



Recognition of Professional Qualifications
Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) and Quarry Skills
Certification Scheme QSCS

1. In order to facilitate mobility of labour and comply with S.I.No.139 of 2008 – Recognition of Professional Qualifications (Directive 2005/36/EC) Regulations, 2008, FÁS CSCS/QSCS Operations has a process in place for the recognition of professional qualifications of citizens of EU Member States wishing to operate in the Republic of Ireland.

The recognition process only applies to the regulated occupations contained in Schedule 4 of S.I.No.504 of 2006 – Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006 and Schedule 1 of S.I.No.28 of 2008 – Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Quarries) Regulations 2008.

1.1 Card Exchange

A formal recognition agreement exists between FÁS and the UK CPCS for the recognition and exchange of **Experienced Plant Operator** cards within both schemes. The CPCS card referred to is the blue **Competent Operator** card.

The agreement is limited to plant operator categories specified in Schedule 4 of S.I.No.504 of 2006 – Safety, Health and Welfare at Work (Construction) Regulations 2006. It is a requirement that cards for exchange are within their expiry date. All applications are processed through FÁS. Operators wishing to exchange a FÁS CSCS card for a CPCS card must have an in date Safe Pass card. Operators wishing to exchange a CPCS card for a FÁS CSCS card must have an in date Health & Safety Test card.

1.2 Exchange Process

The relevant Application Form for applying to have a CSCS card exchanged for a CPCS card is available on the FÁS website. Access FÁS website by entering www.fas.ie, click Forms on Home Page (top right hand corner), scroll down page and under Training click on Transfer of FÁS Experienced Plant Operator Card to CPCS.

You can download the form and a letter informing you of details required and the FÁS address to which the completed form is to be returned for processing.

You may also get information on the card exchange process by contacting the address below.

STB Support
CPCS Changeovers
FÁS Head Office
27-33 Upper Baggot Street
Dublin 4
01- 6070500

Valid as of 7th. March 2012
Objective 2



When completing the Application Form the following key sections must be completed in full by the applicant:

Section A – A1 and A2

Section C- Tick categories that card exchange is required for

Section D

Section F

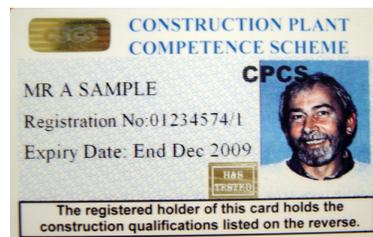
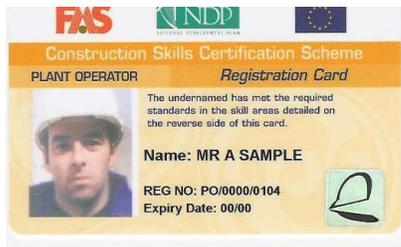
Section E is completed by FÁS

Note: Please ensure that you provide a copy of the front and back of each card that you wish to exchange, a passport sized photograph signed on the back , a copy of your in-date Safe Pass card and cheque/postal order/bank draft for **£25 sterling** made payable to **Construction Skills**

You may also get information on the card exchange process by contacting the **CPCS Helpdesk 0044 0844 8157274**

1.3 Card Samples

Contained below are samples of a FÁS CSCS card a CPCS Competent Operator Card (Blue Card)



2. FÁS Safe Pass Programme and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Safety Awareness Training Programme

FÁS and the CITB have a mutual recognition agreement whereby the FÁS Safe Pass Programme and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Safety Awareness Training Programme are recognised as being equivalent to each other. This agreement does not guarantee that a Safe Pass card will be accepted in the UK as UK employers are not obligated to recognise Safe Pass cards.

3. Information on Recognition of Professional Qualifications where no Formal Recognition Agreements are in place between FÁS CSCS/QSCS and other schemes



Following the introduction of the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) EU Directive all EU Member States are required to facilitate EU citizens seeking to practice a regulated profession/occupation in another Member State having gained their qualification in another Member State.

The EU Directive 2005/36/EC was transposed in Irish legislation under the Recognition of Professional Qualifications (2005/36/EC) Regulations 2008, SI No. 139 of 2008. FÁS are named as the Designated Authority responsible for the recognition of qualification from other Member States for regulated occupations included in the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

In Ireland, it is a requirement under [S.I. No. 504/2006 — Safety, Health And Welfare At Work \(Construction\) Regulations 2006](#) that any person performing regulated activities on a construction site must be in possession of the relevant Construction Skills Certification Scheme card (CSCS). The requirements for the issue of a valid construction skills registration card under the scheme are possession of –

- (a) The relevant FETAC award under the Construction Skills Certification Scheme,
- (b) An equivalent FETAC award, or
- (c) An equivalent award approved by a body in another Member State of the European Communities recognised by FÁS as equivalent to the FETAC award under the Construction Skills Certification Scheme.

Furthermore, FAS in compliance with [S.I. No. 139/2008 — Recognition of Professional Qualifications \(Directive 2005/36/Ec\) Regulations, 2008](#) examines and compares qualifications and experience gained in other European Member States. There are a number of criteria, which must be in place for equivalence under this SI.

These include a requirement to have a qualification issued by a body set up under statute for that purpose by the relevant Member State, for example in the UK an NVQ would be such an award. Furthermore in Member States where activities are not regulated it is a requirement that the person applying to have their qualification recognised has worked for a minimum of 2 years in the previous 10 in the State where the qualification was awarded. If an applicant is successful they will receive a FÁS registration card

3.1 Provision of Temporary Services

It is somewhat different where the person is only coming into the State to perform a temporary service. The EU directive and transposed Irish legislation differentiates between established workers and temporary services. The rules for allowing a person who is legally established in an EU Member State to provide temporary services to a host EU Member State are more flexible than applications for recognition of qualifications for established workers. The requirements for individuals providing temporary services are as follows:

1. In order to qualify a person must be legally established in an EU Member State
2. Where the profession is not regulated in the home State, they must have a minimum of two years experience in the last ten years working in the established State in their profession.
3. The applicant must not be banned from practicing their profession in their established State
4. The applicant must sign and submit a declaration to the host State “Point of Contact” or the Designated Authority, (FÁS) before starting work and every year there after
5. The declaration should include:
 - a) Full name of the individual
 - b) Contact details (address, phone number, email address)
 - c) The nationality on the individual
 - d) Profession engaged in where established



- e) Regulated profession intended to engage in the host State
- f) Confirmation of whether this is the first declaration in the host State or a renewal

Documents to be submitted with the Declaration (copies will suffice)

- a) Proof of nationality (e.g. Passport)
- b) Proof of legal establishment in an EU Member State (e.g. Passport)
- c) Proof that they are not prohibited from carrying out their profession (e.g. Employer letter)
- d) Evidence of professional qualification (essential documents to be translated)
- e) If not regulated in their established State, provide proof that the person practiced their profession for at least two years in the last ten years in their established State

The requirements for the recognition of qualifications are quite specific and must be adhered to. The importance of compliance with these Regulations is demonstrated where they include a provision for the prosecution of *any person who procures or attempts to procure the issue of a certificate by making or producing or causing to be made or produced any false or fraudulent representation or declaration, either orally or in writing, shall be guilty of an offence and shall be liable on summary conviction to a fine not exceeding €3,000 or to imprisonment for a term not exceeding 12 months or to both.*

If everything is submitted, and the activity does not present a threat to health and safety the service provider may commence. Applicants who meet all of the requirements may also apply for a CSCS registration card for the relevant skill. The card is valid for a period of one year and the fee is €50.

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact:

Patrick Wade
CSCS/QSCS Operations
FAS - National Training & Employment Authority
27-33 Upper Baggot St
Dublin 4
Phone: 01-6070500