

Construction Skills Certifications in ROI/UK/NI

This paper attempts to summarise arrangements for plant construction skills training in the Republic of Ireland, in Northern Ireland and the remainder of the United Kingdom (i.e. CSCS, CSR and CPCS). Further details are provided in the Appendix overleaf.

1) Are all skilled operator cards accepted in the Republic of Ireland?

- No, not all cards are the same.
- It is a legal requirement to possess a SOLAS card when undertaking any construction activity specified in Schedule 5 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013.
- All Persons who are carrying out any activity listed in in Schedule 5 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 MUST HAVE a SOLAS CSCS Card , No other Cards are acceptable.

2) What UK qualifications are ‘automatically accepted’ in the Republic of Ireland?

- No UK Construction Skill Cards are acceptable.
- Only a SOLAS CSCS experienced operator cards are accepted on construction sites in the Republic of Ireland (i.e. CPCS or CSR plant cards are NOT accepted).

3) Can I transfer a UK Competent Operator Card to a SOLAS CSCS Operator Card?

Yes, subject to review/assessment by SOLAS, the competent authority. All applications will be considered on an individual basis. Email the following to SOLAS: RPQ@solas.ie

- a) A detailed CV,
- b) Reference(s) from previous employers to confirming hours worked, and
- c) A scan of the UK competent operator’s card, and associated certification.

Up to date information available at <https://www.solas.ie/construction-lp/cscs/>

4) Can I transfer an ROI CSCS Plant Operator Card to a UK CPCS Competent Operator Card?

Yes, you can apply to the National Construction Training Centre in Mount Lucas for the equivalent CPCS Plant Operators Card. All applications will be considered on an individual basis. To qualify, you must undertake a CPCS theory test, a Skills and Experience Interview and the Construction Skills Health, Safety and Environment test. Tel: +353 (0)57-9362508/ Email: info@mountlucas.ie/ Web: <https://mountlucas.ie/>

5) Where can I find more information?

Appendix

1.0 Republic of Ireland – CSCS Arrangements

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) provides for the training, assessment, certification and registration of non-craft operatives within the construction sector. Information on CSCS is provided under Schedule 5 of the Safety, Health & Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013. The list of tasks includes:

- (a) Scaffolding - basic;
- (b) Scaffolding - advanced;
- (c) Mobile Tower Scaffold
- (d) Tower crane operation;
- (e) Self erecting tower crane operation - where employee has not been trained on tower crane
- (f) Slinging/signalling;
- (g) Telescopic handler operation;
- (h) Tractor/dozer operation;
- (i) Mobile crane operation;
- (j) Crawler crane operation;
- (k) Articulated dumper operation;
- (l) Site dumper operation;
- (m) 180° excavator operation;
- (n) Mini-digger operation - where employee has not been trained for a 360° excavator digger
- (o) 360° excavator operation;
- (p) Roof and wall cladding/sheeting;
- (q) Built-up roof felting;
- (r) Signing, Lighting and Guarding on roads
- (s) Locating under-ground services
- (t) Shotfiring
- (u) assisting in the implementation of health and safety at roadworks.

Refer to the SOLAS webpage for full details of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme:
<https://www.solas.ie/construction-lp/cscs/>

2.0 Great Britain – CPCS, CSCS & CISRS Arrangements

A good overview of card scheme arrangements is provided by the CITB: <https://www.citb.co.uk/courses-and-qualifications/health-safety-and-environment-hse-test-and-cards/card-schemes/>

2.1 Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)

The Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) is owned by NOCN Group and provides skills cards for the plant sector of the Construction and allied industries. For full details, visit: <https://www.nocnjobcards.org/CPCS/>

The plant operator process is supported by CPCS testers that are certified as trained and competent by CPCS. NOCN Group is a not-for-profit organisation dedicated to creating opportunities through learning and skills. Membership of the scheme is voluntary but is mandatory on many construction sites and in other work environments. The requirements to renew a CPCS Competent Operator card includes the need to undertake the CPCS renewal test, for which a specific set of questions for each module (category) will be attempted.

<i>Category Description</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Category Group</i>
Agricultural tractor	A33	Receive and transport loads
Appointed person (Lifting Ops)	A61	Control, direct and secure loads
Compact crane	A66	Lifting (static and mobile)
Crane supervisor (Lifting Ops)	A62	Control, direct and secure loads
Crawler - tractor dozer	A34	Construct and form
Crawler - tractor side boom	A35	Lift Trucks
Crawler crane all sizes	A02	Lifting (static and mobile)
Crusher	A42	Compact and process
Demolition plant	A65	Demolition
Dragline	A05	Excavate and extract
Dump truck articulated chassis	A56	Receive and transport loads
Dump truck rigid chassis	A57	Receive and transport loads
Excavator 180 above 5 Tonne	A12	Excavate and extract
Excavator 180 below 5 Tonne	A10	Excavate and extract
Excavator 360 above 10 tonnes	A59	Excavate and extract
Excavator 360 below 10 tonnes	A58	Excavate and extract
Forklift side-loader	A15	Lift Trucks
Forward tipping dumper	A09	Receive and transport loads
Grader	A19	Construct and form
Hoist	A20	Lift Trucks
Industrial forklift truck	A16	Lift Trucks

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<i>Category Description</i>	<i>Code</i>	<i>Category Group</i>
Loader compressor	A41	Excavate and extract
Loader securer - non STGO	A49	Control, direct and secure loads
Lorry loader	A36	Lifting (static and mobile)
M.E.W.P.- boom	A26	Access
M.E.W.P.- mast climber	A27	Access
M.E.W.P.- scissor	A25	Access
Mobile crane	A60	Lifting (static and mobile)
Motorised scraper	A24	Excavate and extract
Pedestrian operated tower crane	A63	Lifting (static and mobile)
Piling rig - tripod	A30	Piling
Piling rig bored > 15T	A48	Piling
Piling rig bored < 15T	A47	Piling
Piling rig driven > 15T	A46	Piling
Piling rig driven < 15T	A45	Piling
Plant Loader securer -STGO	A50	Control, direct and secure loads
R.T.F.L./masted truck	A14	Lift Trucks
Reach truck	A18	Lift Trucks
Ride on roller	A31	Compact and process
Screener	A43	Compact and process
Skid steer loader	A23	Excavate and extract
Skip Handler	A39	Lift Trucks
Slinger signaller	A40	Control, direct and secure loads
Soil-landfill compactor	A32	Compact and process
Telescopic handler	A17	Lift Trucks
Tower crane	A04	Lifting (static and mobile)
Tracked loading shovel	A22	Excavate and extract
Trailer mounted concrete pump	A44	Receive and transport loads
Trencher	A37	Excavate and extract
Truck mounted boom concrete pump	A06	Receive and transport loads
Wheeled loading shovel	A21	Excavate and extract

2.2 UK Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)

CSCS cards provide proof that individuals working on construction sites have the required training and qualifications for the type of work they carry out. Holding a CSCS card is not a legislative requirement, in the UK. It is entirely up to the principal contractor or client whether workers are required to hold a card before they are allowed on site. However, most principal contractors and major house builders require construction workers on their sites to hold a valid CSCS card.

CSCS is a not-for-profit limited company. Its directors are from employer organisations and unions representing the breadth of the industry. The Scheme's application processing and contact centre is delivered under contract by CITB.

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For full details, visit: <https://www.cscs.uk.com/applying-for-cards/types-of-cards/>

2.3 Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS)

The Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme (CISRS) has been the industry recognised scaffold training scheme for over 40 years. It is the preferred scaffolding qualification of all the major organisations including CSCS, NSAC, HSE, Build UK, UNITE, UCATT and the largest scaffold systems manufacturers. For full details, visit: <https://cisrs.org.uk/>

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3.0 Northern Ireland - CSR

The Construction Skills Register (CSR) is a register of construction workers who have completed the industry approved CSR health and safety training course and assessment in Northern Ireland. There are five categories of CSR, as follows:

1. General, Skilled and Craft Cards
2. Plant Operator Cards
3. Supervisor and Manager Cards
4. Professional Cards
5. Health and Safety Trained Card.

The validity of CSR cards can be checked on the CSR online card checker <https://secure.cefnl.co.uk/CSRCard/OnlineCSRCardChecker.aspx> (or call +44 28 908 7150).

CSR Plant Operator Cards cover a wide range of construction plant and equipment, including:

- **Red Card - Trained Operator**

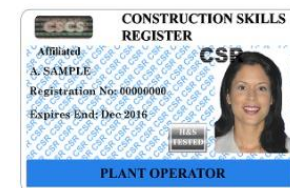
All candidates are required to complete the CSR 1 Day Health & Safety Training. All candidates are also required to complete the Construction Awards Alliance (CAA) Plant Award/Certificate. A profiling exercise is completed by the Training Provider to determine prior experience and ability and to assess whether the candidate requires training. If training is required, the CSR Training Provider will deliver the necessary training.



The Red Trained Operator cards cannot be renewed. This is to ensure the progression towards a Blue 'Plant Operator' card within 3 years.

- **Blue Card - Plant Operator**

All candidates are required to complete the CSR 1 Day Health & Safety Training and Operative Touch Screen Test. The candidate must achieve NVQ 2 in Plant Operations and must record a minimum of 300 hours operating experience on each category in the CSR logbook. Candidates who cannot record 300 hours will be able to complete a site assessment in its place.



A Blue Plant Operator Card will not be issued unless six months has passed from the time of issue of the Red Trained Plant Operator Card, and the Operative Touch Screen Health and Safety Test has been passed within two years of the application date. The renewal requirement includes:

- CSR 1 Day Health and Safety Training
- Operative health and safety touch screen test

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- Confirmation of 300 hours experience in each category of plant provided through CSR logbook or employer declaration. Where confirmation is not available a technical test delivered by a CSR Plant Scheme provider is required.

For full details, visit: <https://www.cefni.co.uk/schemes/construction-skills-register/about-the-construction-skills-register/>

CSR cards accepted in the Republic of Ireland for Safe Pass ONLY

Schedule 4 of the Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2013 provides for the recognition of equivalent safety awareness schemes approved by SOLAS.

The Construction Skills Register (CSR Northern Ireland) one day health and safety course is the only course recognised by SOLAS as an equivalent to the SOLAS Safepass course. Any person wishing to avail of this recognition must be in possession of a current CSR Health and Safety card. This is confirmed on the SOLAS website <https://www.solas.ie/construction-lp/safe-pass/>

Candidates who have completed the CSR one day health and safety course will have a card with 'Accredited Safety Training' on the reverse, as illustrated. The only exception is the yellow Construction Site Visitor card - holders of this card have completed the one day course but it is not noted on the reverse of the card. It should still be accepted as equivalent to a Safepass card. The validity of cards can be checked on the CSR online card checker <https://secure.cefni.co.uk/CSRCard/OnlineCSRCardChecker.aspx> or by telephoning +44 28 908 7150.

