saturday 8.00am-12 noon
- extended testing availability: 8.00am-8.00pm at some test centres

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- tests guaranteed within two weeks of booking
- limited availability of walk-in testing
- enhanced corporate testing
- improved on-line support for multiple bookings
- increased security at test centres requiring an e-signature from all candidates.

### **Preparing for the Test**

Employers should take appropriate steps to prepare the members of their workforce for the test.

Candidates can *prepare for the test* by:

- watching the free-to-view video entitled *Setting Out* at [www.cskills.org/setting-out](http://www.cskills.org/setting-out)
- reading the relevant question and answer book (price £10.95 plus VAT), which can be ordered on line at [www.cskills.org](http://www.cskills.org) and is available from a number of high street book sellers
- using the relevant revision DVD (price £12.42 plus VAT), containing the *Setting Out* video, example case study, practice questions, test tutorial and test simulator
- completing an appropriate training course, such as the B&ES *Working Safely in Building Services* course.

Employers are urged to use the test as a stepping stone and encourage their workforce to go on and develop their health, safety and environmental knowledge even further.

On the day of the test, candidates will need to:

- arrive at the test centre at least 15 minutes before the test is due to start
- take their confirmation letter or email with them
- take proof of their identity with them which includes their photo and signature, such as passport or driving licence.

Staff at the test centre will check their documents. Candidates will not be able to take the test if they do not have the relevant documents with them and the test booking fee will be lost.

## Booking a Test

Booking a test is straightforward:

- By Phone:** Main booking line - 0344 994 4488  
Main Welsh booking line - 0344 994 4490  
Special assistance booking line - 0344 994 4491  
Corporate booking line - 0344 994 4492  
Fax number - 0300 200 1177
- By email:** General email queries - [cskills.hsandecustomerservices@pearson.com](mailto:cskills.hsandecustomerservices@pearson.com)  
Group bookings queries - [cskills.hsandegroupbooking@pearson.com](mailto:cskills.hsandegroupbooking@pearson.com)  
Corporate booking queries - [cskills.hsandecorporatebooking@pearson.com](mailto:cskills.hsandecorporatebooking@pearson.com)  
Special assistance queries - [cskills.hsandespecialassistance@pearson.com](mailto:cskills.hsandespecialassistance@pearson.com)
- By post:** CITB-ConstructionSkills, c/o Pearson VUE, PO Box 381,  
Manchester, M50 3UW
- Online:** For more general information - [www.cskills.org/hsandetest](http://www.cskills.org/hsandetest)  
For revision material and vouchers - [www.cskills.org/hsanderevision](http://www.cskills.org/hsanderevision)

Or follow the link from the SKILLcard website at: [www.skillcard.org.uk/](http://www.skillcard.org.uk/)

The price of the test is unchanged at £17.50. Vouchers can be purchased in advance to pay for test.

The relevant test you will need to request is detailed in the table below:

Colour of SKILLcard applied for	Which test to ask for	To identify this test you may need to refer to the following code when booking
Red (for new entrant site-based Adult Trainees), Green, Blue, Gold	<b>One of the following depending on your occupation:</b>	
	HVACR Pipefitting/Welding (Industrial and Commercial)	PFW
	HVACR Ductwork	DUCT
	HVACR Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	RAAC
	HVACR Domestic Heating and Plumbing Services	HAPS
	Plumbing - Industrial and Commercial	JIB
Gold (Supervisory)	CSCS Supervisory	SPVR
Black (Managerial & Professional)	CSCS Managerial and Professional	MAP
Dark Green and White Construction Related Occupation (CRO); and Yellow Regular Site Visitors	CSCS Operative Test	CSCS
White ACRIB Refrigerant Handler (CRO)	HVACR Refrigeration and Air Conditioning	RAAC

## **General**

Applicants for SKILLcards who have taken the old health and safety test will still be able to apply for their SKILLcard on the basis of the old test, provided that - in accordance with SKILLcard's well established rules - the test was taken within two years of the date of the application for a SKILLcard.

Information about the exemptions from the need to take the test is also available from the SKILLcard website at [www.skillcard.org.uk](http://www.skillcard.org.uk) - although these are being reviewed and any change to these exemptions will be the subject of a separate News and Information Bulletin.

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