



Construction Industry Scaffolders Record Scheme Press Release
For Immediate dissemination

CISRS Part 1 Course Requirement Active: September 1st 2015

The recent amendment to the CISRS Part 1 course rules on eligibility of delegates – that it is a scheme requirement for anyone wishing to attend a CISRS Part 1 Scaffolding Training course to have held a valid CISRS Trainee Scaffolder or Labourer card for a minimum of six months – is now active, as of today (September 1st).

CISRS Scheme Manager Dave Mosley said: “We have contacted approved training providers and the NASC membership directly and have advertised the changes extensively in the trade press over the last six months, giving people plenty of time to get prepared, before today’s actual deadline.

“Since the scheme began around 40 years ago, in order to be eligible to attend the Part 1 course, a delegate must have had a minimum of six months on site experience as a as a trainee scaffolder or labourer working under the direct supervision of a qualified scaffolder. They were not however requested to provide a copy of a valid CISRS card at this stage to demonstrate registration to the scheme and help establish their time in the industry.

“The on-going CISRS standardisation programme has highlighted this loophole. Around two years ago the CISRS Operative Training Scheme (COTS) course was introduced for new entrant trainees and labourers, which allowed a lot of the essential generic health and safety, manual handling and component recognition type training to be delivered in the initial stages of an individual’s career within the sector. And anyone applying for a CISRS Trainee or Labourer card after June 2013 was required to complete COTS training.”

The Introduction of the COTS course allowed the CISRS standardisation group to consider reducing time spent on those modules within the Part 1 programme in favour of more up to date industry guidance and best practice e.g. TG20:13, and introduction to scaffold inspection etc.

Although it was becoming an increasingly rare occurrence some delegates were still attending Part 1 courses without having completed COTS training or holding a CISRS Labourer or Trainee card. There have

been instances where a delegate will claim to have had the relevant prior on site experience however upon attending the course it is apparent that this is not the case and they will subsequently fail the course.

As such it was agreed by CISRS and the Access and Scaffolding Industry Training Organisation (ASITO) that this loophole should be closed, as of September 1st 2015.

Mr Mosley continues: "The new rule was initially going to be introduced with immediate effect in the spring, but it was felt that industry should be given an appropriate notice period to be made aware of the changes to the scheme. This would also accommodate those who had previously booked a Part 1 course prior to the announcement. So the rule will now be implemented from 1st September.

"We think that this is a sensible change of scheme rules and is basically a case of housekeeping. The standardisation programme has highlighted a few minor anomalies within current scheme criteria and these are now being addressed."

For further details about CISRS card courses, training changes following the introduction of TG20:13, information and dates on courses available, a list of approved training providers, or to find out more about CISRS, please visit www.cisrs.org.uk or email enquiries@cisrs.org.uk.