



JOINT INDUSTRY BOARD
FOR THE ELECTRICAL CONTRACTING INDUSTRY
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Established in 1968 by the Constituent Parties
The ELECTRICAL CONTRACTORS ASSOCIATION and Amicus AEEU

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ELECTROTECHNICAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME

HEALTH & SAFETY ASSESSMENT

As part of the Industry's drive to raise the level of Health and Safety awareness in response to the Government and the Health & Safety Executive initiatives, the ECS is introducing a Health and Safety Assessment as a requirement for holding an ECS card. This forms part of the Affiliation Agreement with CSCS. The test is now available and becomes mandatory from February 2003.

The Assessment will be a requirement for all members of the ECS. This Promulgation sets out the requirements of the Assessment and also gives details of the requirements for operatives working under the JIB National Agreement for JIB member firms.

Who needs to pass the Assessment?

Successful completion of the Assessment will be mandatory for anyone applying either for a new card or to renew an existing card from 1st February 2003. Applicants for new or renewed cards before 1st February 2003 do not have to undertake the Assessment, though they may choose to do so.

The Assessment will apply to all card applications at all levels, whether they are for skilled cards, management cards or regular visitors' cards.

What is the format of the Assessment?

It is a simple multiple choice Assessment that will normally be taken on a computer. It is extremely simple to execute and does not demand any prior computer knowledge. Candidates will be briefed by an Invigilator on how to complete the Assessment and will also undertake a short practice Assessment first to ensure that they are able to undertake the Assessment.

The computer Assessment is self marking and on completion the system will inform candidates whether they have passed or failed. It will also allow candidates to see which questions they had failed to answer correctly.

The Assessment covers a range of general site health and safety topics, with questions for individual Assessments being selected from a large databank of questions. Each paper is unique and is prepared individually by the JIB.

To facilitate the introduction of the Assessment, a paper-based version generated from the computer system, is also available in certain circumstances.

Where can the Assessment be taken?

Initially Assessment facilities will be provided across England, Wales and Northern Ireland by the ECA and Amicus AEEU. Full details of the schedules are available from:

P Reeve
Electrical Contractors' Association
34 Palace Court
London W2 4HY
Tel: 020 7313 4854

B McAulay
Amicus AEEU
Borough Road
Wakefield
West Yorkshire WF1 3AZ
Tel: 01924 371765

In addition, JIB member firms can apply to the JIB to become Licensed Centres to provide the assessment for their own staff. Licensed Centres will have to meet set criteria for the facilities available and have at least one invigilator attend a workshop arranged by the JIB to familiarise them with the operation of the computer based Assessment. The JIB has available a suite of portable computers that can be hired by employers to be used at Licensed Centres if they do not have their own IT facilities. Full details of obtaining a license or hiring the JIB computers can be obtained from:

A W Hopkins
Joint Industry Board
Kingswood House
47/51 Sidcup Hill
Sidcup
Kent DA14 6HP
Tel: 020 8302 0031

What Preparation is available?

When applicants for either the computer or paper-based Assessments are booked into a Licensed Centre they will be issued with a copy of the complete database of questions that is used to generate individual Assessments. This booklet also contains the answers to all questions, together with short commentaries, to encourage it to be used as a learning aid.

The booklet containing the question database may also be downloaded anytime from the JIB website (www.jib.org.uk), free of charge. This will allow applicants to prepare themselves before they are booked into a Licensed Centre.

Exemptions from the Assessment

Applicants able to show they have certain certificates are exempted from taking the ECS assessment for three years from the required assessment date. The current list of qualifications is:

Certificates obtained during a five year period prior to the required assessment date

- NVQ Level 3
- NEBOSH health and safety diploma Part 1
- NEBOSH certificate
- Woodland Grange diploma in HS management (leading to MSc)

Certificates obtained during a two year period prior to the assessment date

- a) Amicus AEEU/ECA Working Safely Together in the Electrotechnical Industry (JIB preferred course)
SELECT Safe Working in the Electrotechnical Industry (SJIB preferred course)
- b) Woodland Grange diploma in HS practice (leading to Tech SP)
- c) any IOSH accredited courses below from JIB acknowledged providers (providers must obtain written acknowledgement from JIB that its course is deemed suitable for JIB purposes)
 - i) Working safely together
 - ii) Working safely
 - iii) Managing safely
 - iv) Managing safely in construction
- d) CCNSG Safety Passport

This list may be updated over time and queries over other nationally recognised qualifications should be addressed to the JIB.

Cost of the Assessment

The Assessment will be provided by the ECA and Amicus AEEU at a maximum cost of £35.00 (plus VAT) per assessment.

Centres licensed by the JIB will be able to obtain the assessments for £10.00 (plus VAT) per Assessment which will include the cost of processing the completed Assessment and the issuing of a certificate.

JIB Operatives taking the Assessment

The Assessment will be provided by the employer, **at no cost to the operative**, to all operatives working under the JIB National Agreement for JIB member firms within the following periods:

operatives who hold a current ECS card - within six months of the renewal date

newly engaged operatives without a current ECS card - as soon as reasonably practical after engagement.

If the operative fails the assessment, the employer is required to provide the necessary remedial training to allow the operative to retake the Assessment. Operatives will be entitled to be paid for the time to take the course and to travel to and from the centre, plus actual fares.

An operative is entitled to three attempts, plus two sets of remedial training, to achieve success in the Assessment. After failure in a second Assessment the employer is entitled to give the operative warning that a further failure could affect the employer's ability to place the operative on site. After a third failure an employer is entitled to assume that the operative is not able to demonstrate competence at the basic level of Health and Safety required on site.