



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 — COMMISSIONING TECHNICIANS and COMMISSIONING ENGINEERS

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 June 2007 (for **Commissioning Technicians and Commissioning Engineers**).

Following recent discussion with representatives of the Commissioning Specialists Association, it has recently been decided that this “window of opportunity” should be extended to **29 February 2008**.

Further information about “industry accreditation” can be obtained from the SKILLcard website at: www.skillcard.org.uk/cardinfo.html. Copies of the summary competence statements in respect of Commissioning Technicians and Commissioning Engineers to be used in connection with the industry accreditation process can be downloaded from: www.skillcard.org.uk/word/commreccom.doc

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

All SKILLcard applications received after 29 February 2008 in respect of Commissioning Technicians and Commissioning Engineers 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 in Installation and Commissioning (ICM 3/001-3/004 and ICM 3/029) 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 SKILLcard website: www.skillcard.org.uk. Commissioning firms 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, commissioning firms 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. Commissioning Technicians and Commissioning Engineers who obtain their SKILLcard through industry accreditation will be able to renew their card on expiry *without* having to go through the “Experienced Worker” route (subject to the normal health and safety testing rules).

YOU NOW HAVE A FURTHER (AND FINAL) OPPORTUNITY TO DO SO! YOU HAVE TILL 29 FEBRUARY 2008 TO TAKE ADVANTAGE OF THIS OPPORTUNITY!

Senior Commissioning Engineers; and Commissioning Managers

The arrangements for the continuing availability of “industry accreditation” for **Senior Commissioning Engineers** and **Commissioning Managers** were outlined in *SKILLcard News and Information Bulletin 27*, dated 29 October 2007 – further copies of which can be obtained from: www.skillcard.org.uk/admin.html.

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