



The Building Centre, 26 Store Street, London WC1E 7BT
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Julia Senior
Managing Director
NPORS
PO Box 204
Northwich
Cheshire
CW9 7FY

23 March 2020

Dear Julia Senior,

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 NPORS 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.

NPORS Concerns

NPORS has put out limited information to the industry since the pandemic escalated other than to contact you where operatives cannot renew registrations.

We are calling for you to issue more detailed guidance for sites and strong directives to the major contractors about flexibility on temporarily accepting expired cards, unless there is reasonable cause for concern that the operative is not genuine.

This is particularly poignant where operatives have been unable to take their H&SE Test or complete the necessary training or qualifications as a result of Test/Training Centre closures.

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.

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.

CSCS have stated that the deadline for renewal of cards has been extended from 6 months to 12 months. We are calling for NPORS to mirror this measure 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.



Chairman: Neil Marney

Secretariat Manager: Dave Campbell

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We will be calling on CITB to 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. We would ask that NPORS be involved with this discussion to find a means to make this workable.

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



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