



SmartCards

Cut Costs and Increase Efficiency



- Portable means of providing evidence of qualifications and training
- Efficient card checking method – reduces staff time spent manually checking cards and carrying out data entry
- Eliminate incorrect/fake cardholders gaining access to site
- Can be used for other purposes, including:
 - Managing training records
 - Site access control
 - Managing inductions and toolbox talks.

CSCS is the leading certification scheme for the construction industry. Used electronically, CSCS cards can help you cut costs and increase productivity too.

Efficient card checking

To ensure that everyone on site holds the appropriate qualifications and a valid CSCS card for the job they are undertaking, an efficient method is needed to carry out checks.

The smart technology built into CSCS cards means they can be checked electronically using a smartphone, tablet or PC card reader.

Electronic card checks take no more than few seconds, eliminating the need for paper records or waiting on the phone while the CSCS helpdesk checks a cards validity. Site managers can quickly access the information stored on the card, such as the cardholder's photo, their qualifications and the date the card expires.

The CSCS SmartCard has a high capacity chip that can be used for many purposes beyond storing operative qualifications and training data. The card can link with access control systems, improve management of training records and connect with project management systems.

How to read a CSCS card electronically

Reading a CSCS SmartCard electronically is simple and can be used in a variety of ways to meet a wide range of IT requirements.

For site managers and supervisors who prefer to work from PC's, simply download the free "Go Smart" software from the CSCS website and purchase an inexpensive card reader.

By inserting a card into a card reader you can view the information about the worker on the screen. If the PC is connected to the internet the data can also be validated online against the CSCS database. Managers and supervisors can then choose to print the information or store it electronically on a secure database.

For those with smartphones or tablets the "Go Smart" app is available to download from Google Play or the Windows Store. Using either a tablet device or smartphone works in a very similar way. Just hold the card up to the back of the phone or tablet and the information from the CSCS card appears on the screen, with the option to save it if required.

Please note: when using tablet devices or smartphones it is important to ensure the Near Field Communications (NFC) setting is activated.

Apple has introduced NFC capability to its latest iPhones but has not yet permitted third parties such as CSCS to create an app capable of reading SmartCards. For the time being it is not possible to check the cards with an iPhone. As soon as this feature is available, CSCS will introduce an app.

Efficiency savings with SmartCards

Homebuilders are predicting huge time savings for site-based staff after the Home Builders Federation (HBF) launched a web-based application to improve the accuracy and speed of verifying workers' CSCS SmartCards.

HBF members have undertaken audits of CSCS cards on their sites for some time. Although it's a vital process to check that site workers have the correct qualifications to carry out their jobs, it has been time-consuming and relied on manual data entry.

Through a successful trial, this new service has already shown that it not only significantly reduces the time taken to record the information but also improves the accuracy of reporting too.

One homebuilder estimated this tool will save around 500 working man-days per year by enabling site managers to swipe CSCS cards with a USB pen. This captures all the information stored on the CSCS card and automatically enters it into the system with no input required from admin staff.

During the trial site managers couldn't believe how simple and fast this system makes recording CSCS details.

Improved access control



CSCS SmartCards can work with access control systems and can even be linked into databases and biometric systems, cutting administration time and the cost of issuing separate access control cards.

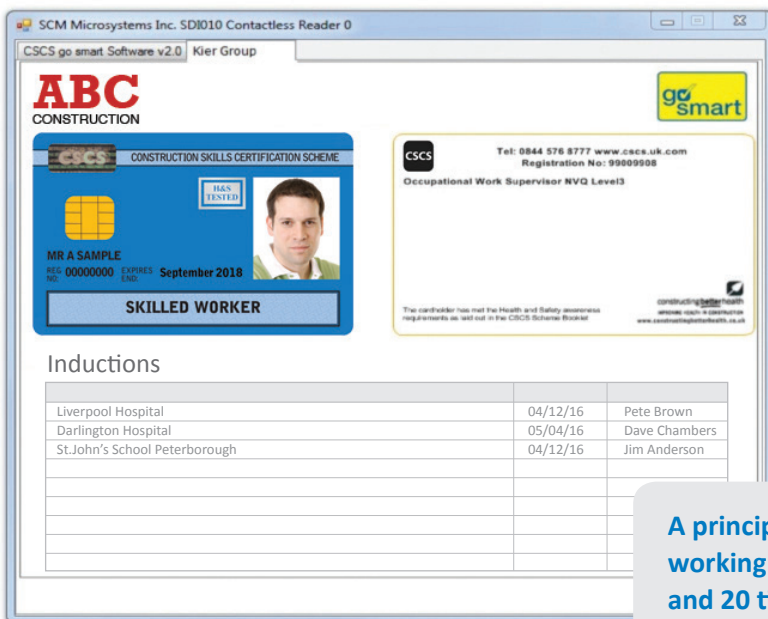
One principal contractor using CSCS SmartCards for access control has calculated an annual cost saving of £51,000 on a single site.

Improved management of training records

It is essential that everyone working on your sites is fully briefed on their roles and responsibilities and how to to minimise health and safety risks. Sometimes workers are unsure which inductions and tool box talks they have received, so site managers and supervisors err on the side of caution and deliver them to all workers entering their sites. This can result in duplication of training and unnecessary time offsite leading to decreased productivity and increased costs throughout the supply chain.

CSCS SmartCards can be used to link to your inhouse training database to update data in real time. Whenever a site worker's card is read, site managers and supervisors can view what training has already been received and also update the record with any additional training given.

By using CSCS apps to record training, inductions and toolbox talks, there is no need for ticksheets or manual data input. Simply swipe attendees' cards and their records are automatically updated.



A principal contractor estimated that each person working on their sites was inducted between 4 and 20 times per year. This resulted in productive time lost by site managers giving duplicate inductions equal to 15 full-time site managers' salaries. Assuming a total salary package of £85,000 this equated to over £1.2m of unnecessary costs.



CSCS SmartCards can also be used for:

- Managing inductions and toolbox talks
- Automatically sending data collected on site to head office such as payroll, HR and occupational health
- Ensuring plant and equipment is only used by appropriately trained workers by using CSCS cards as a security key
- Tackling fraud by eliminating fraudulently obtained cards from site.

How SmartCards work

The microchip on a CSCS SmartCard contains the same information that is printed on the card. When a card is read it links with a secure online website containing the CSCS database. This is accessible using card readers with free software downloaded from the CSCS website or provided with readers purchased from CSCS' preferred supplier and some types of smartphones and tablets with CSCS apps. All data transfers between the microchip and the card reader or smartphone are securely encrypted. There is no ability to modify data on CSCS cards. The only way SmartCards can be updated is with data directly from the CSCS database via the synchronisation service.



Integration between your systems and CSCS SmartCards can be carried out by your own inhouse team or IT service provider, or by one of CSCS's IT partners.



Sign up to our newsletter at www.cscs.uk.com



To find out more visit www.cscs.uk.com/smartcard



Keep up to date with what's going on @cscs