Getting the LISS/CSCS application right first time

Landbased Industry Skills Scheme / **Construction Skills Certification Scheme** (LISS/CSCS) are a mandatory prerequisite for anyone carrying out works under National Highways Sector Scheme 18 (NHSS18) and are gaining popularity amongst the profession as a means of demonstrating that a certain level of competence has been achieved. Landscapers wishing to obtain a LISS/ CSCS card via the industry accreditation route (thereby potentially saving thousands of pounds) have until 31/10/13 to do so.

The scheme is administered by the British Association of Landscape Industries (BALI). As the closing date draws ever nearer, BALI are seeing an increase in the number of applicants. Several applications are rejected initially, so Jodie Read spent time talking to BALI's Jessica Consolaro to find out how to improve the chances of getting the submission right first time.

The LISS/CSCS application form can be found on BALI's website: www.bali.org.uk/ quality_assurance/liss_cscs. When filling in your application, ensure that it can be processed straight away by ensuring that you take on board the lessons from less successful applications.

Section A1

If you don't know what your Registration Number is, leave it blank. As long as you provide the National Insurance Number and Date of Birth, BALI can access the CSCS database and ensure the correct details are recorded for you.

Section A2

More of a tip for employers than something that will cause the form to be rejected; before sending off the application forms, you may like to check that all staff have selected 'the company address in section C' as the option for where the card will be sent. After all, if you've paid for it, you will almost certainly want to satisfy yourself that the card has arrived correctly. You will probably also want to copy the details onto the employee's training records.

Section A4

Sign the form!

Section B1 - Health & Safety Requirements

Applicants are required to tick to confirm that they 'meet current LISS/CSCS Health & Safety requirements.' The requirements for the industry accreditation route are:

- Attend a Register of Landbased Operatives (ROLO) Health, Safety and Environmental Awareness course. (Details of course providers can be found on BALI's website: www.bali.org.uk/quality_assurance/rolo)
- Pass the Construction Skills Health and Safety touch screen test. (Note that this should be at the same level as the card being applied for, so a Manager should have undertaken the test for Managers etc). To book a CSCS test call the information and booking line on 0344 994 4488.



Both the ROLO course and CSCS touch screen test should have been completed within the last two years.

Occupation Title

The only occupations that BALI can accept are detailed on their Frequently Asked Questions page: www.bali.org.uk/quality_assurance/liss_cscs/ fag. For landscapers seeking approval via the industry accreditation route, the options are:

Green - Basic Operative (a non skilled worker who is part of the workforce)

Blue - Skilled worker / skilled operative Gold - Supervisor

Black - Manager

By which route

For those seeking approval via industry accreditation, it's easy to tick the right box. Note that some trades (such as arboriculture and pesticides are not eligible for industry accreditation).

Section C

Applicants cannot self certify. This form must be completed by someone else. For self employed applicants, it is acceptable to ask a client to act as the signatory.

ABOUT JODIE READ



Jodie Read is the Managing Director of Penarth Management Limited; a company which helps to make businesses better, greener and safer through the provision of specialist

compliance consultancy and training for quality, environmental, health and safety management. She and her colleagues assist companies to implement and maintain management systems, such as

ISO9001, NHSS18, ISO14001 or OHSAS18001. Jodie is also one of only a few approved ROLO trainers in the country. The company is an affiliate member of BALI and one of the first ever winners of the prestigious BALI Affiliate Award for Exceptional Service. If readers have any queries regarding ROLO, LISS/CSCS or management system, they are welcome to contact Jodie via e-mail: jodie@ penarth.co.uk or by telephone on 029 2070 3328.