



Construction Sector Update on Train to Gain and Experienced Workers Practical Assessment (EWPA)

As highlighted before in July 2008 many construction workers are eligible for a Train to Gain Level 2 NVQ to qualify for their CSCS vocational competence card, which providers in the South East are typically delivering via the On Site Assessment & Training (OSAT) route under Train to Gain. However, there is an alternative route called the Experienced Workers Practical Assessment (EWPA), which is an intensive 1-2 day off site assessment that due to its delivery method was originally considered ineligible for Train to Gain funding.

Recent discussions with other Regions, National Office and ConstructionSkills have now confirmed that since EWPA also requires evidence preparation prior to the off site assessment and a professional discussion, which if successful is followed by a 10 week gap resulting in a full NVQ 2 qualification, it is eligible for Train to Gain funding. Please note that currently we have very few NVQ centres approved to run EWPA in the SE, but it is another option.

In addition, just to keep everyone informed of potential opportunities, ConstructionSkills have just launched a national marketing campaign targeting individuals working in Plant Operations who currently hold a red trainee CPCS card and need to do an NVQ Level 2 to upgrade to a blue CPCS card within 12-24 months. A letter was sent to 3473 individuals in the SE Region at the end of October who have been asked to reply if they are interested and to provide their employer's details if they are not self-employed. All of this information is being shared with Skills South East for them to follow up these 'warm leads, as potential Train to Gain learners.

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