



CP Construction Plant
CS Competence Scheme

AN UNOFFICIAL GUIDE



www.MANCHESTERPLANTTRAINING.co.uk

0161 762 0834

CPCS CARD FLOWCHART – WHERE ARE YOU?

CATEGORIES

1

CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test in past 2 Years.
AKA CSCS/Touch Screen Test

2

CPCS Technical Test
Theory Test + Practical
(see page 3)

3

CPCS Red Trained Operator Card
2 Years

4

Complete relevant NVQ
(see page 4)

CPCS BLUE Competent Operator Card
5 Years

Renew every 5 years
(see page 5)

Already got relevant NVQ

A09 - Forward Tipping Dumper

- *Tracked*
- *Wheeled*

A10 – 180 Excavator < 5t

A12 – 180 Excavator > 5t

A14 – Rough Terrain FLT

A16 – Counterbalance FLT

A17 – Telescopic Handler

- *Industrial*

- *Up to 9m*

- *All sizes*

- *360 slew*

A18 – Reach

A21 – Wheeled Loading Shovel

A22 – Tracked Loading Shovel

A23 – Skidsteer Loader

A25 – MEWP Scissor

A26 – MEWP Boom

A31 – Ride on Roller

A34 – Dozer

A36 – Lorry Loader (HIAB)

A40 – Slinger Signaller

- *Static Duties*

- *Excavator*

- *Knuckle Boom (HIAB)*

A41 - Loader Compressor

A42 – Crusher

A43 – Screener

A56 – Arctic Dump Truck

- *Up to 15t*

- *All Sizes*

A57 – Rigid Dump Truck

- *All Sizes (wheeled)*

- *Rear Tipping*

A58 – 360 Excavator < 10t

A59 – 360 Excavator > 10t

- *Tracked*

- *Wheeled*

CPCS TECHNICAL TEST

This is a test that can be taken by experienced operatives or those that have completed training.

Operatives will need to have successfully completed the CITB Health, Safety and Environment Test (AKA Touch Screen or CSCS Test) within the last 2 years.

For the majority of categories, The Technical Test must be carried out at our approved CPCS Test Centre in Bury, Greater Manchester. Some of the larger categories can be taken on site (i.e. Dump Truck).



The Technical Test **for each category** is in 2 parts; a Theory Test and a Practical Test

1. THEORY TEST

- The Theory Test is undertaken on a one to one basis with your Tester and does not require you to write.
- The test consists of between 55 – 87 questions which your Tester will ask you verbally.
- Your answer will be marked accordingly by the Tester immediately after you answer it.
- The set time for the Theory Test is 1 hour.
- It will take place in a private room and will be recorded for future reference or monitoring.
- You must gain 80% to pass the test.
- We have unofficial study material available upon request and can hold Theory training sessions if required.

2. PRACTICAL TEST

- The Practical Test is also taken on a one to one basis.
- The Tester will explain the tasks that you will be required to perform.
- The allocated time will vary according to the category of plant – usually between 1hr and 2:45hr
- The Practical Test can be booked to follow the Theory Test on the same day. However, should you fail the Theory Test, the Practical Test will be cancelled but will be fully chargeable.
- We strongly recommend that you pass your Theory Test before booking your Practical Test, although this choice is entirely yours.

Additional Information

- Successful delegates who do not hold a relevant NVQ will be issued a Red card.
- Successful delegates who do already hold a relevant NVQ will be issued a Blue card.
- CPCS Practical Test procedures and Theory Test questions can be downloaded from the CPCS website at <https://www.nocnjobcards.org/help-and-support/cpcs-support-documents/revision-support-documents/> (Google "CPCS Support Materials")

UPGRADE A RED CARD TO A BLUE CARD - NVQ L2 – PLANT OPERATIONS

To upgrade from a CPCS Red Card to a CPCS Blue card, you must complete a Level 2 NVQ.

Under current CPCS scheme rules **you cannot** progress to a Blue card without the relevant Level 2 NVQ. **You also cannot** re-take your test to get another Red card.

Ideally, your NVQ will be completed during the 2 year lifespan of your Red card. If your Red card has expired in the last 12 months, you can get a 12 month extension once you register for an NVQ, for a small fee. If your Red card has expired over 12 months ago, please contact us for advice.



SITE BASED OBSERVATION

Once you are registered for your NVQ, our assessment team will liaise with you to arrange a mutually convenient date to visit you on your site. If our assessor will need an induction on your site or any special access – you must let us know!

On the day of your site visit, our assessor’s job will be to observe your daily duties. There is no set time for how long an NVQ will take – the busier you are and the more activities you are doing on your machine, the less site visits we *should* require.

We then work through a list of set criteria that we need to observe, dependent on your category.

CRITERIA

- **There are 2 mandatory units**
 - General Health, Safety and Welfare in the Workplace.
 - Productive Working Practices in the Workplace
- **Then a Unit per category of plant that you require.**
 - Preparing/Operating 360 Excavators
 - Preparing/Operating Telescopic Handlers
 - Preparing/Operating Forward Tipping Dumpers
 - Preparing/Operating Ride on Rollers
 - Controlling Lifting Ops (Slinger Signaller)
 - Cranes and Specialist Lifting (HIAB)
 - Plus more

Additional Information

- After the site visits, our assessor will return to the office and compile your portfolio using photographs, written observations, oral/written questions and answers, witness testimonies plus any other evidence they have gathered.
- The NVQ will then be achieved and we will apply for your CPCS Blue card.

RENEW A BLUE CARD

HAVEN'T GOT AN APPLICATION FORM? ASK US FOR ONE!

There are **3 requirements** when renewing a CPCS Blue Card which has expired within the last 5 years or is expiring in the coming 6 months. If your card expired over 5 years ago, please contact us.
 Note: you cannot renew a CPCS Blue card earlier than 6 months before the expiry date.



1. HEALTH AND SAFETY TEST

As with everything CPCS, you need to have passed the **CITB Health, Safety and Environment Operative Test** within the last **two** years. You may also know this test as a 'touchscreen' or 'CSCS' test.

CALL 0344 994 4488 to Book our CITB HSE Test.
 Note: this does not apply to categories A61/A62.

2. CPCS RENEWAL TEST(S)

Pass the **CPCS Renewal test (RT)** within the last **two** years for each category you wish to renew. We advise that you book your RT in, one hour after your Health and Safety Test. This way you only need to make one visit to the Test Centre.
 For more information on which category you need to renew visit <https://www.nocnjobcards.org/renewal-test-tool/>
 Each Renewal Test is 15 questions in 15 minutes.

No revision material is available in the form of questions and answers, but factsheets can be found on the CPCS Website above.

CALL 0344 499 1900 to Book Your Renewal Tests

3. LOGBOOK OR ASSESSMENT

A. CPCS Log Book

Record at least 300 hours per category in your CPCS logbook and complete section E of the Application Form.

SECTION E Independent Declaration

I certify that the details on this application are correct to the best of my knowledge and the applicant detailed above.

Job role CPCS Tester / Validator (delete as applicable)

CPCS No.

Name

Centre or Employer Name

If you cannot prove 300 hours of experience per category, see below.

B. Assessment

If you do not have a log book, you can demonstrate ongoing competence by completing a practical assessment at our Test Centre or your site. It's essentially a stripped down version of the CPCS Practical Test on page 3.

GOT GRANDFATHER RIGHTS? Did you know...?

From 31 December 2024, Blue Card holders that DO NOT hold a relevant NVQ (AKA Grandfather Rights), will be required to complete a Competency Interview at a CPCS Test Centre in order to renew their card.
 Call us for more details.