

NEWS and INFORMATION

ISSUE 26

20 April 2007

HEALTH AND SAFETY TESTING

SKILLcard *News and Information Bulletin* No. 25, dated 1 November 2006, outlined the arrangements being put in place for the renewal of cards.

Stage 3 of the renewal process, described in *News and Information Bulletin* No. 25, drew attention, amongst other things, to the need for individual workers *to pass the SKILLcard/CITB-ConstructionSkills health and safety test*, before submitting their completed application for a SKILLcard renewal.

There are some *limited* exemptions to this – as listed in the Appendix overleaf.

However, SKILLcard users are reminded that undertaking the HVCA *Working Safety in M&E* course – as promoted by HVCA’s licensed training providers – will **not** satisfy the health and safety criteria of Engineering Services SKILLcard. The course may be regarded as suitable *training* or *preparation* for the SKILLcard/CITB-ConstructionSkills health and safety test, but simply undertaking this particular course will not, of itself, satisfy the criteria for issue of a SKILLcard (unless covered by one of the small number of exemptions in the Appendix).

Further information about health and safety testing is available from the SKILLcard web site at: www.skillcard.org.uk, from where copies of SKILLcard *News and Information Bulletin* No. 25 can also be downloaded (under “Scheme Information and FAQ”).

Tests can be booked either by phoning the booking hotline on 0870 600 4020 (Monday to Friday 8.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m.) or on-line at:

www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk/healthsafety/thehealthsafetytest

DISTRIBUTION:

**HVCA
OSC/SSC/PMDG/RUG
ADCAS
Agencies**

**BAFSA
BRA/FETA
CSA
HVCA Licensed Training Providers**

ENGINEERING SERVICES SKILLcard – APPROVED EXEMPTIONS FROM THE HEALTH AND SAFETY TEST

Applicants who have a recent NVQ/SVQ:

For SKILLcard applicants who have a relevant NVQ/SVQ, and provided the qualification is less than two years old prior to the date of their application for a SKILLcard, this will satisfy the health and safety requirements of SKILLcard. This is because the NVQ/SVQ contains a health and safety module. **Note, however, this exemption applies only to initial SKILLcard applications and not renewals.**

Applicants who have attended an approved health and safety course:

The health and safety requirements of SKILLcard may also be satisfied by applicants who have undertaken accepted health and safety training, provided such training was undertaken not more than two years prior to the date of application for the SKILLcard.

The training which can be accepted for this purpose is:

for Operatives and Trainees/Apprentices only:

(a) Client Contractors National Safety Group (CCNSG) 2-day Passport to Safety course (**initial registrations only – not renewals**);

for Operatives and Trainees/Apprentices and/or for Supervisory and Management level cards:

(b) National Examination Board of Occupational Safety and Health (NEBOSH) Construction Certificate (NB: not the general certificate as this is not construction oriented);

for Supervisory and Management level cards only:

(c) HVCA courses – Either: *Working Safely in M&E* plus *Managing M&E Safety*; or *Managing Safety in Mechanical Engineering Services* (NB: These courses will continue to satisfy the health and safety criteria of SKILLcard until health and safety testing becomes compulsory for Supervisors and Managers – expected, provisionally, 1 November 2007).

Note: *Managing M&E Safety* is aimed at those Supervisors and Managers who have already completed the *Working Safely in M&E* course. The *Managing Safety in Mechanical Engineering Services* course is designed for experienced Supervisors and Managers (this course involves some pre-course work and preparation).

(d) CITB course – *Site Management Safety Training Scheme* (SMSTS).