



The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT
Tel: 0844 249 1355 • E-Mail: enquiries@construct.org.uk • www.construct.org.uk

Graham Wren
Chief Executive Officer
CSCS
Coalfield Way
Ashby-de-la-Zouche
LE65 1JF

23 March 2020

Dear Graham Wren,

Support Required by the Concrete Structures Industry

Given the unprecedented impact of the coronavirus pandemic, I am writing to you today to outline the concerns our members have surrounding the CSCS card scheme, and how you can help us keep the construction industry building during this complex and challenging situation.

CONSTRUCT Concrete Structures Group is the leading representative body for the concrete structures industry, and our members undertake approximately 80% of all concrete frames built nationwide.

CSCS has recommended that sites continue to allow operatives onto site where they can prove that they have been unable to take their H&SE Test or complete the necessary training or qualifications as a result of Test/Training Centre closures.

We support this announcement, although we would encourage much stronger language aimed at major contractors to reiterate that they should always accept this to allow entry to site, unless there is reasonable cause for concern that the operative is not genuine.

In light of Pearson Vue centre closures, we would expect that operatives would not need to provide evidence of this while the centres remain closed.

In the initial stages of this outbreak, we are calling for all cards to have a grace period of 6 months from expiry for being accepted on site, and this period should be reviewed regularly in line with the latest government guidance, and extended if necessary.

CSCS have also stated that the deadline for renewal of cards has been extended from 6 months to 12 months. We support this announcement and we would again urge that this is regularly reviewed in line with government guidance, and extended if the pandemic continues over a prolonged period.

CSCS and CITB should consider if the H&SE Test could be administered remotely, so that operatives can take the test from their homes or from site/company offices. We understand the lack of invigilation that would arise from this set up, but a shorter window of validity of 12-18 months could be considered, until the operative is able to attend a test centre.

Many of our members will have a workforce that has cards from a number of schemes, and we would like to see a coordinated approach to flexibility measures.



Chairman: Neil Marney

Secretariat Manager: Dave Campbell

Construct Concrete Structures Group Ltd (Company Limited by Guarantee)
(CONSTRUCT is a not for profit organisation)
Registered in England No 2914354





The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT
Tel: 0844 249 1355 • E-Mail: enquiries@construct.org.uk • www.construct.org.uk

Since the introduction of the new online application system, you will be aware that CONSTRUCT's members have experienced significant problems getting the cards they need for their employees. While we appreciate that the pandemic will be a focus for CSCS, these ongoing problems – some dating back to December – are still taking a toll on members' ability to access site, which will only be exacerbated in the current climate. I would request these issues, or those that we forward to your team, are dealt with the utmost urgency.

As this is an on-going and fast-moving situation, we would like to work closely with you to ensure the issues faced by our sector – and no doubt the other sectors of construction – are robustly dealt with during this difficult time.

Yours Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "D Campbell", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Dave Campbell
CONSTRUCT Trade Association Manager
E: dave.campbell@construct.org.uk



Chairman: Neil Marney

Secretariat Manager: Dave Campbell

Construct Concrete Structures Group Ltd (Company Limited by Guarantee)
(CONSTRUCT is a not for profit organisation)
Registered in England No 2914354

