



The Fibreoptic Industry Association

www.fia-online.co.uk

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**SUBJECT: STATEMENT REGARDING CSCS "SKILLCARDS" FOR THE FIBRE OPTIC INDUSTRY
– known, to some, as the 'CITB Passport' – as at 30/9/03**

Installer companies bidding for contracts or working at sites controlled by a member of the Main Contractors Group (MCG), or at any site where the owners support CSCS (Construction Skills Certification Scheme), may be asked to produce their "passport".

Full details of CSCS are to be found on www.cscs.uk.com. A booklet explaining the scheme can be obtained from CSCS, PO Box 114, Bircham Newton, King's Lynn, Norfolk PE31 6XD.

Following negotiations with the CSCS organisation and other representatives of our industry, the FIA has agreed to the issue of a Skillcard for data cabling installers. Skillcards are personal to the worker and not "global" to the employer.

All CSCS Skillcards are based on relevant National Vocational Qualifications (NVQ). For FIA installers 'Communications Technologies (Infrastructure) Installer' is the chosen title. For a two year period, installation companies can obtain cards for their experienced staff through 'industry accreditation' which means that employers certify their card holders as competent in a stated set of skills. Following that period, NVQ registration will be necessary. Cards are available now for trainees and for workers returning to the industry after an absence ('Experienced Workers'), but in each case registration for NVQ must be in place.

NVQ details on www.edexcel.org.uk.

How to obtain a Skillcard

Pre-requisites to obtaining a Card are to register with CITB and to pass the CITB Health & Safety Test that currently can be taken at nearest DVLA centre. This is a multiple choice answer type test administered by Thomson Prometric which provides a revision guide book with all the questions and answers from which the actual test questions will be chosen.

- 1 Register your workers with CITB on the CSCS Helpline (tel: 01485 578777) or by fax to CSCS on 01485 577601.
- 2 Request a test by Prometric (tel: 0870 600 4020) for an individual or a group. A block booking form is available for a group. The cost is £35 per worker (receipts and revision books are sent normally to individuals, or to the Employer on request).

You will be asked which test you require, and the answer is 'CSCS Operative' – there are lots of different test schedules. If you wish to test your people a little more, ask for 'CSCS Supervisor' which has 5 more questions! You will be asked for a preferred date of test – allow revision time even though very many of the questions are common sense.

- 3 When the test is done and the pass obtained, apply to CITB for Card application forms.
- 4 Complete the application(s) and send £20 per worker to the CITB.
- 5 The Skillcard is valid for 5 years under Industry Accreditation (but 3 years for Trainees and Experienced Workers as defined above).