

Advice for Clients Specifying CSCS Cards for Licensed Asbestos Removal work

Client organisations are turning to CSCS cards more frequently in accordance with the principles of the Construction Leadership Council decision. However clients need to understand the history of card issues across the Asbestos Sector so they can make an informed decision when specifying card requirements to access their sites. This is of particular importance now CSCS have announced they are closing their card scheme to the Asbestos Sector from the 31st March 2018.

In the past, Blue Skilled worker CSCS cards have not required NVQ achievement, so cards have been issued based on an individual's HSE required New or Refresher Asbestos training. ACAD obtained figures from CSCS in August 2016 that showed of the 4,142 Blue Skilled Worker CSCS cards issued only 276 holders had achieved their NVQ L2. Clients specifying Blue Skilled Worker cards only on their sites may believe they are specifying NVQ standards, but in fact they may only be specifying the industry standard 3 day new operative training. **Clearly this does not make a worker competent and organisations would be mistaken to follow such a simplistic approach.**

In early 2017 ACAD launched the Asbestos sectors first CSCS affiliated card scheme, known as the ACAD Skill Card. This incorporates the latest smart card technology including Skill Sight functionality and is available as both a physical card and a virtual card. Crucially, the ACAD Skill Card fully meets the requirements of the CLC decision incorporating all existing NVQ standards relevant to the Asbestos sector.

Whilst existing CSCS Blue cards cannot be relied upon for NVQ competence, the Blue ACAD Skill Card can be.

With only limited numbers of Blue ACAD Skill Card issued so far, the sector will remain in a transitional phase for some time whilst NVQ standards are embedded and existing card holders switch over to the ACAD Skill Card.

This means a range of different coloured ACAD Skill Cards will need to be working on your sites.

To support this transition CITB commissioned a funding bid in 2017 for the sector to take responsibility and create NVQ centres and train new assessors. ACAD was chosen by CITB to deliver this new assessment infrastructure and assessor capacity to support the NVQ transition by the entire Asbestos sector.

The following Skill Cards are available to site teams in the Licensed Asbestos sector. All of which also require an H&S element (typically the H,S&E Touch Screen Test) as well as confirmation the holder has received asbestos training in the previous 12 months.

Asbestos Removal Operatives

Trainee Card, Red, 3 year validity, non-renewable.

Upon card expiry the holder must have achieved their NVQ to obtain their Blue Skill Worker ACAD Skill Card as no other card is available.

Experienced Worker, Red, 1 year validity, non-renewable.

Holder must be registered for NVQ achievement to obtain this card. They then have 12 months to obtain their NVQ and progress to their Blue Skilled Worker ACAD Skill Card.

Skilled Worker, Blue, 5 year validity, renewable.

Requires NVQ L2 achievement.

Asbestos Removal Supervisors

Trainee Supervisor, Red, 3 year validity, non-renewable.

Upon card expiry the holder must have achieved their NVQ to obtain their Gold Supervisor ACAD Skill Card as no other card is available.

Experienced Supervisor, Red, 1 year validity, non-renewable.

Holder must be registered for NVQ L3 achievement (and either registered or holder of L2 NVQ) to obtain this card. They then have 12 months to obtain their NVQ L3 and progress to their Gold Supervisor ACAD Skill Card.

Supervisor, Gold, 5 year validity, renewable.

Requires NVQ L2 AND NVQ L3 achievement.

Different awarding bodies have slight variations on the naming of NVQ L2 qualification for Asbestos, a common one is below together with the L3 NVQ. If in doubt about the equivalency of a qualification contact ACAD.

- L2 NVQ Diploma in the Removal of Hazardous Waste (Construction) – Licensed Asbestos
- L3 NVQ Diploma in Occupational Work Supervision

More information can be found on our website or by making contact with ACAD directly:

<http://acad.tica-acad.co.uk/acad-skill-card/>

skillcard@tica-acad.co.uk.

01325 466 704