



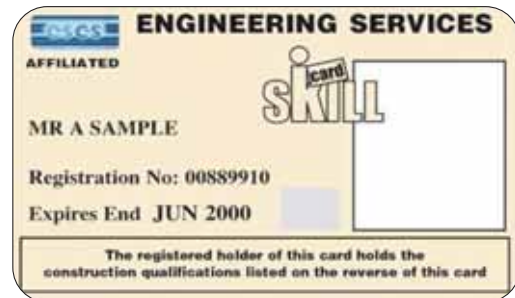
Heating & Ventilation SKILLCARD

For those working in HVACR (Heating, Ventilation, Air Conditioning, Refrigeration, Piping and Domestic Engineering industries), the APL process has already begun. An Experienced Worker application has now replaced 'Grandfather Rights'. For those who have completed apprentice training the normal route of registration is **permanently open**, please indicate this when applying with full evidence of your apprenticeship.



To apply for Engineering Services SKILLCARD contact:

Web: www.skillcard.org.uk Tel: 01768 860406



The clock is ticking on Grandfather Rights



Get a card or get lost!! Sounds a bit harsh, but the fact is without an industry registration card you could find yourself seriously inconvenienced in future employment prospects. If you don't get a card soon, you may have to demonstrate your competence through APL (Accreditation via Prior Learning), if you don't meet the new criteria for a new card application.

These new rules come into effect from 30th June 2005 for Plumbing, and 1st February 2006 for the Electrotechnical sector. These new rules apply to Industry Accreditation - **Please note: For proven completed apprenticeship trained craftsmen, The conventional route of registration is permanently open.** Industry Accreditation, also known as 'Grandfather Rights' **only applies** to those who have come through the industry via alternative routes. Even so, if you are apprentice trained and have not yet registered, it makes sense to enshrine your skills and competency in one 'smart card'.

Government and Industry have emphasised the need for industry-wide certification schemes to confirm the levels of competence of properly skilled craftspeople, and eliminate unsafe working practices. The Electrical, Plumbing and Heating & Ventilation registration card schemes are affiliated to the CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme).

The union is committed to the card schemes; our members have the ability through registration to put some clear blue water between themselves and the unqualified cowboys. The registration schemes enshrine experience and qualifications, protecting our skills base from dilution.

The cards have now become the passport to work in the UK construction industry. In Electrical Contracting for example, there are now over 75,000 valid ECS cards in circulation, rapidly becoming the 'driving licence' for electricians. The scheme does not just cover electricians working in contracting, but now accredits everyone in the entire electrotechnical process. Amicus, ECA and the JIB are in discussions with Government and District Surveyors so that the ECS card will allow electricians to notify work under Part P more smoothly and easily compared to the unqualified (Part P is only applicable to England & Wales).

Amicus is an equal partner in the operation of the Joint Industry Board schemes in the Electrical and Plumbing trades. The JIB register has been operating since 1968. As affiliates to the CSCS, further discussions are taking place with CSCS to extend industry accreditation, but members who are not registered should apply now to avoid problems in the future, regardless of their industrial sector.



Up until now 'Grandfather Rights' have enabled operatives, who did not come through an industry recognised apprenticeship or other relevant training route, but who have the appropriate records, experience and expertise, to obtain a card. This has encompassed those who have no formal industry qualifications, such as an NVQ/SVQ or apprenticeship, but they have still been able to acquire a registration card, by means of industry accreditation. This is achieved through supplying evidence and endorsement of their skills and competence from their present or previous employer.

When a card is issued on this basis, the cardholder is able to keep his/her industry accreditation membership scheme card for life, subject to renewal and keeping the card valid.

However, as mentioned this scope for industry accreditation is soon coming to a close. After the deadlines, applicants will be required to complete the APL process, which includes a practical NVQ/SVQ assessment.



Gold Cards

A gold card is issued to those who achieved the relevant NVQ/SVQ Level 3 Qualifications, or formal apprenticeship or equivalent City & Guilds Advanced Craft Certificate. This route of entry is permanently open.

Health & Safety Test

Everyone who applies must pass the relevant industry Health & Safety Assessment, apart from those who have dispensation via other recognised exemptions. Information on the tests and how to apply are available from the relevant bodies listed below.

Grading

Registration and Grading are separate processes. Grading can be applied for e.g. Advanced Plumber, Approved Electrician, and Technician etc. For details of how to apply for a grading endorsement on your card contact the relevant JIB.

Plumbing Certification Scheme

Deadline 30th June 2005

Plumbers, Gas Service Engineers, Mechanical Pipe Fitters and Related Disciplines

Plumbing England & Wales JIB-PMES

(Joint Industry Board for Plumbing Mechanical Engineering Services in England & Wales)



Web: www.jib-pmes.org.uk Registration Helpline: 0800 197 1060



Plumbing Scotland & Northern Ireland SNIJIB

(Scottish & Northern Ireland Joint industry Board for the Plumbing Industry)



Web: www.snipef.org Tel: 0131 225 2255



Electrotechnical Certification Scheme

Deadline 1st February 2006

Electricians, Instrumentation, Cabling and Related Electrotechnical Disciplines

A full list of skilled craftsperson Gold Card ECS disciplines is available from the JIB and SJIB, these include:

- Installation Electrician
- Maintenance Electrician
- Instruments Mechanic / Artificer
- Radio/Television Electrician
- Distribution Networks Electrician
- Marine Electrician
- Telecommunications Fitter
- Electrical Fitter
- Electrical Winder
- Auto Electrician
- Wireman / Panel Builder
- Building Controls Engineer
- Household Appliances Electrician
- Office Machines Mechanic
- Cabling and Jointing Operatives

Electrical ECS England, Wales and Northern Ireland JIB

(Joint Industry Board for the Electrical Contracting Industry)



Web: www.jib.org.uk Tel: 020 8302 0031

