



NEWS and INFORMATION

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INDUSTRY ACCREDITATION ROUTE FOR ISSUE OF SKILLcards TO SKILLED/UNQUALIFIED PERSONNEL

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER!

END OF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY — FIRE PROTECTION/SPRINKLER INSTALLATION PERSONNEL

“Experienced Worker” SKILLcards

From the inception of Engineering Services SKILLcard, it was acknowledged that many people working in a skilled capacity in the industry would have no formal trade/industry qualifications — whether National Vocational Qualifications/Scottish Vocational Qualifications (NVQ's/SVQ's) or pre-NVQ/SVQ qualifications. It was also recognised that such personnel should not be excluded from registering with SKILLcard.

A “window of opportunity” was therefore created. This was intended to allow skilled personnel without formal trade/industry qualifications to register for a SKILLcard on the basis of an employer’s endorsement — a process referred to as “industry accreditation”.

This “window of opportunity” was for an introductory two-year period only; but it has recently been decided that this “window of opportunity” should be extended to **31 January 2006**.

This extension is to give those companies employing fire protection/sprinkler installation personnel who have not yet registered their workforce with SKILLcard a **final opportunity** to do so.

All SKILLcard applications received after 31 January 2006 in respect of fire protection/sprinkler installation personnel with no formal trade/industry qualifications will need to satisfy the more demanding criteria of the “Experienced Worker” card.

Applicants for the "Experienced Worker" card will need to register for a relevant NVQ/SVQ Level 2 or 3 and complete an NVQ/SVQ profile with an NVQ/SVQ assessor. SKILLcards issued on this basis are for three years only, to be replaced with a normal five-year SKILLcard when the applicant achieves an NVQ/SVQ Level 2 or 3 in the occupation shown on the card.

Full details of the "Experienced Worker" card and how to arrange assessment of individual Operatives will be published separately. Employers will want to bear in mind that the "Experienced Worker" card will involve payment for registration for the appropriate NVQ/SVQ and for the initial profiling/assessment.

In the meantime, however, Employers are advised that they may want to consider registering their workforce now on the basis of employer endorsement/industry accreditation before the "Experienced Worker" card becomes mandatory under SKILLcard.

YOU NOW HAVE A FURTHER (AND FINAL) OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO! YOU HAVE TILL 31 JANUARY 2006 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY!