



NEWS and INFORMATION

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END OF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY — REFRIGERATION AND AIR CONDITIONING PERSONNEL

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER THE EASY WAY!

FINAL REMINDER!

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 extended “window of opportunity” was for an introductory period only and comes to an end on 31 January 2006.

All SKILLcard applications received **after 31 January 2006** in respect of refrigeration and air conditioning 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 are available from the newly re-constructed website: www.skillcard.org.uk. 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 ONLY TILL 31 JANUARY 2006 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF REGISTERING YOUR REFRIGERATION/AIR CONDITIONING PERSONNEL THE EASY WAY!

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