



Construction Operative

Construction Operative Training

In accordance with the Health and Safety legislation, the employer must ensure, so far as is reasonably practicable, that employees receive “such information, instruction, training and supervision as is necessary to ensure” their health and safety at work.

It is therefore essential that construction operatives are given sufficient training and information to enable them to know how to operate and check the safe operation of equipment.

The following should also be implemented by companies if construction operatives are using contractor's plant.

All operators of contractors plant must receive adequate basic training. They should also receive specific job training under supervision in relation to the actual machine/s operated, the products handled by those machines and the environment where the machine/s will be used.

The operator also needs job familiarisation training to also cover these areas without direct supervision but through observation. If the company is satisfied by the standard of the operator to use the equipment then authorisation to drive these machines should be given.

Please note that authorisation should be given for a specific period and should include the make and model of machine that can be operated by the operator, this authorisation should be removed by the company if they are not satisfied by the continuing competence of the operator.

Job specific training should also cover quick hitches, attachments and any other specialist equipment that is required to be used. If an operator has not operated a machine for some time then they may require refresher training or time on the machine to adapt before operating in live situations, this would also apply to operating a different make of machine which may require a form of conversion training or time to read through the operators handbook to familiarise themselves with the machine differences before attempting live work.

All authorisations to drive equipment should preferably be in writing.

Those people who are authorised to use equipment should be displayed on a register, issued with keys from a recorded system or machines could be fitted with immobiliser that prevents non authorised driver usage. Operators or potential operators will require different periods and stages of training depending on experience and machine knowledge.

Qualifications

Companies should also support construction operatives in gaining a nationally recognised qualification as it is possible that only persons qualified to the national standard will meet the future requirements of the industry.

To be assessed as competent construction operatives should have or be working towards an NVQ Level 2 (QCF) Diploma in Construction Operations or the NVQ Level 2 (QCF) in Highways Maintenance depending on what areas of the work they are involved in. If candidates are using plant and equipment they could be assessed for an NVQ Level 2 (QCF) in Plant Operations covering the type of machine/s used as this is the standard now required on most construction sites in the UK.

Qualification assessment methods

New Entrant NVQ assessments and On Site Assessment and Training (OSAT) routes are available at Level 2 and usually takes 2 – 4 months to complete from induction to completing the qualification.

Other Recommended Training

Construction Operatives may require other training throughout their career, such as: Plant safety awareness, training on specific equipment, attachment training, training on machinery carriers - low-loaders, working at heights, ladders, fall arrest, excavations, power & hand tools, safe use of abrasive, confined spaces, cable avoidance tool, mobile towers, harnesses, preventing dermatitis, manual handling, slinger, crane awareness, fire prevention, street works, first aid, fire extinguishers, defensive driving, this is not an exhaustive list.

Associations or training forums

The Association of Concrete Industrial Flooring Contractors (ACIFC) is the representative organisation for Specialist Contractors involved in the construction of concrete industrial floors

Drilling and Sawing Association (DSA) promotes this specialist sector of the Construction Industry.



For further advice please view the Health & Safety advice booklet for Construction Operative and Plant Operators that have been developed and is available to view within the publications section of our website www.citbni.org.uk

Does a registration card exist for this occupation

Yes, Blue for construction operative and for plant, Red for a trained operator and Blue for an operator holding an NVQ Level 2 or equivalent competence qualification, other card specific assessments may be required before a card is issued.

The Construction Skills Certification Scheme (CSCS)
The Construction Plant Competence Scheme (CPCS)
and Construction Skills Register (CSR) would appear to be the most widely held cards however other schemes are available and it will in most cases be the client, main contractor or sub-contractor that determines if a card is required and what the preference is.

What does CITB NI do for this sector

CITB provide grant assistance for employers that send employees on training courses please see our grant section at the above website

A Health & Safety advice booklet for construction operatives and plant operator has been developed and is available to view within the publications section of our website.

A Health & Safety Training Blueprint has been developed and is also available to view within the publications section of our website.

The QEW (Qualifying the Existing Workforce) is a fully funded programme that has been running for the last three years. Over 1500 candidates have benefited from this programme and have gained a regulated NVQ Level 2 qualification for the first time.

Other specifically funded programmes are also available as required and CITB NI has or will be funding programmes for Demolition, Piling, Core Diamond Drilling, Asbestos Awareness, Insulation Installer and Horizontal Directional Drilling.



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