

Electrotechnical Certification Scheme Partnered to the Construction Skills Certification Scheme

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ELECTROTECHNICAL CERTIFICATION SCHEME (ECS) PARTNERED TO THE CONSTRUCTION SKILLS CERTIFICATION SCHEME (CSCS)

Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (CSCS Affiliated)

HM Government and industry have emphasised the need for industry-wide certification schemes to confirm the levels of competence of properly skilled craftspeople. In the Building and Construction industries, the Major Contractors' Group specified that from 2002 all trades are required to participate in skills' certification schemes, with 100% of operatives on their sites holding appropriate cards.

CSCS Alliance Scheme

As the first craft skills' accreditation service in British Industry, independently developed and unique in its time (as the UK Register of Electricians), the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme (ECS) is a member of the Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS) Alliance, one of 38 schemes now established for personnel certification across the built environment.

Status & Recognition

All electricians working for JIB Member companies, whether directly-employed, self-employed or temporarily engaged, recognise the importance of the ECS Cards in order to conform with the National Working Rules for the Industry because they include JIB Grades. When the JIB Grading System was merged with the UK Register of Electricians in 1999, it became available to everyone, irrespective of their employment status or from whatever background.

The ECS has evolved from the Industry's long experience of administering its Grading System and the UK Register of Electricians (established 1993). Admission to the scheme is available to anyone who can demonstrate the industry level 3 competency based standard such as a National Vocational Qualification (NVQ) through a JIB recognised UK electrotechnical qualification. The Scheme offers all electrotechnical craftspeople the opportunity to receive their own card, whether at skilled level, as Apprentices or Trainees, or as Labourers. Site Support Occupations are available for non electrical personnel who require access to construction sites. The ECS Related Discipline is also available for electrotechnical trades that support or rely on the work of an electrician.

Scope

The Scheme is not restricted to those occupations covered by the generic term "construction" but is also available to other specialised electrotechnical occupations. Employer associations representing the Building Controls, Network Infrastructure, Telecommunications, Digital Support, Highway Electrical and Fire and Security industries have recognised the benefits of the ECS and developed disciplines for inclusion in the Scheme.

HS&E Assessment

Health and Safety Assessments became mandatory from February 2003 and since that time all applicants for new or renewed ECS Cards have needed to demonstrate they have the required level of Health and Safety awareness indicated by the "ECS ASSESSED" hologram on the ECS card. Since September 2015, all assessments are required to demonstrate health, safety and environmental awareness. Cardholders are able to qualify as "ECS ASSESSED" by success in a multiple choice test – The ECS Health, Safety and Environmental Assessment – or, when permitted, providing evidence of a valid exemption. A current list of exemptions can be found on the ECS website at www.ecscard.org.uk

In 2024, the ECS HSE Awareness Assessment was updated to include additional questions for fire safety in buildings awareness as part of work to align to the recommendations of Working Group 2: Installers for the review into competence post Grenfell tragedy.

JIB Grading

The JIB Grades will only be shown on an ECS card where one has been awarded. The JIB grading definitions are set out in the JIB handbook, the standards for these grades are strictly regulated.

Registered apprentices must show they have gained the relevant Level 3 recognised apprenticeship standard for their discipline during their apprenticeship. Grading will be in the discipline that has been demonstrated in the competency assessment of the apprenticeship standard and approved for that qualification. Full details of the approved qualifications for the award of an ECS card are available from the JIB and are listed on the ECS website.

Access to the JIB Grading System is an integral feature of the ECS. The application invites all who are interested to apply for a JIB Grade to be shown on their card, whether working for a JIB member-company, other organisation or if they are self employed. Equally, anyone holding a JIB Grade may apply to be regraded if they meet the minimum requirements for a higher grade. Details of the standards which are required for each of the JIB grades are included in this handbook.

The reverse of the Gold card identifies the route by which the holder has achieved certification, additional vocational qualifications such as inspection and testing qualifications or the national certificate of core competence for Working in Explosive Atmospheres (CompEx) can be shown where these are held.

ECS Installation Electrician Gold Card Requirements

The Installation Electrician ECS gold card demonstrates that the holder has completed a formal industry regulated competency based qualification, which includes technical theory with practical and competency assessments.

Applications for this card are open to anyone who holds the relevant qualifications, regardless of when they carried out their formal training, or who they work for. Since 1999 the mandatory requirement for the Installation Electrician ECS gold card has been the industry level 3 apprenticeship standard or approved JIB level 3 competency based qualification standard. A formal apprenticeship is the easiest way to demonstrate the formal industry requirement for a competency based qualification. However, it is recognised that there are multiple routes to qualification and so the electrical industry has introduced the Experienced Worker Assessment to enable applicants to attain the same training and assessment standard that is required to apply for an ECS gold card and an Installation or Maintenance Electrician. More information is available from www.the-esp.org.uk/our-work/ewa/.

Electricians who Train Overseas

When an applicant for an ECS card has been trained outside the UK they need to demonstrate that they have fully met the same UK qualification standards as if they had been trained in the UK. To demonstrate that the UK qualification standard has been met all applicants for an ECS gold card as an Installation or Maintenance Electrician must complete an Electrotechnical Skills Statement with ECCTIS and the Electrotechnical Experienced Worker Assessment. more information is available from <http://www.ecscard.org.uk/non-UK-qualifications>.

Apprentices

Where apprentices can show that they are undertaking a formal industry apprenticeship framework – of any electrical/electronic discipline (not necessarily JIB-registered) they can obtain an ECS card

that has a white background with a red stripe containing the definition "APPRENTICE" across the width of the card below the photograph and personal details. ECS cards for apprenticeships registered with the JIB will carry the endorsement "JIB Registered". Apprentice ECS cards are available from training providers who are registered with the JIB.

Trainees

All other trainees may apply for a white ECS card depicting "TRAINEE" across the red stripe along the lower part of the card. These include holders of the JIB Grade of Trainee electrician. All such operatives' cards will carry the JIB logo. Trainee ECS cards are available from training providers who are registered with the JIB.

Highway Electrical Industry

An agreement is in place between the JIB and the Highways Electrical Association (HEA) making the ECS card the means of identifying the registration of competence for members of the HEA through the Highways Electrical Registration Scheme (HERS).

ECS Highway Electrical cards are available in three different sectors; Public Lighting, Permanent Traffic Control Equipment and Road Traffic Signs. Cards are available in a number of occupational disciplines see the list following at four levels of competence; Trainee (indicated by a red crosshatch pattern), Operative (indicated by a blue crosshatch), NVQ Level 3 Craftsperson (gold coloured card) and Approved Person (white card).

The Highway Electrical Industry, in conjunction with other disciplines in the Highways Sector has developed the National Highway Sector Schemes. These are quality management schemes that have been developed, as a partnership, by all sides of the highway industry to interpret ISO 9001 as it applies to a particular highway activity for industry within the United Kingdom.

All organisations carrying out electrical work on highways are required to register with the Highway Electrical Industry Registration Board for the Registration of Authorised Persons.

Once the Organisation is registered, it is able to register their employees and an ECS card will then be issued. The core requirements for registration are that the employee must have undergone the ECS Highway Electrical Health & Safety Assessment and have been assessed by their employer as competent. This assessment is an ongoing process which ensures that the employee's competence is maintained.

All enquiries and applications should be made to www.highwayelectrical.org.uk

Collaborations

The ECS has entered into collaborations with various industry bodies to promote professionalism, raise standards and recognise levels of competence.

Institution of Engineering and Technology (IET)

The partnership with the IET allows skilled (gold) and managerial (black) card holders to apply for TMiET membership of the Institution, black cardholders can apply for MIET membership.

The IET is a world-wide professional body for engineers, IT practitioners and technologists. Membership provides instant access to a dynamic knowledge network, providing great opportunities to enhance both professional and personal development.

Holders of ECS gold or black cards who are also members of the IET can have their membership shown by requesting an ECS card with the IET logo printed on the front. The holder's level of IET membership will be printed on the reverse of the card.

Assuring Competence in Engineering Construction (ACE)

A collaboration between the ECS and the ACE allows inclusion of the ACE logo on an ECS card where the holder's NVQ Level 3, supporting their main discipline, has been achieved through the ACE process. The applicant can complete the appropriate section on the application form requesting the logo be shown on the card.

ECS Disciplines

The ECS covers occupations across the whole electrotechnical sector including electrical, fire, emergency and security systems, network infrastructure and telecoms, audio-visual, digital support and a number of other disciplines. For a full list, please see www.ecscard.org.uk.

Fees

For full information on JIB services and prices relating to the Electrotechnical Certification Scheme, please go to www.ecscard.org.uk.

To Apply for an ECS Card

Applications for an ECS card are made on-line via the ECS card website. MyECS allows individuals to make their application, and the ECS Employer Portal system is used by electrical contractors to manage card applications on behalf of their employees.

The application form must include details of an apprenticeship or other practical training, the technical/vocational qualifications and competency assessments that have been gained, along with employment experience. If a Level 3 NVQ apprenticeship standard has been achieved in an electrical/electronic subject or a technical certificate and evidence of practical competence can be shown then the applicant may qualify for a gold ECS card. Full details of the qualifications that are needed for an ECS card can be found on the ECS card website.

Each application must include full certificated and auditable documented evidence that supports the ECS occupation and JIB grade being applied for. The processing team cannot accept unit accreditation, part qualifications or the applicant's declaration for qualifications held. Any ECS card issued will be based on the evidence provided with the application made.

The front of the ECS card issued to a fully skilled craftsperson shows the holder's name, photograph and registration number, their main occupation and up to five additional occupations in which the holder is certified, together with the appropriate JIB Grade where this has been awarded by the JIB.

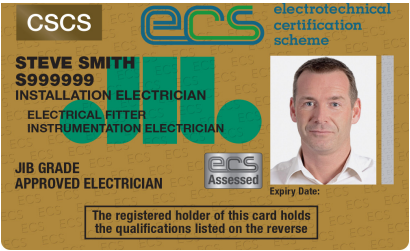
ECS renewals and upgrades are made online via the ECS card website.

A passport-style photograph must be provided with each application (initial and renewals).

Continuing Professional Development (CPD)

To assist industry with evidencing requirements for compliance with the Building Safety Act and Building Regulations, ECS provides a facility for recording CPD for individuals which can be accessed both during and outside of ECS applications. The MyECS App provides quick access options for evidencing wider qualification and certificate information with a share function from the App. This may be used for Competent Person Scheme applications as well such as for Qualified Supervisor status. If possible, to certify qualifications and CPD routes as genuine, this will only be done by the ECS Team at the point of ordering a card renewal or replacement.

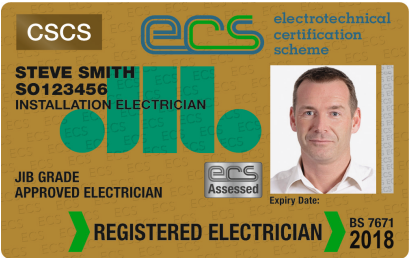
ECS CARD DESIGNS



All Skilled Grades/Disciplines



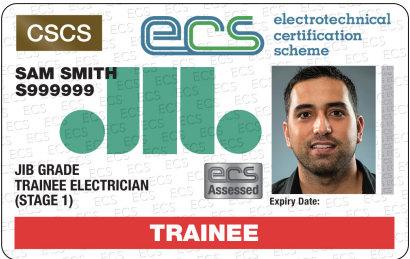
Card Reverse



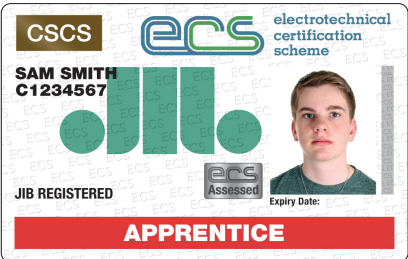
ECS Registered Electrician



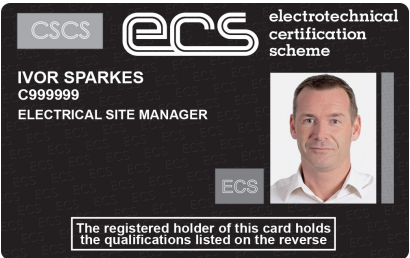
Unskilled and Cabling Grades



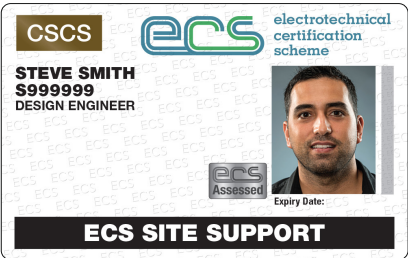
Adult Training Scheme Grades



Apprenticeships

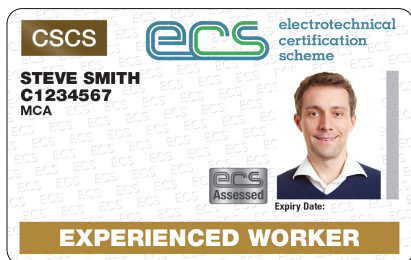


Managerial

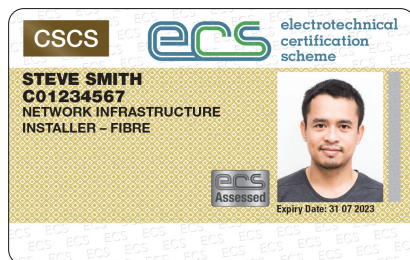


ECS Site Support

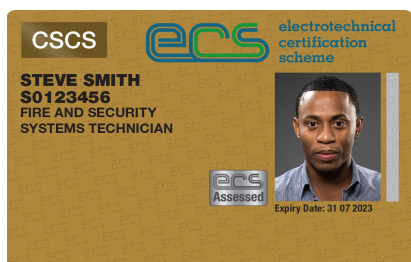
ECS CARD DESIGNS



Experienced Worker – Gold



Network Infrastructure Specialist



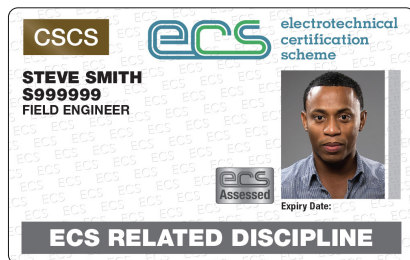
FESS Technician



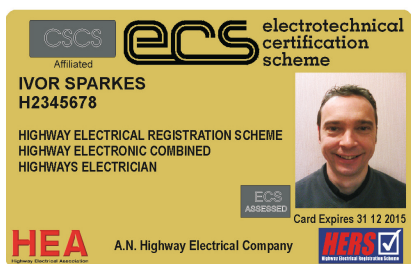
FESS Systems Operative



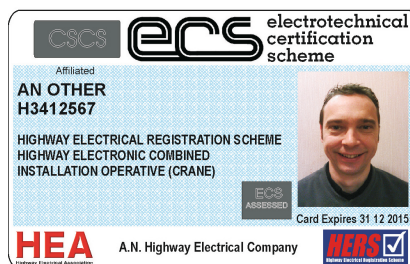
Installation Electrician with QS



ECS Related Discipline



Skilled Highway Electrical Card



Unskilled Highway Electrical Card

The ECS Card Explained

ECS cards issued display a full colour ECS logo on the front and a barcode on the back. The back of all ECS cards are white, regardless of the colour on the front of the card. The cards are laminated for better durability.

The layout of ECS cards is identical for all card types.

ECS Card Front



Key

1. The ECS logo
2. The CSCS hologram shows the ECS scheme is affiliated to the CSCS card scheme
3. The cardholder's name
4. The cardholder's card number
5. The cardholder's occupation/s
6. The JIB logo will appear for cardholders who have a JIB grade
7. A photo of the cardholder
8. If the cardholder has successfully passed the ECS Health, Safety and Environmental requirements, the ECS Assessed hologram will be shown here
9. If the cardholder has a JIB grade it will be shown here
10. The card's expiry date
11. If a logo appears here it shows the card is also linked to an ECS partner association

The reverse of the card shows:

1. The JIB's contact details
2. The JIB logo
3. The cardholder's qualifications
4. A unique bar code
5. The logos of the ECS card partners

ECS Card Back



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ECS GOLD CARD

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XS TRAINING

Online Level 3 Electrical Training

Since 2011 XS Training Ltd have delivered C&G Level 3 Electrotechnical Experienced Worker, NVQ Diplomas in Electrotechnical Technology, 18th Edition and AM2 preparation training throughout the UK and are now the UK's number one online training provider for the Level 3 Electrical Installation.

To be eligible to undertake these practical assessments you must already have prior experience and qualifications and be currently working in the industry.

XS Training have a unique system to help you attain your chosen Level 3 Electrical qualification in the most cost-effective way possible.

- **Experienced Assessors.** You are supported from start to finish by a team of highly professional trainers and assessors who will provide you with support, advice and guidance on how to successfully complete your qualification.
- **Online Portfolio.** These qualifications are completed almost entirely online with their efficient and easy to use e-Portfolio system. No paper work is required because you simply upload your evidence and then have a professional discussion with your assessor based on the evidence you've collected.
- **Remote Assessments.** We offer remote assessment, via the internet on your mobile phone whilst you're working, meaning you don't have to take time out to come to a training centre to be assessed. * A minimum of 1 face-to-face on-site assessment now required.

Successful completion of the Level 3 qualification will be counted toward meeting the major eligibility requirement to apply for the highly prized and industry recognised ECS Gold Card from the JIB.

**Take the first step on getting your ECS/JIB Gold Card and moving forward in your electrical career -
Contact XS Training TODAY!**

www.xstraining.com

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SHINING A LIGHT ON THE INDUSTRY'S GOLD STANDARD

www.ecscheck.org.uk



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