



Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) Trained Operator Red Card Information

Who is the scheme for?

Individuals operating plant machinery.

What is the aim of the scheme?

The Construction Industry's aim is to fully qualify the work force by 2010.

Are there different ways of getting the CPCS Trained Operator card (red card)?

There are two routes of entry to enable an individual to get a CPCS Trained Operator Red card.

Experienced Worker route of entry:

Experienced Workers may take an assessment to gain their red card as long as they are:

- a) Over 21
- b) Have had at least 3 years industry experience
- c) Have had at least 2 years machine experience

Full training & assessment programme:

Individuals who do not meet the above criteria for an Experienced Worker must undergo training specific to the machine prior to taking the trained operator assessment to get the red card.

What do I need to do before coming on the course or doing an assessment?

The CSCS Health & Safety test must be passed before the red card can be awarded. The test may be attempted prior to or after completion of the course or assessment. Information on how to book the test is available from CPQ or from the CPCS Helpdesk on 0870 417 7274.

Individuals are required to provide CPQ with two passport sized photographs and notify them of their Date of Birth and National Insurance No. prior to the assessment.

Individuals taking the Experienced Worker route of entry must supply a letter of experience from their employer or a C.V. with references before attending the assessment.



How long is the course?

The assessment duration is approximately 2 – 3 hours.
Training can take from 3-10 days dependant on the machine (please see the 'course programme' for length of novice training)

How many people can attend the course?

A maximum of 4 assessments can take place per day.

Training must comply with specific Instructor: Candidate: Machine ratios set out by the CPCS

What equipment or machinery will I need to provide?

Each machine has specific requirements that must be in place before assessments can begin. Employers will have to read and agree to comply with these when booking the assessments.

What facilities will be needed for the training / assessment?

A classroom will be required for the course theory that can comfortably seat the number of candidates attending with appropriate refreshment & rest facilities.

Can I claim grant?

Companies who are registered with the CITB may be able to claim grant for the completion of training and/or assessment for CPCS.

To find out whether your company is eligible for grant please contact your local grant office whose details can be found on the CITB-ConstructionSkills website at <http://www.citb-constructionskills.co.uk/contactus/areaoffices/index.asp> or from CPQ.

What is the training outcome?

On successful completion of training and/or assessment, the individual will be able to undertake duties specific to the particular machine and will be deemed a trained operator until they upgrade to a blue card (see 'Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS) Competence Blue Card Information')

When I've completed the training and/or assessment is there anything else I need to do?

Individuals will have 3 years from the date of issue of the qualification to upgrade the Trained Operator Red Card to the CPCS Competence Blue Card.

For further information please contact CPQ on 01403 780500.