



NEWS and INFORMATION

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

YOUR LAST CHANCE TO REGISTER THE EASY WAY!

END OF WINDOW OF OPPORTUNITY — SERVICE AND FACILITIES PERSONNEL

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 introductory “window of opportunity” was due to come to an end on 30 September 2005 (for personnel in Service and Facilities occupations).

There are similar “window of opportunity” arrangements for the other occupations covered by SKILLcard, but these are due to come to an end – or may already have done so – on different dates – see table attached.

It has recently been decided that this “window of opportunity” should be extended to **31 January 2006**.

This extension is to give those service and facilities providers who have not yet registered their personnel with SKILLcard a **final opportunity** to do so.

All SKILLcard applications received after 31 January 2006 in respect of service and facilities 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 SKILLcard website: www.skillcard.org.uk. Service providers 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, service providers 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!

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Engineering Services SKILLcard — Important dates

Event	Industrial, Commercial and Ductwork Personnel	Service and Facilities Personnel	Domestic Heating and Plumbing Services Personnel	Supervisors and Managers	Refrigeration and Air Conditioning Personnel
Occupations covered	Ductwork Erector/Installer Gas Fitter H&V Craftsman's Mate/Asst. H&V Fitter H&V Fitter/Welder H&V Installer H&V Pipefitter/Rigger H&V Welder Plumber Sprinkler Fitter/Installer	Service & Mtce. Engineer Service & Mtce. Technician Service & Mtce. Assistant	Dom. Htg. Installer/Fitter/ Service Engineer Gas Fitter Plumber	Contracts Manager Design Engineer First Line Supervisor Foreman Junior/Assistant Project Engineer Project Engineer Project Manager Quantity Surveyor Service & Mtce. Manager	Refrigeration/Air Conditioning Technician/Engineer
Start date	5 September 2001	17 September 2002	30 September 2002	8 October 2002	13 January 2003
Sector-specific health and safety test available	1 December 2003	1 December 2003	1 December 2003	Available since launch of card ⁽¹⁾	1 December 2003
Special introductory rate of £10 ends	30 September 2002	30 September 2003	30 September 2003	Not Applicable	31 January 2004
Health and safety testing compulsory	1 March 2004	1 March 2004	1 March 2004	To be Confirmed	1 March 2004
End of "window of opportunity" for industry accreditation	Extended to 29 February 2004	Extended to 31 January 2006	Extended to 31 December 2004	31 October 2005 (provisional)	Extended to 31 January 2006

Notes: ⁽¹⁾ Supervisor's Manager's tests already available. There are no plans to adapt these tests.