

Last year it was reported it was CSCS's intention to introduce a card specifically for labourers that would require achievement of a Level 1 award. Since then a pilot has been undertaken to assess the effectiveness of training delivery and to gain feedback from trainers and candidates who were taking the new qualification.

The CSCS green Construction Site Operative (CSO) card had been introduced for entry-level workers and simply required applicants both to pass the health, safety and environment test, and for their employer to sign their application form to say they were carrying out "labouring duties only". In reality, however, many site workers who carry out skilled occupations applied for the green CSO card as the easiest route to gain access to construction sites. This has made it difficult for contractors to use CSCS cards as a reliable method of checking that site workers had the appropriate skills to work on construction sites safely and effectively.

A working group was established comprising representatives from across the industry, including principal and specialist contractors, professional bodies, unions, training providers and also a CECA representative, which was supported by CITB. The result of this was a Level 1 knowledge-based award in Health and Safety in a Construction Environment qualification designed to assess a labourer's knowledge of the most common risks to safety on construction sites today.

A pilot programme ran from January to March 2014. A sample of learners was surveyed to determine how well this new Level 1 award met their needs and feedback was extremely positive, with 97% of learners stating that the pre-assessment process was suitable to assess their training needs and 88% stating that training delivery was suitable for their requirements.

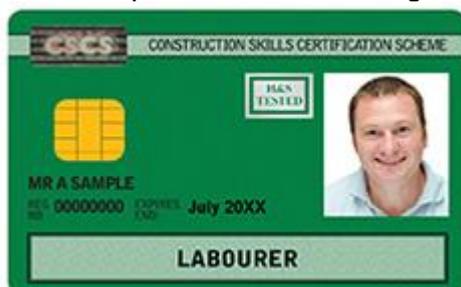
The specification for the award is available from the CSCS website and most of the awarding organisations that provide services to construction have registered to offer the new qualification. They are offering various methods of training and assessment, including workbooks and online testing. In addition, the number of training providers and colleges that have been accredited to deliver the qualification is growing, and currently numbers almost 100.

A majority of the industry's leading trade bodies and construction unions are also supporting the introduction of this new labourer's qualification.

Commenting, CECA Chief Executive Alasdair Reisner said: "The misuse of CSCS Green Cards has been a problem in construction for many years, and it's encouraging to see that CSCS has worked with industry to identify this, and have come up with a workable solution. Over the coming years, this should help to ensure that everyone on site has the correct basic training and qualifications for their role, and holds the right card for the right job."

CSCS chief executive Graham Wren said: "Before we introduced the new labourer qualification it was important we tested our proposals were appropriate. The results of the pilot have shown that industry is supportive of this development and that what is being offered is suitable for learners' requirements."

For more information about the new qualification and changes to CSCS green cards visit



www.cscs.uk.com/greencard